

Biodiversity at Barmston Pond

Barmston Pond is a naturally formed pond next to the plant grounds of Nissan Manufacturing UK (NMUK) in the United Kingdom. All year round, this natural pond supports species such as gray heron, mallard, and snipe. It is a thriving feeding ground for migrating birds and a home for local species.

In late summer and autumn, flocks of migratory birds such as wigeon, teal, and shoveler arrive from Iceland, Scandinavia, and Russia, making a stop at Barmston Pond to refuel before their trips south for the winter. Barmston Pond is not just a home for birds; it supports a great diversity of wildlife. Amphibians, including the great crested newt, a protected species in the UK, thrive in the rich, undisturbed surroundings.

City and Company, Finding Solutions Together

Barmston Pond began suffering occasional dry spells in the summer and other water imbalances, and if left alone, may not have provided the right environment for birds and other wildlife. The City of Sunderland was very aware of this problem and was open to finding a solution.

Around the same time, NMUK recognized a need for rainwater drainage after the construction of an additional vehicle storage compound area for new cars. So began our partnership with the City in finding a mutually beneficial solution that would make both parties better off in the end.

In 1992, NMUK installed a fully lined balancing pond within the nature reserve near Barmston Pond. We also installed an oil interceptor as a precaution, in case of any possible contaminants. NMUK then installed a pump system between the man-made holding pond and Barmston that can be used bi-

G L O B A L F E A T U R E S

directionally: it can pump water into the natural pond during times of drought, and can also drain excess water from Barmston.

It is actually the latter that has allowed Barmston to flourish. At certain times of the year, pumping excess water from the natural pond creates ideal muddy feeding conditions for wading birds and other migratory species.

Enhancing an Ecosystem through Technology and Collaboration

Many birdwatchers often come to Barmston, and in 1993, this pond that is bustling with wildlife activity became the first designated Site of Nature Conservation Importance by the City of Sunderland.

Nissan has received telephone calls and letters regarding this effort, thanking NMUK for helping the area's birds and other wildlife. Nissan is contacted frequently by the local ornithology society regarding rare birds such as little stint, ruff, spotted redshank, greenshank, black-tailed godwit, and wood sandpiper that have chosen to stop at Barmston or at one of the many undeveloped, wildlife-rich areas on NMUK property.

We are pleased with the results of this collaborate approach to find the best solution for both NMUK and the City of Sunderland. Not only has this pump technology helped the pond ecology flourish, but we have also seen direct results through the positive effect it has had on the pond's wildlife. With pride, we will continue working in partnership with the City of Sunderland.



Barmston Pond,
City of Sunderland

Senior Engineer - Engineering
Graham Bagley

Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd.

Coexistence with the Community

-Protection of wading birds: partnership with the City of Sunderland-



A sign at the pond entrance:
"PLEASE KEEP TO PATH & AVOID DISTURBING BIRDS"