

ure in Lanarkshire

plays a key role
ises regeneration
sites



Dr David Grierson,
Director of the
David Livingstone
Centre for
Sustainability

New hi-tech, innovative businesses are springing up where Scotland's heavy industries once reigned supreme.

Redevelopment of the former Ravenscraig steel works in Lanarkshire is continuing apace with a new town centre, complete with commercial facilities, soon to be constructed.

The site of the former Gartcosh Steel Mill, also in Lanarkshire, is also being transformed, and architects and engineers from the University of Strathclyde are driving forward the plans.

Gartcosh Business Interchange is set to become a new 50-hectare business location which has already been selected as the location for the major new office campus for Scotland's new FBI-style crime unit.

It is anticipated that Gartcosh will create up to 170,000 sq ft of business space which could support up to 4000 jobs.

Uniquely, the development will be underpinned by environmental

values from the outset and project partners North Lanarkshire Council and Scottish Enterprise have relied heavily on the expertise of Strathclyde's Dr David Grierson and his colleagues at the University's David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability.

The team is helping shape the development of Gartcosh and is assessing tender submissions from developers and advising project managers on how these tenders measure up on the environmental front.

Dr Grierson said: "This is a fairly unique concept in Scotland – tackling a private sector project from a quality and sustainability perspective.

"Our core principle was that sustainability values are embedded within the Gartcosh project values from the very beginning.

"We will be looking at everything from transport, land use, impact on the local area, employment issues and even the materials bidders propose to use when building the infrastructure and assessing these issues against our sustainable agenda.

"It's vital that modern business locations aren't just functional concrete boxes to house as many workers as cheaply as possible. We hope Gartcosh will become a model for how modern business developments will look in the future."

More than £20 million has been invested in Gartcosh to date to

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Dr David Grierson

remediate the land, and upgrade transport links and initial infrastructure.

Developers are currently being asked to submit expressions of interest in the development.

The site lies next to an 80-acre nature reserve just 10 minutes from Glasgow city centre.

Gartcosh also has its own railway station, providing a half-hourly service to Glasgow and surrounding Lanarkshire towns and reducing business reliance on the car.

Cycle parking is provided at the station and a cycle/pedestrian link to the Strathkelvin walkway/cycleway is planned.

To find out more visit:

[www.scottish-enterprise.com/
publications/gartcosh_business
_interchange_brochure.pdf](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/publications/gartcosh_business_interchange_brochure.pdf)

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have a devastating impact on the rural economy of affected areas.

Professor Kalin said: "This project is about creating the right conditions to allow natural processes to flourish. In other words, we're helping the environment to help itself.

"Over the last few decades, farmers have been improving practices so the nutrients they use are taken up by crops and not released into the environment.

"But some nitrate is lost, even with good farm practice. We also need to deal with the nitrate that is already stored in ground water and will eventually reach our rivers.

"The NITRABAR system is a simple and cost-effective solution to excess nitrate from past and future farming practices."

NITRABAR involves digging a narrow trench between a field and a surface body water, which is then filled with a mixture of natural materials.

Ground water, runoff and field drainage waters pass through the system and micro-organisms attach themselves to the materials, converting the nitrates into nitrogen gas. The clean water then flows on into the surface body water.

It is hoped the NITRABAR system could be available to farmers within the next five years.

A pilot project has been demonstrating the system in operation at the ECOS Millennium Environmental Centre in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, since 2006.

A roadshow to outline the benefits of the system is currently travelling throughout Europe.

Alongside Strathclyde, the partners in the NITRABAR project are: Ecomesh Ltd, Northern Ireland; the Environmental Agency of England and Wales; Zenenzo Byba, Belgium; PRGW, Poland; APCO Ltd, Malta; CL:AIRE, England and Environmental KTN, University of Oxford.



VIP treatment: Northern Ireland's First Minister Dr Ian Paisley learned about NITRABAR during a recent update event in Ballymena. Dr Paisley is pictured (left), alongside Major of Ballymena Councillor Maurice Mills, meeting Professor Robert Kalin and Mrs Fiona Marie Kalin, and (above) with some of the many others who attended the event.

