Shawfair
The Community Network: A Landscape-led Framework for Living

Brief:
The project utilises the landscape as a framework for planned and strategic development, for the community of Shawfair. Beginning with the landscape allows for a sustainable and local settlement that meets the needs of people, whilst having a contribution to the local ecology and surrounding environment over time.

Increasing density, walkability and constant access to nature + green spaces are crucial parts of the design hypothesis working with the existing landscape features, geology and processes, mitigating local environmental challenges and promoting biodiversity.

Providing a landscape-based framework for development seeks to enhance the physical connections of people, integrations with the natural environment and create a settlement that is based around public transport, connections to surrounding areas and reducing the impact on the environment locally as well as globally.

Existing Layers of the Landscape

Problems and solutions
* Reducing the dependency on the car - improving public transport, developing cycling routes and walkability providing comfortable and accessible spaces for walking for all age groups and abilities
* The lack of connectivity between people and their surroundings - creating a series of green corridors connecting people to nature, local amenities, community/cultural sites and surrounding towns and ecological sites
* Addressing the current system for development in Midlothian - providing a flexible but dense residential and commercial area.

In the town centre, the provision of a place of scale and community through the provision of living, natural and working spaces. Designing a strategy that can be phased over time to support a growing community and greater adaptability.

Objectives:
This project aims to re-imagine the landscape of Shawfair as a framework for regeneration and growth.

Using the landscape as a means of improving existing and providing new connections between people, nature and their surrounding settlements through creating green corridors and waterways.

These corridors in the short term will serve as re-imagining forms and connecting routes improving the existing periphery continued out of mining sites at the centre of Shawfair.

In the long term these will have the ability to evolve and grow with the changing needs of Shawfair and the wider region.

Having a phased development in the project will ensure a time-based strategy that seeks mean ingful development of the land, infrastructure and ecology that meets sustainable frameworks.

Using a phased approach allows for design flexibility and adaptability moving into future phases and climate changes.