

2.1 Contextual analysis

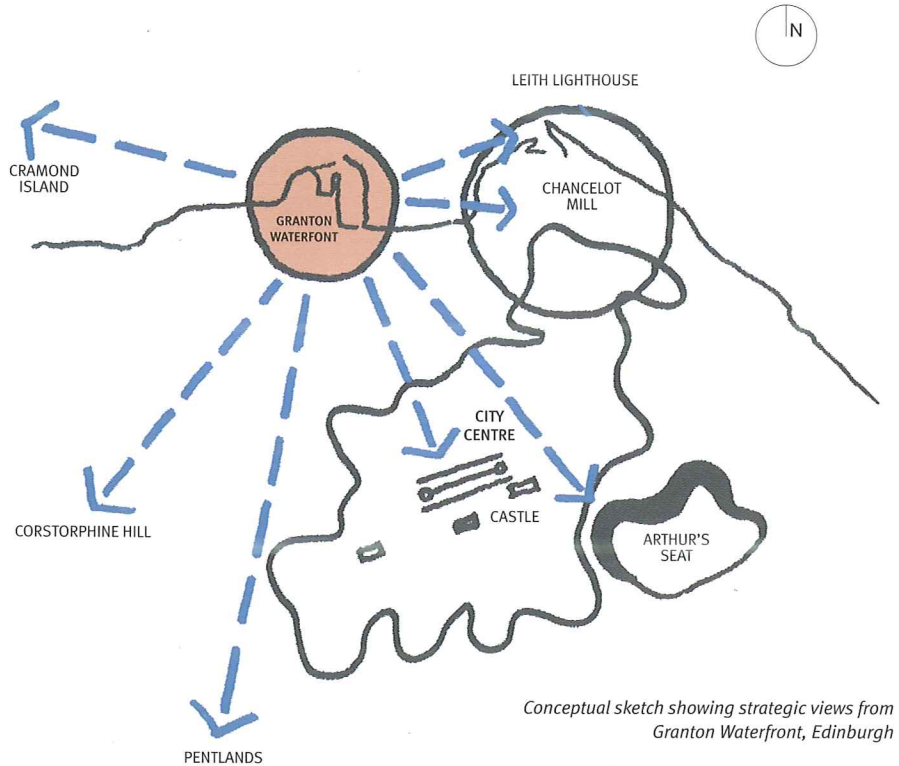
A shared understanding of the context of a scheme is the foundation of a successful project. Aspects of the breadth and diversity of the context of a scheme can be helpfully communicated graphically. Images can convey:

- the overall urban/rural structure
- discrete areas: uses, amenities, routes, open spaces and landscape
- opportunities and constraints arising from the setting and how they might be addressed
- special features of the area to be addressed.

Different contextual issues may often need to be illustrated at different scales and in different ways. From regional to local context, maps, plans, diagrams and photos will present different levels of information. Where images at widely differing scales are used, graphic devices to link them, such as inset maps or blow-ups, help orientate the audience and speed understanding.

2.1.1 Setting

Understanding the implications of the setting of a site on its development potential is an essential early component of the urban design process. The main or special features of a site and its location can be encapsulated in a diagram. These will include geographic features but also features of historic significance, views, connections with other places and elements of local distinctiveness.



What it shows:

- presents the direct relationship between the major regeneration opportunity of Edinburgh's Granton Waterfront to the city centre
- indicates how the Granton site benefits from long views to important landmarks
- emphasises the close and direct relationship of Granton to the historic core of the city
- suggests that the framework of views and its strategic location are both distinct assets of the new urban quarter.

Why it is good graphically:

- hand-drawn sketch emphasises conceptual overview rather than measurable information
- views highlighted in blue
- site highlighted in a tint of red.