

Project Title: Residential Development, Thornton Court, Laurencekirk
Client: Langstane Housing Association
Project Value: £2,000,000
Project Status: Phase 01 completed August 2003
Phase 02 due for completion April 2009

The development consists of a total of 16 one bedroom flats and 8 three bedroom houses in three terraces, located just off the High Street in Laurencekirk and positioned around a new 'village green'.

Initial discussions with our client identified a strong desire to investigate issues of sustainability and in particular reduced energy use. Further development of this idea suggested a concept of near 'zero heating' housing.

The dwellings have a compact, open plan layout in terrace form to reduce the external exposed surface to a minimum and passive solar gains are maximised by using large areas of glazing to the southerly facing elevations. The external envelope is heavily insulated using recycled paper insulation, one of the benefits of which is the 'breathability' of this material, which removes the need for a vapour barrier and the off-gases associated with it. Each property also includes a mechanical ventilation system and as a result of these measures, only a minimal heat input is required in the form of a single electric storage panel heater located in the living space.

This development was awarded 'Distinction' for Sustainability in the 2004 Aberdeenshire Council Design Awards

