



Existing path from the carpark to the main entrance of the visitor centre, currently located to the north of the building, away from the key pedestrian route around Fish Pond. Visitor centre partially obscured by trees.



Existing approach from west, with hollow tree to left and play park beyond.

Pedestrian Access & Current Legibility

A sloped path leads from the rear area of the existing carpark to the main, northern entrance of the Visitor Centre. However, due to the layout of the carpark, this path is rarely appreciated or used. Rather, the majority of visitors leave the carpark from the southernmost corner, adjacent to the adventure play area. Thus, the main entrance to the visitor centre is set away from the principal pedestrian route around the Fish Pond and is easily missed. It is understood that this is largely as a result of the existing building being proposed to sit immediately adjacent and overhanging the waters edge, and subsequently having to be relocated due to engineering challenges.

Those leaving the car park from the southernmost corner and/or walking round the lake approach the Visitor centre from the east. Here a store has been constructed to house a number of Trampers, purchased by the park to increase accessibility through the provision of these all terrain vehicles. Whilst commendable, the location of this store has further isolated the existing visitor centre from the main route, acting as a visual barrier and reducing the legibility of the building.

A further entrance into the visitor centre is located to the south of the building. This is designed and articulated as a secondary entrance and is accessed via a ramp underneath a canopy that was added in 2019 to provide covered seating space.

Adjacent features

A play park is located immediately to the west of the existing building, which is well-used by families. Further west of the Visitor Centre, just along from the building on the main lakeside footpath, sits the 'hollow tree', which has been hollow since the 1950s. The tree has been reinforced with steel bar and won the Welsh Tree of the Year Competition in 2017.

A lakeside platform sits to the south of the visitor centre, at a lower level adjacent to the water and is used by visitors to feed the ducks.

Key analysis of the existing location of the visitor centre in relation to its context is summarised on the following page.