

visitors entering the building collide with queueing customers. This frustrates the natural flow of visitors.

- The café feels overcrowded in the summer months exacerbated by a lack of definition to the floor plan.
- The floor plan of the visitor centre is generous for the uses currently housed within it. However, due to the internal layout there are vast areas of under-utilised space.
- The internal volume is generous. However, the double height space has been compromised by the introduction of store rooms to the corner of the main café space.
- A lack of appropriate purpose designed storage results in chest freezers being dispersed in areas across the plan.
- There are few windows that offer a view out over the lake and those that do exist are either located within the private meeting space or are overshadowed by the external canopy/ seating.
- A lack of the right sized/ arranged storage leads to clutter, which means rooms cannot be properly occupied. Stacked chairs in the main café space create an unwelcoming atmosphere.

Summary

The current visitor centre/ café fails to deliver on its potential to provide a coherent or varied visitor experience. The building does not have a clear front and back and therefore its legibility is compromised: as a visitor it is hard to understand how to navigate the building 'correctly'. The architecture is defensive and views over the lake and views into the internal spaces are minimal. This reduces the enjoyability of the internal spaces and the appreciation of the wider parkland. These findings are summarised on the diagram on the following page.



Approaching along the lakeside path from the east - photo showing general massing and the later-added external canopy



Existing café facilities within the visitor centre.