

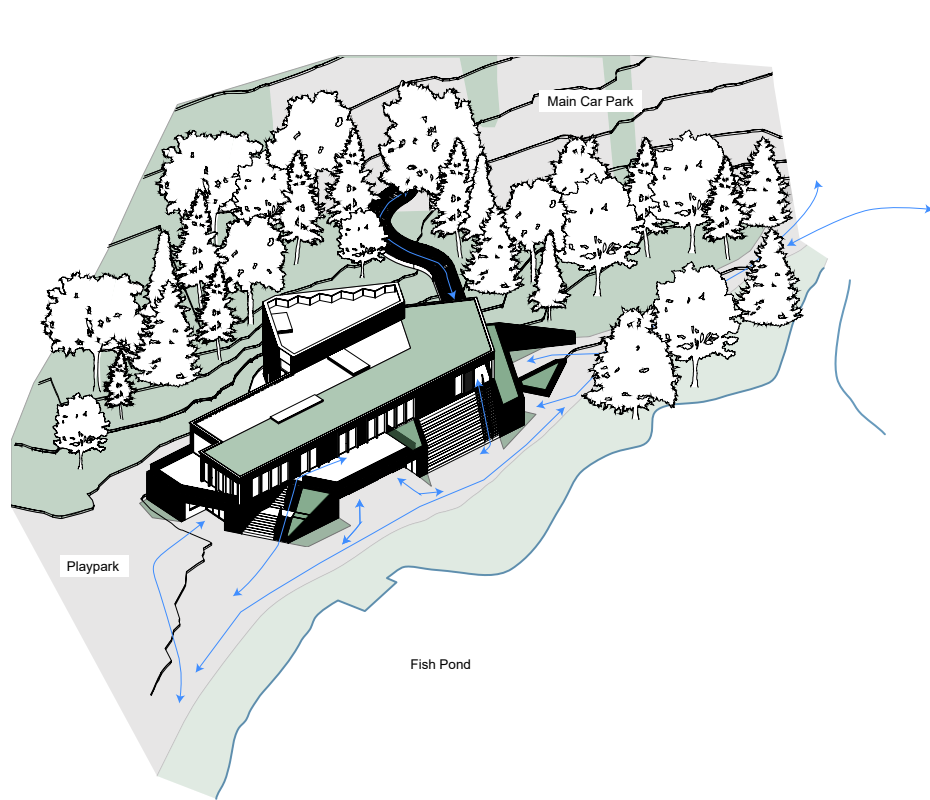


Diagram to show relationship of building in relation to pedestrian flows. The building provides a permeable element within the context.

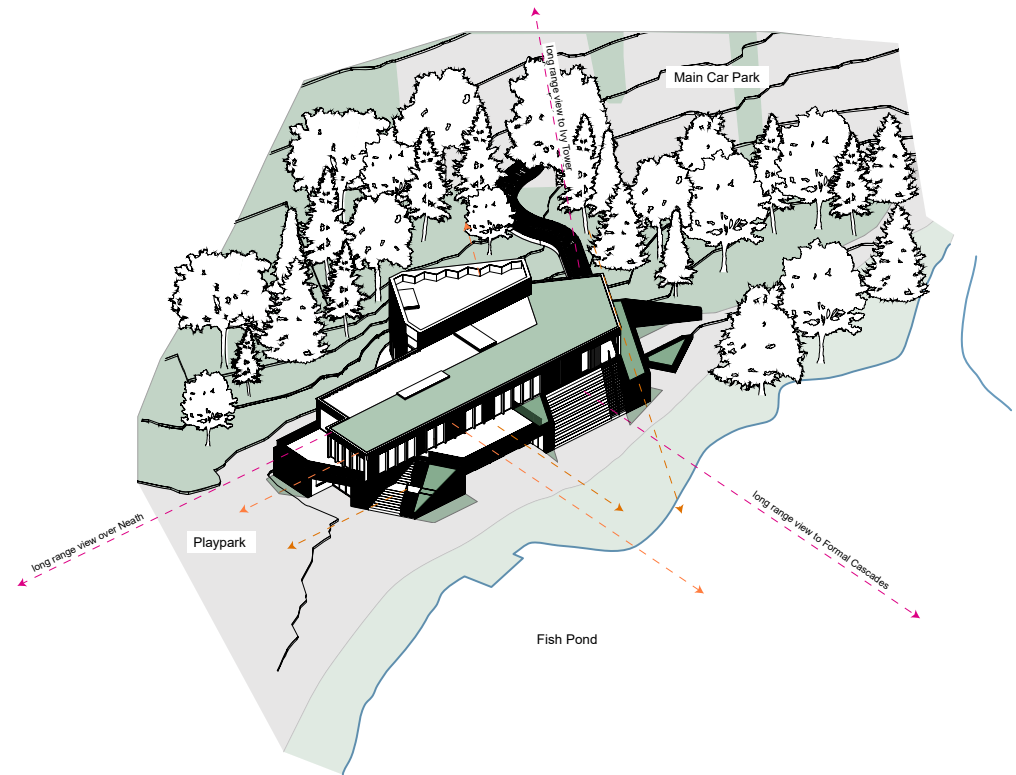


Diagram to show relationship of building in relation to key views. The building provides multiple perspectives on the context.

Siting

The existing building location provides a reasonable starting point from which to develop a new and coherent scheme. The site affords key views over the fishpond and is contextualised by a wooded backdrop against which any new proposal will sit, thereby ensuring the woodland will remain a dominant factor in the understanding of the context of the building. The site is well connected to the nearby car park and located on existing public walking routes. Analysis of historic plans indicate this area has witnessed limited change during its industrial and post industrial history. Elements such as filter beds are indicated alongside the allotment boundary to the north west but otherwise there are limited distinct features described on historic mapping.

The wooded edge which now defines the north east boundary between the Fishpond and the car park and field beyond is a recent addition with no acknowledgement on plans of 1964 (see right). It is worth noting this may be a limitation of mapping. The presence and scale of this copse is however fundamental to the context and placement for the existing building.

As noted previously the building sits at a convergence of route reflecting a pinch point of tree line meeting reservoir edge which has created a comfortable nook in which a building of quite substantial scale can sit within the park and in close proximity to the fishpond with very limited impact and visibility. There are no other locations within the park that can offer even similar characteristics.

Building on the analysis and identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints, the proposal seeks to reorientate the building to face the main pedestrian access route around the lake.

Principal entrances are formed on both levels in the south east corner addressing the flow of traffic from car park routes however the proposal has adopted very permeable east, south and west facades.

The first floor walkway has been designed to create a tree-canopy walk connecting the car park to the visitor centre, and terminating in a long range view over Fish Pond. The walkway meanders through the wooded bank, determined by the condition and category of the existing trees and their associated root protection areas. When returning in the opposite direction to the car park, the walkway arrives at the axis of the long distance view to the Ivy Tower situated to the north east, a connection largely lost in the current park.



Historic map showing the approximate location of the visitor centre circled in red. SS79NE-A, revised pre1930-1963, published 1964.