

DESIGN EVOLUTION



Initial concept proposals in the preparation of a Levelling Up Fund application focused on the major alteration and extension of the existing visitor centre. The concept for refurbishing the building was a modern interpretation of the arts and crafts. This involved the alteration of existing upper floors and roof to the existing Visitor Centre and a significant internal reconfiguration. It also removed the recently added canopy area externally with a view to providing a more integrated and connected offering going forwards. The new additions included a steep pitched roof within which upper floors were added, and a reconfiguration of the ground floor, including openings and external finishes.

An exercise to interrogate the strengths and weaknesses of this approach in comparison to a new build proposal were put together once funding had been secured to ensure that the scheme was delivering all the requirements of the client alongside the aspirations and aims of Levelling Up. Weighing up these strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and constraints, it was decided that, on balance, a new build visitor centre was preferable. The key reasons for this decision are summarised on the following page:

Early concept proposals looked to utilise the existing building but with a modern interpretation of the arts and crafts architecture style seen within the park, particularly pond cottage (left).