



## Retrofit upgrades to listed building - 'Whitby Abbey Visitor Centre Roof'

Design company name: **Native Chartered Architects**

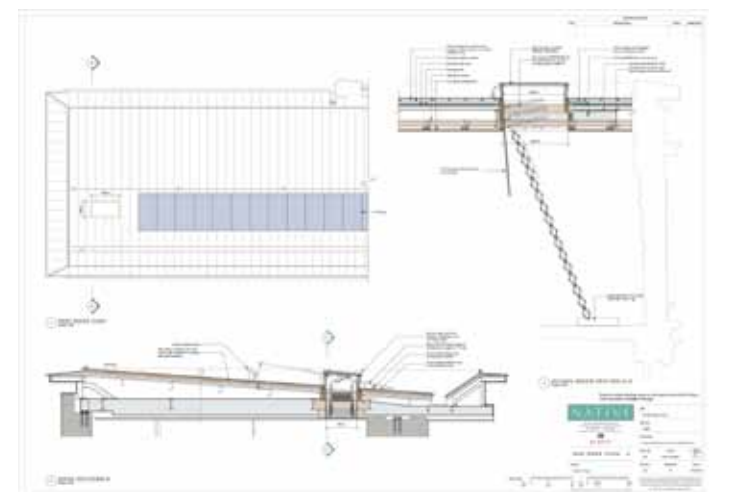
Build company name: **Simpson (York) Ltd**

Consultancy: **Renewables and Conservation**

Project location: **Whitby, North Yorkshire**

Project completion date: **August 2024**

Budget: **£500,000**



### Project brief

Whitby Abbey Visitor Centre is a Grade I listed building owned and managed by English Heritage in the grounds of Whitby Abbey, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The 18th century ruined building was converted into a visitor centre in 2002, with a shop and museum.

The Grade 1 Listed Building had been ravaged by coastal storms for 250 years but recently water penetration threatened both the fragile building fabric and the international collection of art and artefacts below.

The project presents a scheme of sensitive interventions that support the ongoing viability of the site as a visitor centre, and internationally important museum. The completed works improve the climate resilience of the building by adopting a holistic and conservation led approach.

Planning Permission and Scheduled Monument Consents, but not Listed Building Consent, were obtained. The sensitive setting of the Listed Building and Garden were unchanged. English Heritage aims to reduce their building carbon emissions by 20% across their buildings as set out in their 'Climate Action Plan 2022-2025'.

### Sustainability features

- Replacement of the failed roof covering with new Terne-coated stainless steel standing seam roof with new perimeter foamglass insulation.
- 100% of the new roof covering is recyclable chosen to be resistant to the aggressive marine environment, but the original visible cornice sections were retained to minimise visual changes to the heritage asset.
- PV solar panels will generate approximately 50% of the current annual electricity demand with a payback period of 5 years
- Sections of decayed existing stone to the cornice were repaired with new from a nearby quarry
- New larger rainwater down pipes connected to the existing system were sized and installed to mitigate future increased rainfall. The existing cast iron downpipes were re-used by English Heritage elsewhere on their estate

Find out more: [www.nativearchitects.com](http://www.nativearchitects.com)

