

Date: 29 August 2024
Our Ref: CSC1159

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Planning Portal Reference: PP-13368269

Dear Sir/Madam,

**APPLICATION BY MOTOR FUEL GROUP
MORRISONS, COLDHARBOUR ROAD, NORTHFLEET, GRAVESEND, DA11 7HU**

On behalf of our client, Motor Fuel Group (MFG), please find enclosed a planning application for the creation of an electric vehicle (EV) charging zone, including the erection of associated canopies as well as sub-station, LV panel and meter cabinet at Morrisons, Coldharbour Rd, Northfleet, Gravesend, DA11 7HU.

The proposals relate to the provision of 4 no. electric vehicle charging points, 8 no. electric vehicle charging bays, substation enclosure, LV panel, meter cabinet, new soft landscaping areas, and associated works. The application site comprises part of the Morrisons customer car park and the Morrisons is to the north of the Cyclopark.

The following documents are submitted in support of this application:

- Completed Application Form
- Planning Supporting Letter (this document)
- Application drawings comprising:
 - 14313-2298-BP - Block Plan - Rev A
 - 14313-2298-LP - Location Plan - Rev A
 - 14313-2298-200 - Existing Site Layout
 - 14313-2298-201 - Proposed Site Layout - Rev A
 - 14313-2298-202 - EV Canopy Details
 - 14313-2298-203 - Substation Details
 - 14313-2298-204 - LV Details
 - 14313-2298-205 - Meter Details

Rational for the Proposal

The UK has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 28% by 2035 and moving to Net Zero by 2050. As part of the Net Zero strategy (October 2021), the UK Government have placed a new emphasis on electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the UK. As part of this drive, it is essential that there is a comprehensive and competitive EV charging network in place.

The Department for Transport published 'Taking Charge: The electric vehicle infrastructure strategy'¹, which notes that the UK Government expects around 300,000 public chargers as a minimum by 2030 and their goal is to ensure these chargepoints are installed ahead of demand, inspiring confidence in drivers who have not yet made the switch.

The latest figures² (as at midnight 1 April 2024) shows that there were 59,670 public electric vehicle charging devices installed in the UK, an increase of just 5,993 in the last quarter. At the current pace, just 161,551 would be installed by 2030, with the target of 300,000 not being met until over 7.5 years later. To meet the target in time, 14,137 chargers would need to be installed each quarter between now

¹ [Taking charge: the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² Electric vehicle charging device statistics: April 2024 - (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/electric-vehicle-charging-device-statistics-january-2024>)



and 2030 – a 236% increase over build rate. Rapid charging for longer journeys located in areas such as on motorways and in remote areas will be particularly important. At present, it is understood that the uneven spread of EV charging facilities significantly hinders the take-up of electric vehicles, due to potential servicing constraints. En-route charging for longer journeys is deemed crucial to support the switch to EV and reduce concerns about charge ‘range anxiety’.

MFG is the UK’s largest independent forecourt operator with over 900 sites offering a dual-fuel strategy, convenient retail and ‘food to go’. For the abovementioned reasons, MFG are looking to roll-out an extensive supply of EV charging facilities at existing Morrisons sites across the UK to diversify their existing offer, with the aspiration to make it as easy to charge your vehicle as re-fuelling with petrol or diesel. The aspiration of MFG is to provide access to convenient and affordable charging, regardless of where the driver lives.

Key Considerations

The National Planning Policy Framework (2023) indicates at Paragraph 116 (e) that development should be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.

MFG’s proposal to install new EV charging points at the Morrisons site should be considered positively in light of the national context and the demand for the necessary infrastructure to support electric vehicle use across the UK. The proposals will contribute positively to the existing EV charging network, to the benefit of those utilising the strategic highway network surrounding the application site. The proposals will enhance the existing offer at the site, without compromising the efficient operation of the facility.

The proposals do not raise any concerns regarding adverse impact on amenity / conflict in terms of surrounding land uses. The area will be well-lit and does not raise any concerns from anti-social behaviour / natural surveillance perspective.

In terms of design, the proposed EV charging area has been carefully planned to positively integrate with the existing site operations. The charging facility offers a modern design approach, which is uncluttered and fit for purpose. The proposals will be Equalities Act compliant, offering dropped kerbs and other associated measures to ensure equal ease of access for all.

We trust that the application is in order and that it can be processed accordingly. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss the above please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Rahma Dwimunali
Assistant Planner
CarneySweeney

Encl.

