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Case Study: JD Sports Distribution Centre – Rochdale

Client: Mer UK - Fleet and Depot EV Charging

Location: JD Sports Distribution Centre - Rochdale

Website: www.EVblocks.com

Project Summary

Client: JD Sports (Delivered by Mer)

Location: Rochdale Distribution Centre

Foundations: EV Blocks

Chargers Installed: 12



Introduction

As part of JD Sports Fashion Plc's ongoing efforts to reduce emissions and support the transition to electric vehicles, JD Sports began installing EV charging infrastructure across a number of their sites.

At the Rochdale distribution centre, they contracted Mer to install a workplace EV charging solution for employees and site visitors. The installation included both AC and DC chargers and utilised EV Blocks universal precast EV foundations for the charger bases.

Objective

To install workplace EV charging at the Rochdale distribution centre to support staff and visitors and prepare the site for future electric vehicle adoption by replacing existing chargers and installing additional AC and DC chargers across the site.

Process

The project was managed and delivered by Mer, including the groundworks, installation and commissioning of the charging infrastructure.

Due to the nature of the site and the busy retail periods leading up to Black Friday, Christmas and New Year, the installation had to be carefully planned to avoid disruption to the distribution centre's operations. Groundworks and infrastructure preparation were completed ahead of the busy period.



EV Blocks foundations were installed during the groundwork phase, allowing the chargers to be installed quickly once electrical connections were ready.

Final connection and commissioning were completed in January with only a short shutdown, and the project was delivered in phases to work around the site's schedule.

Challenges:

The main challenge for the project was working around the distribution centre's busiest operational periods. The site operates at full capacity during peak retail seasons such as Black Friday, Christmas and New Year, which meant large-scale installation work could not take place during these periods.

To manage this, the groundwork and installation of the charger foundations were completed earlier in the project, allowing the chargers themselves to be installed and connected later with minimal disruption to the site.



This approach reduced the amount of time required on site during the final installation phase and helped keep disruption to a minimum.

Analysis

This project highlighted several key points for EV charging installations:

- Groundworks and foundations are a critical part of EV charging infrastructure.
- Installing foundations early allows chargers to be installed later with minimal disruption.
- Busy operational sites often require phased installations.
- Planning infrastructure early makes future expansion easier.

On large commercial sites, the most disruptive part of an EV charging installation is often the groundworks rather than the charger itself.

Results

The final installation included:

- Replacement of 2 existing AC chargers
- Installation of 10 new AC chargers
- Installation of 2 DC rapid chargers
- Total of 12 chargers installed
- 24 AC charging outlets and 4 DC charging outlets



The installation is now fully operational and being used by employees and visitors at the site. AC chargers are mainly used by employees who are on site for longer periods, while the DC chargers are typically used by visitors or vehicles requiring a faster charge.

Feedback from the project highlighted that the installation was very neat and tidy and that the use of EV Blocks helped improve installation speed and overall project efficiency. The project was completed on schedule with no major delays.

Conclusion

The JD Sports Rochdale distribution centre project demonstrates how careful planning of groundworks and charger foundations can enable EV charging infrastructure to be installed efficiently on busy commercial sites.

By installing the EV Blocks foundations in advance, the final installation was completed quickly and with minimal disruption to site operations. The project was delivered on schedule, resulted in a clean and organised installation, and now supports employees and visitors transitioning to electric vehicles.

Key Takeaways

- Workplace EV charging continues to grow across commercial and logistics sites
- Busy operational sites often require phased installations
- Groundworks and foundations are a key part of EV charging projects
- Installing foundations in advance can reduce installation time and disruption for future EV charging infrastructure
- EV charging projects often expand beyond the original scope
- Successful installations often lead to further site rollouts