



FLOORING
SUPERSTORE.COM

TRAVEL PLAN

Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester



INTRODUCTION

Connection Flooring Ltd, trading as Flooring Superstore, is committed to helping and promoting a healthy environment in which to work and live. Promoting and recognising environmentally friendly travel is just one more step to becoming a greener company. Supporting Greater Manchester City Council and their drive towards greener transport and travel will help our company succeed in helping to protect the environment.

Introducing a travel plan as part of our company foresight will not only help reduce parking and travel congestion in and around our place of business, but will also help with cleaner air. Our environmental commitment will also fulfil any required planning obligations while helping the company achieve more towards its own goals for reducing our carbon footprint.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This Travel Plan has been prepared for submission to the Greater Manchester City Council as part of an occupancy plan for our retail store at Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

A location plan for the site is provided in Figures 1 and 2. The purpose of a Travel Plan is to provide a collection of provisions that promote more sustainable means of travel. To achieve sustainable travel it is necessary for a long-term strategy to be adopted to discourage less sustainable means of travel, such as private car use, in favour of more sustainable means of travel, such as walking. This may be realised through a combination of the following:

- The assessment and continual improvement of various measures that will facilitate travel by non-car modes of transport.
- Increasing staff and visitor awareness of the advantages and potential for travel by more environmentally friendly modes of transport.

OUR STATEMENT

As a business, we always strive to become more green towards the environment and any impact we may have on it. Our mission is to reduce the impact by promoting better travel. This may be in the form of:

- Reducing the need for multiple transport journeys.
- Explain the benefits to staff and visitors, including personal cost savings and improved health and motivation.
- As a business, we will promote ideas to all staff and visitors with the use of posters and flyers.
- We hope to gain increased recognition among the local community by demonstrating our commitment to help reduce congestion.
- Our commitment will also help improve local air quality and reduce global pollutants.

ABOUT OUR COMPANY

Connection Flooring Ltd started trading in 2012 as an internet-based online store Trading as "Direct Wood Flooring" selling solid, engineered and laminate wood flooring to customers throughout the UK. Since 2012 The company has grown very quickly due to reinvestment, commitment and a vast internet presence that has rapidly led to thousands of customers buying over and over again making us one of the country's leading flooring suppliers.

As a company that is committed to longevity, sustainability and providing what the customer needs, we invested in expanding the business with the addition of retail stores, trading as "Flooring Superstore" selling flooring and artificial grass. The provision of these stores would allow customers to touch and feel our products. We also supply local traders with discounted goods and products that will, in turn, help them succeed in business due to recognition through association with our company and brand which also helps the local economy.

The company currently has several "regional depots" set up throughout the UK to help reduce the impact of delivery travel. As our main warehouse is based in County Durham in the Northeast of England we send bulk customer deliveries to our regional depots via our HGV network which can then be delivered locally to customers using smaller more efficient vehicles.

OUR SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS

We now have 45+ retail stores across the UK with more to follow all trading as "Flooring Superstore" supplying wood, laminate, tile flooring and artificial grass to retail and trade customers.

TREE PLANTING

As a business, we are on a journey to be more than just carbon-neutral, we are actively on the ball. We aren't just talking the talk about being carbon-neutral in the future, we are making changes and having a positive impact on the world, right here right now. We are committed to Positive Impacts and contributing to a better world through every purchase the customer makes. We are planting trees both here in the UK and abroad for every order we take. It's all about CO₂ reduction, the more trees we plant the more CO₂ we can remove. We are punching well above our weight for a company of our size, since 2020 we have already planted 6,274,668 trees and this number is growing every day! All of our wood flooring is produced from a sustainable source and is PEFC-certified. All our tree planting figures are additional trees on top of our sustainable sourcing which also plants trees.

CLEANING OUR OCEANS

Since August 2020 we have removed 35,953kg of plastic from oceans and rivers, that's the equivalent of 1,438,120 plastic bottles. This number is growing daily and whilst our contribution is literally a 'drop in the ocean' compared to the scale of the problem that's no reason to not do anything. We are committed to positive actions that make a real

difference and our hope is that many other companies follow this path.

PROTECTING HABITATS

Whilst we are on a tree planting mission we recognise the importance of protecting habitats as deforestation is one of the biggest threats to the planet. We have supported Rainforest Trust projects across the world with donations that directly protect huge areas of Rainforest. To date, we've funded the protection of 29,979 acres of Rainforest.

ECO PRODUCTS

Here at Flooring Superstore, we've already started on our journey with a plan to introduce more and more products that are made from recycled materials, that can be recycled again after use. Our journey towards only using recycled or renewable-based plastic will take some time and require new ways of doing things, but we are determined to take responsibility and find new solutions. We want to give our customers the possibility to choose products made from more sustainable materials that can be recycled again one day.

Our innovations already include:

- Carpets made from recycled nylon fishing nets
- Carpet underlay that is made from recycled plastic
- Artificial Grass that is made from 80% recycled materials and is 100% recyclable

Together, we can make a big difference!

Flooring Superstore - Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester

Our retail store will be occupied by a maximum of 4-5 employees working during trading hours and all based in-store. As a company, we are committed to employing local people as this helps with reliability, local knowledge and reduced travel issues. Employees, living locally will always be encouraged to walk or cycle to and from work. If a greater distance is required to be traveled then local public transport or car sharing will always be promoted.

The company also offers a cycle-to-work scheme which gives employees the option to purchase a bicycle at a greatly reduced price, with the option to spread the cost of the bicycle across small monthly affordable payments taken from their salary. This is a great incentive to get employees to use a bicycle to and from work, in turn helping the environment whilst getting fit.

TRAVEL PLAN/CO-ORDINATOR

1. An appointed travel plan coordinator will oversee the smooth running and operation of the plan.
2. Implement and develop a more sustainable means of travel for employees and visitors.
3. The name of the travel plan coordinator will be submitted to the local council before occupying the site.
4. The responsibilities of the coordinator will be put in place from day one of occupancy to allow for any queries or questions from staff to be answered or actioned.
5. The role of the coordinator will include, but is not limited to:
 - Manage the travel plan
 - Liaise with the relevant council members
 - Promote the travel plan and its benefits

SITE AUDIT

The site is located near Elizabeth Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester. A location plan is provided for the site in Figure 1.

TRAVEL PLAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINKS

The nearest stations to Elizabeth Street are:

- Elizabeth Street is 107 meters away, 2 min walk.
- Cheetham Hill Road is 295 meters away, 4 min walk.
- Boyle Street is 384 meters away, 6 min walk.
- Queens Road (Manchester Metrolink) is 827 meters away, 11 min walk.
- Victoria (Manchester Metrolink) is 1437 meters away, 19 min walk.

Which Bus lines stop near Elizabeth Street?

- These Bus lines stop near Elizabeth Street: 135, 41

Which Train lines stop near Elizabeth Street?

- These Train lines stop near Elizabeth Street: NORTHERN, TRANSPENNINE EXPRESS

Which Light rail lines stop near Elizabeth Street?

- These Light rail lines stop near Elizabeth Street: GREEN LINE, PINK LINE, YELLOW LINE

The nearest light rail station to Elizabeth Street in Manchester?

- The nearest light rail station to Elizabeth Street in Manchester is Queens Road (Manchester Metrolink) which is approximately an 11-minute walk away.
- The nearest bus stop to Elizabeth Street in Manchester is Elizabeth Street. It's a 2 min walk away.

TRAVEL PLAN/WALKING

- Promoting the idea to staff and visitors that walking is a viable alternative to other modes of travel. Information will be provided on the potential health benefits and cost-savings so that people realise that the benefit first and foremost is to themselves.
- Posters and flyers offering information that provide details of local walking routes and public transport links should further encourage employees and visitors.
- Walking will also be encouraged for staff making short journeys during the day to get food and drinks. All staff will be made aware of the local amenities for food, drinks and other needs that are within walking distance.

TRAVEL PLAN/CYCLING

- A cycle scheme is available to all staff to encourage cycling to and from work. The scheme offers a discounted cycle purchase with small affordable repayments being deducted from the employee's wages at source.
- Posters and leaflets will be made available to all staff and visitors to help promote and identify local cycle pathways. Onsite secure cycle parking is available to all employees and visitors. Employees will also be provided with information on the potential health benefits and cost-savings of cycling to and from work so they realise how it will benefit them directly.

LOCAL CYCLE ROUTES

- **Fallowfield Loop:** This attractive, largely traffic-free route follows a former railway line. It's part of National Cycle Network Route 60. The Loop uses the in-filled Stockport Branch Canal and sections of towpath along the Ashton Canal. It takes you to the Velodrome and the Manchester City football ground. It's considered the longest urban cycleway in Britain, at 8 miles long. The route is flat and well-surfaced, making it great for beginners.
- **Rochdale Canal Cycle Route:** Allows riders to take a trip along the canal, experiencing Manchester's rich industrial heritage.
- **Trans Pennine Trail:** This is a 213-mile (344km) coast-to-coast cycle route which is largely traffic-free and runs from Southport to Hornsea.

TRAVEL PLAN/CAR SHARING

Electric vehicles are becoming more popular. As a business, we are gradually changing our own company cars to EVs helping us reach our greener goals. Flooring Superstore employees will have access to EV chargers when required.

All employees will be made aware of the benefits of car sharing when it becomes apparent that more sustainable, alternative modes of transport are not appropriate. An internal car share scheme between employees may also be an option. Encouraging employees to car share will also help with highway congestion.

TRAVEL PLAN/STORE DELIVERIES

The nature of the business is to supply customers and local traders with quality flooring goods such as solid wood flooring, engineered wood flooring, laminate flooring, floor tiles and artificial grass. All of our retail stores are "Showrooms" Where the customer can touch and feel the products and place their order which is then delivered directly to the customer's address via our delivery network. This means no deliveries to the store on a day-to-day basis, in turn, reducing traffic congestion, parking restrictions and local air pollution.

MONITORING

During the initial stages of the travel plan, the priority will be on promotion, awareness and the idea of non-car-based travel to and from work. All employees will be provided with a questionnaire to ascertain their main mode of travel to and from work, where they live on their normal working pattern. The information received will help identify specific incentives or measures that need to be targeted.

All new employees will be given a copy of the questionnaire with all present employees having questionnaires re-issued on an annual basis, or sooner if there is any shift pattern or transport changes.

REVIEW

- It is intended that the plan will be, to ascertain the extent, flexibility and the monitoring process may illustrate that from time to time, modifications to accommodate new ways or incentives of promoting non-car-based travel.
- The Travel Plan Co-ordinator shall ensure that this monitoring takes place and engage with the Council in reviewing the progression of the plan when the need arises.
- The Final Travel Plan may require the Co-ordinator to join the network of The Greater Manchester Council Co-ordinators to discuss any issues and potential solutions.

Appendix 1

Figure 1.



The scheme is in close proximity to Manchester Fort Shopping Park, which attracts millions of visitors per year and is home to a number of well-known brands such as Next, B&Q, M&S Food, Argos, & Boots to name a few. The City Centre's extensive retail and leisure offerings are also a 10 minute walk away.

Figure 2.

