

EV Chargepoint Host Site Case Study:

West Point House, Walney

June 2020



Charge My Street launches first community-owned electric vehicle (EV) chargepoint on Walney Island

The Opportunity:

Walney Island lies just off the SW Cumbrian coast, connected to neighbouring Barrow-in-Furness by the Jubilee Bridge, making it England's largest island with direct road access to the mainland. The resident population of Walney is around 10000.



West Point House on Walney provides quality self-catering accommodation for up to 40 business and leisure guests, plus offers great conference and meeting room facilities available for hire, including for use by local community groups.

Guests at West Point House include contractors based at the nearby BAE shipyard in Barrow, many coming from all over country, with typical stays ranging from weeks to in some cases long-term residents staying years.

Joint owners of West Point House Heather Cockett Phillips and John Phillips are both very environmentally conscious, and have already made impressive site improvements including installing a 18kWh solar array and a rainwater harvesting scheme, plus they conduct annual energy audits to monitor their environmental performance.

Heather and John also have strong local connections to the local Walney community, and are keen to link into the Low Carbon Barrow project which aims to lower the borough's carbon footprint.

Until recently there has been nowhere else publically in the Barrow borough to charge an electric vehicle (EV), creating a barrier to both visiting guests and local residents considering switching to an EV.

Therefore as part of their on-going environmental improvements, Heather and John were certain that installing an EV chargepoint at West Point House would offer a great new service to their guests, plus provide an important additional charging facility available for use by local residents.

The Solution:

Having been disappointed by an apparent lack of interest from other commercial chargepoint network operators, Heather then approached **Charge My Street**, identified through her existing links with environmental charity **Cumbria Action for Sustainability** who are another programme partner on the EV chargepoint project.

Site Summary Details

Location: Cumbria, NW Eng

Type of site: hospitality / residential

Installation: 2 x 22kW fast chargepoints

Chargepoint status: operational (from June 2020)

Installation Timeline

Initial enquiry: Feb 2020

Contract signed: March 2020

Installation: May/June 2020

Commissioning: June 2020

Launch event: June 2020



As a prompt response to her initial enquiry, Heather was delighted to then receive a professional site visit to fully assess suitability for hosting a chargepoint.

For both Charge My Street and programme partners **Bay EV**, West Point House immediately offered great potential. Project officer Ady Powell was very impressed with the evident enthusiasm and commitment from both Heather and John to introducing their various environmental improvements, and their support throughout made the entire process of assessing and confirming the chargepoint host site so much easier.

The opportunity to link the EV chargepoint to an existing large solar array, allowing vehicles to charge using renewable energy generated directly on site, was also a huge positive in the feasibility assessment.

Heather was equally keen to collaborate with Charge My Street, particularly as partners assessing and installing the chargepoint are all from the Morecambe Bay area, and so a direct fit with West Point House's commitment to using local contractors and suppliers wherever possible.

As freeholder owners, Heather and John were able to sign the Charge My Street lease agreement to host the chargepoint within just 1 month of their initial enquiry, amply demonstrating their full commitment to proceeding.

Chargepoint Installation:



For programme partner Bay EV the installation of the two 22kw fast chargepoints proved straightforward, and in fact would have been completed even more quickly had the timeline not coincided with the COVID 19 lockdown across the UK.

The existing 3 phase power available on site at West Point House was already suitable for supplying the chargepoint, so avoiding any potentially complex additional preparatory work with the district network operator.

West Point House was even able to provide space in an existing on-site data room, in which to install ancillary equipment supporting the chargepoint.

Deputy Mayor of Barrow Helen Wall was invited to officially open the new chargepoint in mid-June 2020, as it gave its ceremonial first charge to an EV.



"We are truly delighted to offer our residents and the wider community the opportunity to go green and use an electric car.

The recent weeks of the COVID pandemic where people have had to stay at home and not travel in their cars has shown a significant reduction in pollution levels - wouldn't it be great if we could keep this going to reduce the damage humans do to the earth!"

Heather Cockett Phillips
West Point House

"I was very thrilled to take part in launching the chargepoint today.

We in Barrow are proud to have a low carbon committee, and all our council members are extremely passionate about low carbon issues.

This chargepoint represents a great step forward for Walney!"

Helen Wall
Deputy Mayor of Barrow



"The evident high level of enthusiasm on Walney for more sustainable ways of living has been brilliant to see.

We are looking for chargepoint host sites where landowners have a desire for more switching to EVs on the roads, plus a sense of benefit to their community, and we have certainly found that at West Point House."

Will Maden
Charge My Street

Future Plans:

Collaboration between West Point House, Charge My Street and other programme partners has already proved very successful, moving quickly from initial enquiry to launch of a first fully operational chargepoint on Walney Island.

As part of wider commitments made on the EV chargepoint programme, Charge My Street are now working with Heather and John on exciting plans to survey and install 11-13kW battery storage capacity at West Point House. This will be used to store excess solar energy generated, which can then be sold back at preferential rates, so bringing further environmental and commercial benefits to the hosts, their guests, and the wider local community.

About Charge My Street

We have established **Charge My Street** as a community benefit society to install and operate electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints in the community, raising money through community shares. Our demand-led approach gives local people the tools and support to identify and finance their own chargepoints, at locations with the greatest identified need and benefit.

We have already successfully demonstrated this innovative approach by installing chargepoints at two locations in Lancaster, and in two Cumbrian villages.

We are now applying this experience to an ambitious and exciting new programme termed '**SOSCI**' (**Scaling On-Street Charging Infrastructure**), scaling up our proven model to other local authority areas across northern England. Backed by £4 million government funding from Innovate UK, we collaborate with a bigger consortium of partners, committed to installing around 200 new 22kW fast chargepoints across northern England by June 2021.

We are focusing on two main types of opportunity: communities in which there are significant numbers of homes without driveways or off-street parking (particularly terraced housing and flats), and rural areas which often currently lack any public charging facility. Ultimately we want to ensure that everyone living in urban and rural areas is within a 5 minute walk of a public EV chargepoint.

Our project also wishes to test new ways of funding chargepoints through community ownership, based on the successful share offer model already developed by Charge My Street. In some instances, we will also be testing how community renewable energy schemes can be integrated with chargepoints, in order to power vehicles using clean energy generated directly on site.

By expanding the local chargepoint network we will help to build public confidence in switching to EVs, contributing to tackling climate change and improving air quality by reducing vehicle emissions.

 Find out more at www.chargemystreet.co.uk

