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Get Living unveils first retailers at The Elephant

Marks & Spencer among stores signing for £500 million development



The proposed Elephant retail zone. (Get Living)

By **Paul Norman**

CoStar News

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Get Living has announced the first retail and leisure brands at [The Elephant](#), its £500 million development at Elephant & Castle in London.

Launching in late 2026, The Elephant will be among the largest new retail-led town centre openings in Zone 1 in recent years.

The total square foot leased to the retailers is 16,663 square foot.

Marks and Spencer will open a fresh market-style food store at the location, offering fresh produce. A Click and Collect point will also allow customers to collect fashion, home and beauty online orders.

Brooklyn brand Blank Street Coffee will open in summer 2026 alongside health-focused café Jungle Berry.

Alongside a cinema, Latin food market DistriAndina, trading locally from the arches, will relocate to The Elephant.



Designed by Allies and Morrison, The Elephant redevelops part of an area named after a coaching inn recorded in 1765, that was once a commercial hub centred around the William Tarn and Co department store.

It became home to Europe's first covered shopping centre in 1965, painted pink before its demolition in 2021.

Forming part of the wider £4 billion Elephant & Castle redevelopment, The Elephant proposes 485 new rental homes, including 172 affordable homes, alongside 135,000 square feet of shops, dining, wellness and leisure uses, with 55,000 square feet of workspace and shops offered to local traders at discount market rent.

Aidan Malia, senior director, The Elephant, said in a statement: "The Elephant's debut line-up of retailers marks a major milestone for Elephant & Castle. It is a huge boost for the local community and a definitive vote of confidence in south London's retail & leisure future and our vision for The Elephant."

Will Smith, property director at M&S, said: "We have an exciting pipeline of new stores across the capital and we're looking for sites where we can deliver the best products and the best possible shopping experience for our customers – we have the opportunity to do just that at The Elephant."

In 2027, a University of the Arts London campus for the London College of Communication will open for 5,500 students and staff. The college will house the UAL Archives and Special Collections Centre. Following this phase, plans have been approved for a further 507 homes, including 49 new affordable rent and 116 social rent homes, alongside affordable retail and workspace.

Future plans also include a 27,800-square-foot cultural venue created by repurposing part of the existing LCC building.

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