

September 2025

autoh!

the North East's own motor magazine : issue 25



Polestars
aren't your normal
electric cars. **p3**



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**Nissan get ready
to turn a new LEAF**
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welcome to **autOh!**

Wow! We've reached our quarter century. This is the 25th edition of autOh! the North East's own motoring magazine. All of our magazines are delivered to carefully chosen households across NE, SR and DH postcodes and to over 200 businesses. We are the region's leading magazine for anyone who's interested in cars. As usual, there's a full round-up of latest news and products from your local franchise car dealers.

The motoring landscape in the UK is changing. New brands are appearing on our shores...so we take a close look at what's on offer from these Chinese brands. For many of you, they'll be new names... new manufacturers ...Omoda, Jaecoo, Leapmotor...and the one which arrived first of all...Build Your Dreams, although it's better known simply as BYD. If you've not sat in or driven one, you're in for a shock in a good sense.

Another feature is called 'What's in a name?' The name we're looking at is

Stellantis. You don't see that name on the bonnet of any cars, but you'll recognise their brands...Vauxhall, Alfa Romeo, Fiat, DS Automobiles, Citroen, Peugeot, Fiat, Jeep. They all look different, but they share a lot of the oily bits. We'll give you the low down.

Bearing in mind that we like to hear from you, our readers, we thought it would be a neat idea to speak to feature one of you and find out why you bought the car which is currently ferrying you around. Catherine tells us all about her reasons for buying the returning icon...the new Renault 5. She loves it...and we do too.

We look at another new car brand which has arrived in the region...INEOS and their Grenadier. If you hark for the old Land Rover Defender, hark no more because the Grenadier is a dead ringer in every sense... looks and ability. Workhorses don't come any better.

We check out latest model from loads

of the manufacturers...MINI, BMW, Audi, Nissan, Kia etc etc...and we have a first for us here at autOh! magazine because we've just driven our first ever car which does away with a rear windscreen. Find out more in our Polestar article.

There's also a close look at the latest model to roll off the assembly line at the Nissan plant in Sunderland...the new Nissan Micra.

A lot of you reading autOh! will be involved in business. One of the best ways to make contacts and spread the word about your business is via networking. Well here's a good idea....it's called DrivenNet. They stage networking meetings in motoring related places...dealerships, workshops, race tracks. Sounds like a fun way to do business.

And don't forget, if you're looking for a used car, we've got thousands on www.autoh.co.uk

www.autoh.co.uk is also the place to go if you'd like to get in touch with us. You'll find latest news, video reviews and read previous editions.

Graham Courtney, Editor.



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HANG ON A SEC – SOMETHING'S MISSING.

Polestars three models aren't your normal electric cars.

It's the headline which grabs everyone because the Polestar 4 doesn't have a rear window, but look beyond that and, as with the rest of the Polestar range, you have a car which is great to drive, looks good and has one of the best ranges around.

In the Polestar 4, you rely on wing mirrors and a high-definition, roof mounted camera which produces an image on the interior driver's 'mirror'.

The designers say it improves aerodynamics, increases rear headroom and allows the glass roof to stretch even further and therefore make the interior light and airy.

It's a different driving experience so you need an extended test drive to see if you can live with it. We did...and yes, you do get used to having an image on a rear-view mirror.

The Polestar 4 is bigger than the Polestar 2 but slightly smaller than the SUV-focussed Polestar 3. The company refer to it as a performance coupé SUV.

Two versions are available...long range single motor and long range dual motor. The single motor (268bhp, 0-60mph in 6.9 seconds, range 385 miles) feeds the rear wheels, while the dual motor (536bhp, 0-60mph 3.7 seconds, range 367 miles) gives you all-wheel drive. Both models have a top speed of 124mph.

You get a 10-80 per cent charge on a rapid charger in around 30 minutes. Great car.

If you're thinking of going 100% electric, the Polestar 2 is an ideal place to start.

As with the other Polestars, you get various levels of power and performance. There's even a Performance Pack model. We like the dual motor, all-wheel drive



For more information
Click here



Polestar 2 which develops 416 bhp and hits 60 mph from standstill in 4.3 seconds. Range is 369 miles.

We managed a round trip of 320 miles before needing to stop for two reasons. 1, the car needed charging...and 2, we needed a 'comfort' break.

And what about the Polestar 3? It a seriously smart SUV...low and sleek...and is wonderful to drive. The interior is a work of art...it's roomy and seats



five with ease. A large proportion of the interior is made from recycled materials. Safety and driver assistance are high on the agenda with every Polestar, which comes as no surprise as it comes from the Swedish Volvo family. It's also got a very high level of kit as standard.

Again, there's a choice of powertrains, and the all-important range is terrific. Stick with the single-motor, rear-wheel drive version and you'll get an estimated 438 miles. Wow.

Polestar...full of surprises...all of them good.

Polestar



www.stoneacre.co.uk/polestar

Stoneacre
Motor Group

Polestar Newcastle
Cobalt Park Way, Silverlink,
Newcastle, NE28 9NZ
0191 2154080

Vauxhall Frontera

83kW GS 44kWh 5dr Auto Electric SUV

SUV | Electric | Automatic

0% Finance
£169 per month

Representative example for:
Vauxhall Frontera 83kW GS 44kWh 5dr Auto Electric SUV,
Personal Contract Purchase (PCP),

Customer Deposit	£4,900
47 Monthly Payments Of	£169
Cash Price	£24,459
Electric Vehicle Discount	£1,500
Amount of Credit	£19,559
Fees	NIL
Optional Final Payment	£11,616
Total Amount Payable	£24,459
Duration Of Agreement	48 Months
Annual Mileage	6,000*
Fixed Rate of Interest	0%

Representative 0% APR (Fixed)

For more information
Click here



Vauxhall Mokka

Vauxhall Mokka 100kW Griffin
50kWh 5dr Auto Electric Hatchback

Hatchback | Electric | Automatic



ONLY
£359
DEPOSIT
£359
PER MONTH

Representative example for:
Vauxhall Mokka 100kW Griffin 50kWh 5dr Auto Electric
Hatchback, Personal Contract Purchase (PCP),

Customer Deposit	£359
48 Monthly Payments Of	£359
Cash Price	£21,565
Electric Vehicle Discount	£1,500
Amount of Credit	£21,206
Fees	NIL
Optional Final Payment	£8,390
Total Amount Payable	£25,981
Duration Of Agreement	49 Months
Annual Mileage	6,000*
Fixed Rate of Interest	6.9%

Representative 6.9% APR (Fixed)

Vauxhall Grandland

1.2 Hybrid 145 GS 5dr e-DCT6 Petrol
Hatchback (personal contract hire)

Hatchback | Petrol | Automatic



CUSTOMER DEPOSIT
£1,067
23 MONTHLY RENTALS
£347

Personal Contract Hire:
Term 24 Months,
Mileage 6,000, Excess 8.33p per mile

- Electric mirrors
- Heated seats
- Lumbar support
- Sat Nav

Vertu

Vauxhall Durham
Abbey Road, Pity Me,
Durham, DH1 5DQ
0330 096 0845

Vauxhall Sunderland
Alexandra Avenue, Hylton Riverside,
Sunderland, SR5 2TB
0330 096 0853

Vauxhall Newcastle
244 - 246 Stamfordham Road, Westerhope,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 2LA
0330 096 0851

NEW VAUXHALL'S COME THICK AND FAST

Brand new Frontera and Grandland, and updates for Corsa and Mokka keep Vauxhall range looking fresh.

Everyone knows (hopefully) that the future for cars is electric... whether we like it or not.

Vauxhall has been one of the leaders in this field and now offers an electric variant of every car and van in its line-up. The company is the UK's best-selling electric light commercial vehicle manufacturer and, when it comes to their cars, the Corsa Electric is the UK's best-selling electric supermini.

But what about the brand-new cars.



Let's start with the new Vauxhall Frontera which prices both its petrol hybrid and electric models exactly the same, kicking off at £23,995. The company keeps things simple when it comes to choices. There are two trims... Design and GS. There's a pair of three-cylinder 1.2 litre hybrid petrol engines developing either 99bhp (predicted economy of 53.3mpg and a 0-60mph time of 11 seconds) or 136bhp (0-60 in 9 seconds and similar economy). The electric Frontera gives you a 111bhp output and a range of 186 miles. A bigger battery is on the way...you'll get 248 miles.

It's all down to how much you want to pay and what sort of performance you'd like. We'd go for the 136bhp hybrid engine and cough-up the additional £1500. Every model is nicely equipped, rides well and is good to drive.

If you fancy electric motoring, we'd point you in the direction of the brand-new Vauxhall Grandland. How does



425 miles sound from a single charge? Impressive. If you prefer to have an engine under the bonnet, no problem because there's also a 140bhp 1.2 litre petrol hybrid model with predicted economy of over 51mpg. Bearing in mind that this is quite a large car, that's a terrific figure.

The Corsa and Mokka have been a huge success for Vauxhall. The Corsa is the UK's best-selling small car and continues to collect awards like confetti. The Mokka, which is based on the Corsa, is also noted for its reliability having achieved a high score at the JD Power Awards. It was also named as Top Gear's Design of the Year.

Both models have something for everyone in terms of power...petrol, petrol hybrid and electric...pick the one which suits your lifestyle.

You could say the same for the entire Vauxhall range of cars and vans...there's something in there which will tick your boxes.

The only snag is keeping up with all of the developments. A nice problem to have!





MINI MARVELS

Icon is a modern revelation

MINI has a special place in the hearts of the UK motoring public. Many of you reading this will have learnt to drive in one, owned one and seen dozens of them in films since it was launched in 1959.

The MINI range offers a stylish, performance-focused selection of cars that blend the iconic British design with modern innovation. Known for their go-kart handling and characterful looks, MINI appeals to urban drivers, style-conscious folk, and anyone who wants a fun driving experience. They also offer several of their models with a choice of having a combustion engine under the bonnet, or incredible economy thanks to all-electric motoring.

At the heart of the range is the MINI Cooper, available with 3 or 5-doors. There's also a Cooper Convertible. It's compact, agile, and packed with personality. With petrol and fully electric versions available, the Cooper caters to traditional petrolheads as well as eco-conscious drivers. The MINI Cooper Electric offers emission-free driving without compromising on style or performance, making it ideal for city use.

For those needing more space, the MINI Countryman, the largest in the line-up, serves as a compact SUV with optional ALL4 all-wheel drive, making it suitable for adventurous lifestyles and family needs. It's available with petrol engines and fully electric.

The newest generation models feature upgraded technology, including MINI



Operating System 9, an intuitive infotainment interface centred around a circular display. This new system integrates navigation, media, climate control, and MINI's digital assistant, enhancing the in-car experience. Customisation remains central to MINI's appeal, with a broad choice of colours, interior trims, roof designs, and alloy wheels. Careful though because while you're having fun configuring your exact MINI, the price can climb quite rapidly.

Sporty variants such as the MINI Cooper S, John Cooper Works (JCW), and JCW Countryman offer enhanced performance with turbocharged engines, sport-tuned suspensions, and hunky styling cues, ideal for those seeking driving thrills.



For more information
Click here



MINI's electrification journey is accelerating with the arrival of the fully electric MINI Aceman crossover which fills a gap between the 5-door MINI Cooper and the Countryman. It's all part of MINI's plan to become a fully electric brand.

The MINI range caters to a wide spectrum of drivers – from urban commuters to weekend adventurers – combining the charm of a heritage brand with the forward-thinking features of modern motoring. Whether petrol or electric, there's a MINI to fit your lifestyle and your budget.



LLOYD NORTH TYNESIDE MINI.
Bittern Close, Silverlink Park
Wallsend, NE28 9ND
0191 283 1066

LLOYD NEWCASTLE MINI.
Fenham Barracks, Barrack Road
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4LE
0191 283 1803

www.lloydmotorgroup.com/MINI

BMW – THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

There's one to fit your lifestyle, your desires and your budget

BMW is a rarity in the motoring world. It really does have something for everyone.

Drop tops, SUVs, performance cars, estates...a choice of powertrains including all-electric, PHEV, petrol and diesel...and the option to buy one for gentle progress or for thrashing along the UK motorway network...or for a high-speed cruise to the South of France. You'll also get cutting-edge technology, precise engineering, and stylish design.

Let's check out their range.

The BMW 1 Series serves as the entry point to the brand, offering hatchback practicality with sporty driving dynamics. It's especially popular among urban drivers who appreciate premium quality in a compact form. Moving up, the 2 Series comes in several variants,



including coupé and the family-oriented Gran Coupé, delivering sharper performance and more refined styling.

The 3 Series remains one of the biggest sellers in the BMW lineup, available as a saloon or Touring estate. It balances comfort, agility, and technology, making it ideal for both personal and business use. The larger 5 Series follows suit, offering executive luxury and a range of powerful engines, including plug-in hybrid options. The 7 Series is the flagship saloon, combining limousine-level comfort with BMW's most advanced technologies and electrified powertrains.

SUVs have become increasingly central to the BMW range. The X1 and X2 offer

compact SUV practicality, while the X3 and X4 provide more interior space and performance. The X5 and X6 sit higher up the range, delivering greater luxury, while the X7 crowns the SUV lineup with seven seats and a premium experience. BMW's electric SUV offering, the iX, showcases their commitment to sustainable luxury, pairing bold design with long-range electric performance.

On the performance front, the M division continues to lead with vehicles like the M2, M3, and M5, all of which are revered for their driving precision and track-ready capabilities. These sit alongside M Performance models, which provide a sporty edge without sacrificing everyday usability.

BMW's electric "i" range is expanding rapidly. The i4 is a sleek electric Gran Coupé, while the i5 and i7 bring full electric power to the brand's executive saloon lineup. The iX1 and iX3 are electric SUVs, complementing the larger and more futuristic iX.

And lastly, if you fancy wind in the hair, flies in the teeth motoring, there's the gorgeous Z4 Roadster.

BMW is known for premium quality, driver-focused interiors, advanced infotainment systems (like iDrive 8), and increasingly electrified powertrains. As we said at the start...there's something for everyone at BMW.



For more information
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SEARCH: www.lloydmotorgroup.com/BMW

Lloyd North Tyneside BMW
Bittern Close,
Silverlink Park,
WallSEND, NE28 9ND

Tel - 0191 283 8714

Lloyd Newcastle BMW
Fenham Barracks,
Barrack Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4LE

Tel - 0191 283 8772

Electrifying Summer Event.

Electrify your summer and save £500 off your all-new INSTER 2025 World Electric vehicle, or award-winning KONA Electric.



Hyundai Inster

71 kW 01 42kWh 5dr Auto MY25

49 Monthly Payments	Customer Deposit	4.9%
£295.⁶²	£295.⁰⁰	APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai Inster 71 kW 01 42kWh 5dr Auto MY25

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), 48 monthly payments of £295.62, On the Road Price £22,505.00, Customer Deposit £295.00, Deposit Contribution £2,000.00, Total Deposit £2,295.00, Amount of Credit £20,210.00, Interest Charges £2,879.76, Optional Final Payment £8,900.00, Total Amount Payable £25,384.76, Fixed Rate of Interest 2.52% p.a., Duration of Agreement 49 months, Annual Mileage 6,000, Excess Mileage Charge per mile 9.0p, APR 4.9%.

Hyundai Kona

160kW Advance 65kWh 5dr Auto MY25

37 Monthly Payments	Customer Deposit	0%
£394.³⁰	£3500	APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai Kona 160kW Advance 65kWh 5dr Auto MY25

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), 36 monthly payments of £394.30, On the Road Price £34,000.00, Customer Deposit £3,500.00, Total Deposit £3,500.00, Amount of Credit £30,500.00, Interest Charges £0.00, Optional Final Payment £16,311.50, Total Amount Payable £34,000.00, Fixed Rate of Interest 0.00% p.a., Duration of Agreement 37 months, Annual Mileage 6,000, Excess Mileage Charge per mile 9.0p, APR 0%.



For more information
Click here

Hyundai IONIQ 5

125kW Advance 63 kWh 5dr Auto MY25

37 Monthly Payments	Customer Deposit	0%
£415.⁸⁸	£5,000	APR

Representative example for: HYUNDAI IONIQ 5 125kW Advance 63 kWh

5dr Auto, Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), 36 monthly payments of £415.88 On the Road Price £38,910.00, Customer Deposit £5,000.00, Deposit Contribution £2,000.00, Total Deposit £7,000.00, Amount of Credit £31,910.00, Interest Charges £0.00, Optional Final Payment £16,938.50, Total Amount Payable £38,910.00, Fixed Rate of Interest 0.00% p.a., Duration of Agreement 37 months, Annual Mileage 6,000, Excess Mileage Charge per mile 9.0p, APR 0%.

Hyundai Sunderland
Wessington Way,
Castletown
Sunderland SR5 3NX
0330 178 8733

Hyundai Peterlee
3 Mill Hill,
North West Industrial Estate
Peterlee SR8 2HR
0330 178 7354

www.vertumotors.com/hyundai

We are a credit broker and not a lender. 0.0% APR Personal Contract Purchase available from 01/07/2025 to 30/09/2025. 4.9% APR Personal Contract Purchase available from 01/07/2025 to 30/09/2025. T&C's Apply. Subject to Status, 18's and over, Guarantee may be required. Hyundai Finance RH2 9AQ. *Hyundai Finance reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time without notice. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) part exchange the vehicle, (ii) pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Vertu Fourth Investments Ltd trading as Vertu Fourth Investments Limited Peterlee are a credit broker for the purposes of this finance quotation. We work with a limited selection of lenders only. We have not searched the whole market to offer you the most suitable or competitive finance terms that may be available. We are being paid a commission and therefore will not be able to give you an impartial recommendation as to the finance options available to you. There may be better finance deals available for you elsewhere in the market. All commission amounts will be disclosed prior to completion of your agreement. Selected Annual Mileage is 6,000. Excess mileage will be charged at the rate of 9.0 pence per mile (including VAT) for the first 5000 miles and at twice that rate thereafter. The personal information you have volunteered such as your name and address will be retained for the purpose of this quotation only and for a maximum of six months or until a contract of finance is executed. . Library image for illustration purposes only.



HYUNDAI - THEY'RE WINNERS - AND THAT'S OFFICIAL

The gongs just keep on coming.

Hyundai is going to need a bigger trophy cabinet. 2025 has seen the company continue to collect a staggering number of awards for their cars.

Here's a quick list...

IONIQ 5 N has been given the prestigious 5-Star award by Autocar. They called the hot hatch a 'game changer' and 'blindingly good fun.'

The all-new SANTA FE was named as Best 7-Seater at the Autotrader annual awards. IONIQ 5 was named Best Car for City Drivers. The awards are decided by real-world feedback from more than 225,000 UK car owners.

The IONIQ 6 was named Best EV Executive Car at the Great British Fleet Awards. Bearing in mind that fleet bosses are difficult to please...they want

cars that drivers like...comfy, economical, good value, well equipped and reliable.

TopGear.com staged their annual Electric Awards...and no surprise that the Hyundai IONIQ 9 was named Best EV 7-Seater.

If you had to pick one seriously impressive award, it was for the brand-new Hyundai INSTER which has been named 2025 World Electric Vehicle. The awards, which are decided by 96 of the world's leading motoring journalists...are something at which Hyundai are becoming experts having had previous success with IONIQ 5 N winning the 2024 World Performance Car title, and IONIQ 5 and IONIQ 6 achieving victories in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Impressive huh?

The INSTER, which is the latest car to arrive at Hyundai dealers, was also named as What Car?'s Best Small Electric Car for the City. It's the brand's first small EV for the European market, and blends robust, but compact SUV styling with effortless urban driving and strong performance on longer drives..

At the moment there are two INSTER models available, kicking off with



INSTER 01 which has a 42kWh battery developing 97bhp and a potential range of 203 miles. If you want additional power and extra mileage, go for the INSTER 02 49kWh which ups the ante to 115bhp and 229 miles. There's roughly three grand between the two, but the INSTER 02 gets additional kit as well. It's the version we'd go for...it'll hold onto its value and slightly reduces any range anxiety. It's 0-60mph sprint of 10.6 seconds will be fine, bearing in mind that this is a car designed largely for city use. Having said that, it'll keep pace with motorway traffic without too much fuss. A 10-80 per cent charge takes about half an hour.

It's a good-looking thing. We went on the launch and were surprised by how roomy it was. The rear seats slides back in the 02 version...okay it reduces the boot space but legroom is impressive. Comfy too. As for kit...let's just say you get the stuff that you really need.

The INSTER is typical Hyundai. They're a leader when it comes to electric cars. They're winners.





ARE YOU DRIVEN IN BUSINESS? DO YOU LIKE NETWORKING? You need DrivenNet

A lot of you reading this will be successful in business. A lot of you will have gained business deals and made useful contacts by attending networking events.

It's also likely that a lot of you will spend a portion of every day sitting in a car, driving. Some of you will view driving as merely a means of getting from A to B, but a decent percentage will also enjoy driving. You'll find it relaxing and fun. So, why not mix cars and driving with networking and business?

That's precisely what Nevil Tynemouth is doing.

Nevil fronts a company called New Results Training and Development. In a nutshell, New Results takes stock of what you do well (and not so well) and make some relevant adjustments to help you push ahead. He's got the knack of helping people to be a success.

Which is why he's launched DrivenNet.

"One of the best ways to do business is to fill a room with directors, business

owners, senior execs, business partners and experienced sales, industrial, manufacturing or financial folk, and let them talk to each other. It's staggering how much business can be done by just communicating."

Let's be honest about this, some (a lot?) of the business networking events can be a tad dry and boring. Consequently, Nevil has done something about it.

DrivenNet does networking differently. Go onto the website www.drivenet.com and you'll get a flavour of what it's all about.

"Networking often needs a common theme to get things moving. I reckon that everyone reading this has something which connects them. I bet they have a car. They might be a petrolhead or they might see a car as

merely a tool, but it's impossible to deny that a car is important to everyone and the way we go through business and our lives in general.

"So, why not use that as the common theme? We hold our DrivenNet networking in places which have a connection to cars such as car dealerships, car repair centres, car customising garages and race tracks."

The next one is taking place at Vertu BMW Sunderland. It's at lunchtime on Friday 19th September and will be rammed with business people who enjoy cars.

It should be a fascinating event because Vertu Motors has recently spent £1.1m redeveloping the Boldon dealership. The interior is one of the most modern of any BMW dealership in country and mimics the welcoming feel of a boutique hotel, creating a more relaxed and inviting atmosphere for customers.

Interested? The best idea is to go onto www.DriveNet.com to find out how your networking can get into the fast lane.





For more information
Click here

RENAULT WELCOMES BACK AN ICON And it's terrific

It can be tricky remodelling an icon... but Renault has nailed it with the new Renault 5. Its design stays true to the original model, but that's where the similarity ends. Power is 100% electric... and it's one of the best we've driven. Flick through the magazine and you'll find the thoughts of a customer who recently bought a Renault 5. She loves it...no surprise.

What about the rest of the Renault range?

The Clio is becoming an icon of its own. It's a best-selling supermini that has long been popular in the UK for its sharp design, efficient engines, and practical features. The latest Clio comes with advanced driver-assistance systems, a premium interior feel, and a hybrid version for those seeking improved fuel economy without going fully electric.

For drivers who prefer a compact SUV, the Captur is a standout choice. Stylish and spacious, it offers a high driving position and a flexible interior. Available with both hybrid and plug-in hybrid powertrains, the Captur balances performance and efficiency, making it a strong competitor in the urban crossover segment. If you need something slightly larger, go for the Symbioz model.



Families often turn to the Austral for its SUV practicality. The Austral features Renault's latest tech and E-Tech full hybrid powertrains, designed for comfort and fuel-saving performance. If you like a bit of coupé styling for your SUV, head over to the Rafale. It's a good-looking thing.

In the electric segment, Renault have the 5 and recently launched 4. If you need a bit more interior space, go for the Renault 4. We like the Renault Mégane E-Tech...a fully electric hatchback that boasts futuristic design, advanced infotainment, and over 280 miles of range making it suitable for both city and long-distance driving. If you want a handsome super-stylish car, look no further. It's gorgeous.

Renault also caters to commercial users with its Kangoo and Trafic vans, available



in both diesel and electric versions. These models are particularly popular among businesses looking for efficient urban delivery solutions.

With the UK car market rapidly moving toward electrification, Renault has positioned itself well through its E-Tech technology and broad electric offering. The brand combines French flair with practical features and a strong emphasis on value, making it a solid choice for UK drivers. As regulations tighten and consumer preferences shift, Renault's adaptable range will continue to tick the right boxes for the UK motoring public.

NEW RENAULT 5
E-TECH ELECTRIC
R5VOLUTION



Newcastle Renault
6 Benfield Road, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear NE6 5XA.
0344 659 6985

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Motorhomes**

Holidaying in the UK is now even more attractive and what better way to do this than in your own luxury 'home on wheels'.

One of the words we hear frequently at Tyne Valley Motorhomes is **FREE-DOM** – freedom to be able to take a break whenever you want, freedom to be in your own space, freedom to come and go as you like.

Being self sufficient within your own bubble and having every luxury at your fingertips means you can enjoy great UK and other far afield destinations.

Or you may wish to follow your favourite events or attend some of our legendary festivals.

Staying as a family and using a motorhome to attend these activities is a great way to travel.

There has been a huge increase in demand from those wishing to enjoy holidays in safety and luxury in the UK, so act now and make your holiday dreams a reality.



Join our email list and be the first to receive the new 2026 model pics & information



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CITROËN C THE WAY AHEAD

The C3, ë-C3 and C3 Aircross are three of the most important cars for Citroën.

They're not only the company's biggest sellers, they also introduce a lot of buyers to the Citroën range in the first place and, as Citroën would hope, can lead them to buy bigger (and more profitable) models in the future.

So, when it was decided to launch a 4th generation C3 and C3 Aircross, that will have been a big decision for the French manufacturer. Get it wrong and it'll be a major hit.

Well, the good news is that they've got it spot on. The cars are well priced, versatile, nicely equipped and decent to drive.

We think it's a good-looking car. The C3 has a hint of SUV styling about it, even though it's best described as a versatile hatchback, but the designers have cleverly moved the styling forwards. It still looks like a Citroën C3.

The latest C3 comes with various powertrains...petrol, hybrid and all-electric ë-C3. The hybrid is probably a good bet if you do a fair amount of urban driving but also need additional power for some motorway work. Citroën reckon most buyers will use battery power alone for 50 per cent of urban journeys.



The C3 range kicks off with a petrol-only 1.2 litre unit which develops 99bhp (0-60mph in 10.6 seconds and a predicted 52mpg figure). Everything goes via a 6-speed manual gearbox.

The hybrid model sees the engine joined by an electric, battery powered motor. Add both power outputs together and you'll end up with around 110bhp. It slices a second off the 0-60 sprint. Top speed is the same at 99mph. The gearbox is now a 6-speed auto. Economy improves to just under 60mpg,



For more information
Click here

but if you use the hybrid system and drive on battery power alone, that figure will climb.

If you fancy all-electric motoring, the ë-C3 is worth a serious look. The 112bhp motor can use a rapid charger and will boost the battery from 20%-80% in around 26 minutes. Predicated range is a shade under 200 miles which, for most folk using this size of car, will be perfect.

If you want a car which stands out even more than the C3 and ë-C3, head for the Aircross version. You have the same powertrain options as the C3, but you can also go for a 7-seat version. Okay, the third row will be for kids, but it's a handy option to have. As SUVs go, this is one of the most versatile on the market.

No matter which model you go for, they offer outstanding comfort, great levels of equipment and a seriously affordable price. It can't fail.



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01670 817997



I LOVE MY CAR.

Catherine goes full circle in her Renault 5.

When Catherine first started working as a teacher, she needed a car. The car she loved at the time was the one she bought.

A Renault 5 Campus.

Catherine has recently retired so we'll let you guess how long ago that was.

She's also decided that the time is right to buy a brand-new car. Catherine is a convert to electric power... in fact she and her husband have had four different electric cars. No surprise that they have a home charger.

Catherine has now gone full circle because she's just bought the latest Renault 5 which is rapidly establishing itself as one of the most popular small, 100 per cent battery powered cars in the UK.

"Two things made me want to change my car," said Catherine. "My previous electric car was great, but the big problem was the range...it wasn't suitable for the sort of distances I do.

"The second reason is that I always buy my cars on finance and the deal was coming to an end, so I started to look around for a new car. It was only when I spotted the latest Renault 5 that I



immediately knew I had to have one.

"I love it. I went to a Renault dealership where the salesman, Lewis, couldn't have been more helpful and very nearly matched the sort of figure I was looking for, so I went ahead with the deal.

"There was also a surprise when I popped into the showroom because they had an original Renault 5 Campus on display. It was just like my old one. Brilliant.

"The range is perfect. I regularly travel to Leeds from Seaham (around 90 miles) and my new Renault 5 can do the return journey on a full charge. It's a wonderful



car to drive although I'm still pouring through the handbook to find out what all of the technical gadgets do."

And, as you can see from the photo, Catherine is chuffed to bits with her black model.

We love the Renault 5 here at AutOh!. It's a car that is ideal for commuters, families, shopping and school trips. Put it this way, if you're considering the move to electric power, make sure the Renault 5 is on your list of test drives.

Thanks Catherine...happy motoring in your latest Renault 5.

VOLVO



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298 Pure electric range*

26.5 Minute ~80% charged**

15.7 kWh Energy consumption***

3.6 Second 0-62mph

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Get in touch to find out more and book a test ride to experience the EX30 for yourself.

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01642 673251

PCP financial example on the EX30 Single Motor Plus					
Cash Price	£38,360.00	Monthly Payment	£387.92	Total Amount Payable	£38,360.00
Customer Deposit	£2,999.00	Amount To Finance	£35,361.00	Duration of Agreement	48 months
Manufacturer deposit contribution	£1,500.00	Interest Payable	£0	Optional Final Payment	£16,740.75
				Excess Mileage Charge (6000 p/a)	14.9p per mile

*298 mile electric range is according to WLTP driving cycles and real-world range may vary. **26.5 minute to 80% Fast charging under optimal charging conditions. Charging times are dependent on factors such as outdoor temperature, current battery temperature, charging equipment, battery condition and car condition. ***The figures are preliminary and derive from estimates and calculations performed by Volvo Cars for EX30 and these outcomes are not guaranteed. The driving range and energy consumption under real conditions vary depending on driving behaviour and other external factors. Vehicle certification pending.

Cash Price £19,121.93, Deposit £1,266.23, Term 48 months, Payment £323.72, Amount of credit £17,855.70, Fixed Interest per annum 6.46%, Representative APR 11.36%, Total Charge for credit £6,194.43, Final Payment £8,511.57, Option to purchase fee £399.00, Total Amount Payable (Incl. Deposit, charge for credit, final payment & purchase fee) £25,715.36. All offers are subject to terms and conditions. Finance provided subject to status, written details are available on request. Model shown is for illustration purposes only. Ask for details. Cars may be in group stock. Stoneacre operates as an independent finance introducer from a panel of lenders. Offers are correct at the time of transmission but may be subject to change. Subject to your status, if after signing the Purchase Offer you sign a Finance Agreement with a Finance Company in relation to the vehicle, the terms of the finance agreement will replace this supplier agreement. The standard terms of the finance agreement will be stated on the finance agreement form that you will be asked to sign. Decidebloom Ltd t/a Stoneacre is authorised and regulated by the financial conduct authority. Our FCA number is 308726. You can verify this by using the FCA website or by contacting the FCA at 0845 606 9966. Subject to terms and conditions. We are a credit broker and a lender. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders and their finance products. We will provide details of products available, but no advice or recommendation will be made. You must decide whether the finance product is right for you. We do not charge you a fee for our services. Lenders will pay commission to us (either a fixed fee or a fixed percentage of the amount you borrow) for introducing you to them, this may be calculated in reference to a variable factor such as (but not limited to) the vehicle age, your credit score and the amount you are borrowing. Different lenders may pay different commissions for such introductions. Offer exclusive to Volvo EX30 Single Motor Plus.

SWIFTLY AND WITH....WHOOSH

Volvo EX30 – performance or economy?
It's nice to have a choice.
And of course it's incredibly safe.

This is the smallest car that Volvo currently produces and, yes, it's 100 per cent battery powered.

But the one you see here is no ordinary EX30.

At the entry-level you can opt for a single motor EX30 which powers the rear wheels. You get a useful 0-60mph time of 5.7 seconds. Estimated range is 209 miles. There's an option for an extended range model which adds around 90 miles to the estimated range, but we'd recommend that you try and dig deep and go for the Twin Motor Performance model.

If you enjoy driving, you won't regret it.

The EX30 becomes a 423bhp thrill machine. Range is slightly affected with an estimate of 279 miles, but you end up with a 0-60 mph time of 3.6 seconds. Oh, and talking of time, you can do a 10-80 per cent charge in around 25 minutes if you use a rapid charger. These are impressive figures.

Out on the road, once you've got used to the stunning acceleration, you realise that this is a thoroughly well-sorted



5-door hatchback which can cope with trundling around town, cruising along the motorway or producing some serious thrills on the twisty stuff. The suspension is incredibly well tuned by the engineers. It can cope with lumps and bumps and with fast corners.

The interior is seriously smart. It looks good and has a quality feel to it.

There are no dials in front of you. Zilch. Everything is on a 12.3-inch central touchscreen, including the speedo.

The key fob has no buttons. You either touch the key fob on the door pillar and the doors will open or you pull the door handle to activate the central locking.

Ultra trim gives you everything you could possibly want including panoramic



sunroof, 360-degree camera, powered front seats, powered lumbar support for the driver, DAB radio and a really good Harman Kardon sound system.

2025 should see electric models accounting for at least half of Volvo sales. 2030 should see them ditching the internal combustion engine altogether...diesel power has already gone. Pity.

The EX30 is competitively priced, good to drive, easy on the eye, comfortable, gets loads of standard kit, has a decent range, charges quickly, and has a serious turn of speed if you go for the twin motor version.

And of course, because it's a Volvo, it's one of the safest cars on the road.

What's not to love?



For more information
Click here



PEUGEOT GOES TO THE TOP OF THE ELECTRIC HOT HATCH LEAGUE

The GTi badge gets a new look...and it's got history on its side.

One of the most successful hot hatches...ever... was the Peugeot 205 GTi. When it was launched in 1984 it had a 1.6 litre petrol engine. Two years later a 1.9 litre engine arrived. Although it was a close run thing, the 1.6 was arguably the better car to drive. It felt lighter on its feet. A well-maintained used model still fetches terrific prices...they can nudge £20k if it's in mint condition. Not bad for a 40yr old car.





We have news.

A new GTi is on the way, and it looks as though it will provide exactly the sort of thrills that its 205 GTi predecessor offered.

This will be a very 21st Century car. It's the Peugeot 208 E-GTi.

The petrol engines have been replaced by a battery which powers the front wheels. Here are the all-important figures. There's 276bhp of oomph, giving

you a 0-60mph time of 5.7 seconds and a top speed of 112mph which instantly puts the Peugeot 208 E-GTi at the top of the tree as it boasts the best performance in the electric hot hatch market. And for the record, the predicted range on a full battery is 217 miles.

There's a limited-slip differential at the front to help with cornering control. The stiffened suspension has been lowered by 30mm. The wheels have been set further apart than on other 208 models. You get flared wheelarches, special front and rear spoilers, Michelin sport tyres, and alloys which hark back to the 205 GTi's pepperpot-style wheels. The overall appearance is low and muscular.

40 years ago, when Peugeot launched the 205 GTi, it was a trend setter...a small but versatile hatchback, combining exceptional performance and driving

pleasure with a sporty yet subtle design. It was an instant hit and became part of Peugeot's DNA, although this latest GTi has very different DNA from earlier models.

The new Peugeot E-208 GTi is the first all-electric GTi. It is the expression of contemporary and sustainable driving pleasure, combining unique and class-leading performance with exceptional everyday versatility.

Peugeot say this latest E-208 GTi is more GTi than ever. It seemed appropriate that Peugeot chose the latest Le Mans 24 race as the venue for the unveiling of their latest GTi. The figures certainly look seriously tempting and, if it's anything like the wonderfully iconic 205 GTi, get ready to place your order.

Sales will start towards the end of the year. Can't wait.



PEUGEOT NEW 208

Peugeot 208

Peugeot 208 1.2 PureTech 100 Style
5dr Petrol Hatchback

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE (PCP)

£269

INITIAL DEPOSIT

£269

47 PCP MONTHLY PAYMENTS

6.9%

APR

PEUGEOT SUNDERLAND

Alexandra Avenue, Hylton Riverside, Sunderland, SR5 2TB

0330 017 1104



Vertu

www.vertumotors.com/peugeot/

Representative example for: Peugeot 208 1.2 PureTech 100 Style 5dr Petrol Hatchback, Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), Customer Deposit £269, 47 Monthly Payments Of £269, Cash Price £18,263[^], Amount of Credit £17,994, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £9,009, Total Amount Payable £21,921, Duration Of Agreement 48 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 6.9%, **Representative 6.9% APR (Fixed)**.

[^]Cash Price after £750 Peugeot and £1,232 Vertu Contributions.

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Total Amount Payable	£34,410.00
Representative APR	0%
Interest Rate (Fixed)	0%

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NUMBER 1 CAR BRAND IN THE UK

Tops for style, innovation, versatility...and sales.

Did you know that Volkswagen is the UK's leading car brand?

And did you know they've been No.1 for the last four years?

We shouldn't be surprised because the Golf, Tiguan and Polo are regularly in the top sellers list.

The electric range is also incredibly popular...and extensive.

The entry point for the Volkswagen range is the Polo blending small-car agility with premium features, making it a smart choice for younger drivers and small families. It's perfectly at home on urban roads as well as on the quicker stuff.

The Volkswagen Golf remains an icon, offering a blend of performance, comfort, and technology. It's a rarity in that there really is something for everyone in the range...available in multiple trims including sporty GTI and efficient Plug-in Hybrid models. It



appeals to those who want a refined yet fun driving experience. The Golf Estate provides added practicality for families and long-distance travellers.

For those needing more space, the T-Roc and T-Cross bring SUV versatility in compact and subcompact forms. The T-Roc offers a raised driving position and premium feel, while the T-Cross adds a playful, youthful aesthetic with ample practicality. There's even a T-Roc Cabriolet. The Tiguan, a UK favourite and sometimes rival to the Golf as Volkswagen's most popular car in this country, is a mid-size SUV and remains a strong contender in the family car segment, offering spacious interiors, advanced safety features, and optional all-wheel drive.

Volkswagen's commitment to electrification is evident in its growing



ID. family. The ID.3, is a fully electric hatchback designed to rival the Golf, while the ID.4, and ID.5 cater to drivers wanting electric SUV capabilities. Fancy something a bit different?...go for the ID.7 saloon or estate. The ID. Buzz, a modern reinterpretation of the classic VW camper, blends retro design with cutting-edge EV tech—perfect for adventurous families or business fleets with a sustainable edge.

In the premium segment the Tayron and Touareg fly the flag if you want a touch of luxury. The Tayron is also available as a 7-seater.

Lastly, something to watch out for with Volkswagen is their steady trickle of special editions. One of the most popular is Match trim. It follows the classic example of slight increase in price over lower trims, but with considerably more goodies as standard. They're great value and hold onto their value too.

Fully expect Volkswagen to retain its No.1 crown in 2025.



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Powered by Leapmotor OS 4.0 Plus
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C10



£299	£299	0%
PER	CUSTOMER	
MONTH	DEPOSIT	APR

LEAP-GRANT^ Saving £3,750

- 160kW 70kWh 5dr Auto • Up to 261 miles range
- 20" Alloy wheels • 10.25" HD Instrument cluster
- 14.6" Touchscreen with navigation • Panoramic sunroof
- Privacy glass • 12-Speaker Surrounding HiFi System
- LED auto headlights • Rear parking sensors & 360° Camera

Personal Contract Purchase - Model C10 69.9 kWh, List Price £36,500, Offer Price £31,850, LEAP-GRANT £3,750, Sherwoods Discount £900, Leapmotor Deposit Contribution £671, Customer Deposit £299, Amount of Credit £30,880, 47 Monthly Payments £299, Optional Final Payments £16,827, Total Amount Payable £31,179, Duration of Agreement 48 Months, Rate of Interest (fixed) 0%, Mileage Allowance P.A 6000, Excess Mileage Charge 10p per mile.

T03



£149	£149	0%
PER	CUSTOMER	
MONTH	DEPOSIT	APR

LEAP-GRANT^ Saving £1,500

- 70kW 37 kWh Battery Capacity
- Up to 165 miles range • 15" Alloy wheels
- 10" Touchscreen • Panoramic sunroof
- LED Daytime Running Lights
- Sporty style seats

Personal Contract Purchase* - Model T03 37.3kWh, List Price £15,495, Offer Price £13,655, LEAP-GRANT £1,500, Sherwoods Discount £340, Deposit Contribution £632, Customer Deposit £149, Amount of Credit £12,883, 47 Monthly Payments £149, Optional Final Payment £5,880, Total Amount Payable £13,032, Duration of Agreement 48 Months, Rate of Interest (fixed) 0%, Mileage Allowance P.A 6000, Excess Mileage Charge 10p per mile.



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TWO BECOMES THREE AT LEAPMOTOR

It might read like a maths nightmare from your school days, but the equation is $T03+C10=B10$

And we can help you with the solution because Leapmotor is offering savings up to £3750 when you buy one of their electric cars. They've decided to beat the Government initiative, by launching their own LEAP-GRANT...and it's available now.

Leapmotor is still a new name to a lot of the car buying public and as is the case with a lot of new things, we can be a tad unsure about everything...will it be reliable...what's the build quality like...is it safe...am I getting value for money?

These are very sensible questions but, fear not because behind Leapmotor is Stellantis, the powerhouse behind Vauxhall, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Jeep, Maserati, Citroen and DS. You can buy with confidence.



They've also got a really exciting addition to their range coming up shortly.

Quick reminder of what they already offer. The T03 city car and family-sized C10 SUV both arrived when the company launched in the UK earlier this year. Top of their priority in terms of publicity was the price.

When using the LEAP-GRANT, the T03 kicks off at £14,495 (a saving of £1500) while the C10, which is bigger and fully loaded, now comes in at £32,760 thanks to the LEAP-GRANT of £3750.

The compact T03 is loaded with goodies like a smart central 10.3-inch touchscreen, digital driver display, DAB radio, sat nav, panoramic sunroof, powered and heated mirrors and smart alloys. You also get a host of safety features. There's a range of 165 miles and a charging time from 30-80 per cent of 38 minutes.

The C10 is bigger in every sense of the



word, and that includes a bigger battery which ups the range to 262 miles, slices the charging rate to about half an hour, and gives you a lively 0-60 time of 7.5 seconds. As with the T03, standard equipment levels are good.

Waiting in the wings is the B10. It's a compact SUV which will also be available with an extended range pack.

The B10, tipped to cost around £30k, will mirror the rest of the Leapmotor range by having a terrific level of standard kit. 0-60mph is around 6.8 seconds, range is 260 miles and a 30%-80% charge is about 20 minutes. Impressive.

Leapmotor could be the EV manufacturer which makes you finally go for battery power.

WHATS IN A NAME?



In the case of the Stellantis motor group....a lot.

Brand loyalty. It's something that car manufacturers crave more than anything else. If they can get a customer into one of their smaller models, there's a good chance that person will stick with the brand as, in subsequent years, they can either afford something bigger (not arguably better) or are forced to get some additional interior space and carrying capacity to cater for a growing family. Manufacturers and dealers will bend over backwards to keep you happy and retain your brand loyalty.

The only snag is that nowadays the badge on the bonnet is rarely something unique. You're probably thinking that Rolls Royce is still a standalone company. Nope... they're part of BMW, who also owns MINI.

What about Bentley?...sorry...they're part of the Volkswagen Group which also have SKODA, SEAT, Cupra, Audi,

Lamborghini and Porsche.

Aston Martin?...nope...they're owned by a consortium which includes Mercedes and Geely who, incidentally, also own Volvo, Polestar, Lotus etc.

And then there's Stellantis. Who exactly are Stellantis? The company was formed in 2021 when Fiat Chrysler Automobiles

merged with the PSA Group. They're based in Amsterdam. Here's a list of the brands which come under their umbrella...

Abarth,
Alfa Romeo,
Chrysler,
Citroën,
Dodge,
DS Automobiles,
Fiat,
Jeep,
Lancia,
Leapmotor
Maserati,
Opel,
Peugeot,
Ram Trucks
Vauxhall.





Stellantis brand into another, you can easily spot similar fittings like switchgear or central touchscreen. Producing custom-made articles is expensive but applying a different label or a different knob, can easily disguise things.

And it's not just cars which use this sharing principle. The Vauxhall Vivaro, Peugeot Expert, and Citroën Dispatch share the same Stellantis platform.

So...is the sharing of parts and technology a bad thing?

We don't think so because, let's face it, most people buy a car because it suits their personal taste and, yes, because they were pleased with the model they had previously from that dealer or manufacturer. It also allows manufacturers to keep their models bang up to date because if, for example, Alfa Romeo come up with a good idea, there's no reason why it can't be shared across the rest of the Stellantis group.

The manufacturers also make their cars feel different when you drive them by using different suspension settings or making the steering, brakes and throttle more sensitive and responsive.

But the bottom line is this. If parts sharing across Stellantis means their cars are more reliable, more competitively priced and, yes, more desirable...brilliant. It gets our vote.

Oh, and if you want a car which is built in the UK by a wholly owned British company, go and buy a Morgan.



As you'll have guessed, not all of those brands are available here in the UK, but rumours abound that Lancia and Chrysler are going to give it another go. Opel is the name used on the continent for Vauxhall.

A phrase you'll often hear and read about is manufacturers using bits and pieces of varying size from a 'parts bin.' In other words, a lot of cars might look different externally, but underneath, you'll find some very familiar kit from the 'parts bin.'

Fancy a Vauxhall Corsa? You may as well look at a couple of other cars because the Corsa shares its engines and platform with various models in the Stellantis group, most notably the Peugeot 208 and Citroen C3. This shared engineering includes 1.2-litre petrol engines, mild-hybrid versions, and all-electric powertrains,

You'd think that a manufacturer like Jeep would use very specialised parts... but no. For example, the Jeep Renegade uses the same platform as the Fiat 500X, while the Jeep Avenger shares powertrains and platforms with Peugeot and Vauxhall vehicles.

One of the platforms that Stellantis uses is called the STLA Medium platform. This underpins current and upcoming models including the Peugeot e-3008, Peugeot e-5008, and the new Vauxhall Grandland. It will also be used for future models such as the Jeep Compass, DS Automobiles No.8, and the upcoming Lancia Gamma and Alfa Romeo Giulietta.

Leapmotor is the exception. Stellantis doesn't currently provide them with anything other than a dealer network and UK support.

If we had to pick one piece of equipment which is used more extensively than anything else, we'd probably guess at the 1.2-litre 3-cylinder PureTech petrol engine. It's a cracking engine...loads of power, economical....it even sounds good and will rev forever. Reliable too. You'll find it in various models from brands including Peugeot, Vauxhall, Citroën, and Jeep.

All of this makes sense because it helps reduce costs. If you step from one





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OMODA PLAYS THE NUMBERS GAME

The OMODA 5 is joined by the OMODA 9

It's a year since OMODA arrived in the UK...and they're already proving to be hugely popular.

They're also winners...at the recent Autotrader Drivers' Choice Awards, the OMODA 5 SUV was named 'Best Value New Car'. Quite a coup.

The comment from Autotrader was ...'It's not hard to see why the OMODA 5 is winning over buyers looking for the best 'bang for their buck'. As well as some fantastic top-level features offered as standard, along with a very generous warranty, at such a reasonable price, we can understand why it got such rave reviews.'

Two OMODA 5 models are currently available in the UK. You can choose from petrol power or 100 per cent battery power. A PHEV is due towards the end of the year.

The entry level OMODA 5 is available with a 187 bhp 1.6-litre turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine. Power goes to the front wheels via a 7-speed automatic 'box. Performance is decent with 0-60mph coming up in 7.7 seconds. OMODA reckons you'll get around 34mpg.

You can also opt for the fully electric OMODA E5 equipped with a 61kWh battery and a 204bhp electric motor, offering 257 miles of emission-free electric range. A 30 to 80% top-up is



possible in just 28 minutes. 0-60mph comes up in 7.2 seconds.

All models have a seven-year / 100,000-mile warranty and seven-year service price cap, which is complemented by seven years of RAC roadside assistance that is automatically renewed with each service at any local OMODA dealership.

If you want something larger, take a look at the handsome OMODA 9 which has recently gone on sale. It's a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) and can offer 93 miles of pure electric range before the 1.5 litre petrol engine joins the party. Use the hybrid and engine set-up to its full extent and you'll manage a whopping 700 miles. 0-60 mph is a rapid 4.9 seconds thanks to a combined output of 443bhp.



it brings flagship performance to the brand's growing line-up...and the level of kit reflects that. It's fully loaded and has a seriously premium look and feel to the cabin.

Looks good on the outside too. You can't help but spot it looming in your rearview mirror.

It's a big vehicle and, even though it's easy to punt around town thanks to light steering, it's on the motorway doing a long, steady cruise where the OMODA 9 really shines. A family holiday on the continent would be a doddle.

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EV DOES IT for KIA



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When it comes to electric cars, Kia has to be on your shopping list.

The speed at which Kia is launching new electric cars into the UK is nothing short of staggering.

When the Kia EV6 landed on our shores near the end of 2021, it certainly made waves. Everyone was blown away by the performance, terrific range and stunning, unique looks. It still rates as one of the best EVs you can buy, and it hasn't lost any of its visual appeal.

Since then, however, the Kia range has rapidly expanded. The 'ordinary' EV6 has been joined by the new EV6 GT.

If you need additional space, go for the Kia EV9 which is available in both 6 and 7 seat configurations. There's also an EV9 GT.

The latest electric model to appear is the EV3 and, by the end of the year, the

EV4 and EV5 will have arrived.

The EV3 is one of our favourite electric cars...and the motoring public love it too because, at the latest Autotrader Drivers' Choice Awards 2025, it was given the prestigious award of 'Car of the Year.' It was also named 'Best Mainstream Electric Car'. Bearing in mind that the Autotrader awards are decided by votes and an online survey from people like you and I, it's obvious how popular it is.

Autotrader said... 'It may be Kia's most affordable current EV on sale, but the EV3 still manages to pack a premium punch. It scored top marks for the quality of its features which, combined with eye-catching looks and a great driving experience, has made the EV3 a massive hit with its owners. One told us: 'This was my first ever electric car, and it really stood out among all the other EVs, particularly within my price bracket. It's quirky, futuristic, packed full of brilliant features, and it's really easy to drive. Plus, I can get the whole family in it with room to spare. We absolutely love it.' Nuff said.

Kia can do no wrong at the moment... something which is typified by the latest



Sportage which is the UK's best-selling SUV. It's an ideal choice for anyone who isn't quite sure about going all-in for battery power. You can get a Sportage in various states of hybrid power or you can go for the plug-in hybrid version. You can even get all-wheel drive. It's one of the most family-friendly vehicles you can buy.

If you fancy something a tad bigger, check out the Kia Sorento. It looks terrific, drives really well and has one of the most stylish interiors of any car.

But, electric is something you can't avoid. Remember, January 2030 will see the end of cars being sold which are powered by conventional petrol and diesel engines. Time to think electric? Think Kia.



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NEW MODELS AND A SALES SUCCESS

Mazda looks to the future – their best seller goes from strength to strength.

New models continue to appear in the Mazda UK line-up...but their biggest seller is one of their stalwarts.

Mazda has a 15-model line-up, but the Mazda CX-5, launched back in 2012, remains their best-selling car and has recently passed the 100,000 sales total. However, the 2025 CX-5 is very different from the original model.

The second-generation CX-5 was launched in 2017, with an extensive update in 2022. Today, the current Mazda CX-5 features mild-hybrid technology across all petrol models and cylinder deactivation on 163bhp petrol automatic models. The 181bhp Skyactiv-D diesel remains in the range and is one of the rare oil burners available from any manufacturer in the UK. If you do a high mileage or regularly travel with a decent load, it makes sense. Family SUVs don't get any better than this.

Need something larger? Head for the newly updated CX-60 which has recently arrived in the UK. The engine line-up is unchanged, but the car has been given a complete refresh, subtly enhancing the award-winning model

with refinements to its interior design combined with measured technical revisions.

There's new black Nappa leather seats and a revised dash panel. The roof and pillars feature black lining, while cabin panels have been revised to a matt black and metal-like finish.

Technical revisions include rear suspension set-up changes to enhance comfort and stability. The rear spring settings have been softened, and the shock absorbers have been adjusted to improve overall handling and comfort balance. The Mazda CX-60 has always been an enjoyable car to drive...it's now better than ever.

Get ready for the Mazda6e. It's a sleek and super-stylish battery powered five-door hatchback and will be available with two powertrain options with a choice of 68.8kWh or 80kWh battery. It won't be here until the start of next year, but excitement is building for what is a stunning car.



The Mazda range has something for everyone. The MX-5 offers soft or hardtop sporty 2-seater motoring. It's deservedly referred to as an icon.

Want a compact saloon car?...go for the Mazda3...also available as a hatchback.

Prefer the style and versatility of an SUV. We've already mentioned the hugely popular CX-5 and CX-60, but something slightly smaller is the CX-30. For even greater efficiency, try the MX-30 PHEV.

And, at the top of the Mazda tree, for the ultimate in luxury, it must be the CX-80...also available with diesel power.

The success story continues.



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Mazda CX-30, Mazda CX-5 & Mazda CX-60
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THE RETURN OF A NORTH EAST-BUILT ICON

Nissan get ready to turn a new LEAF

In the next month or so, you'll be able to place an order for a car which was a world leader.

The original Nissan LEAF, built in Sunderland and launched in 2010, was the world's first mass-market electric car. It was a huge success and, for many of you reading this, was probably the first electric car you drove. 700,000 LEAFs were sold around the world...but the time has come for the car to be fully re-worked.

And here it is.

Range is a hugely impressive 375 miles. The latest battery technology means you can add up to 260 miles of range in under half an hour. It's worth pointing out that the batteries are built by AESC UK whose factory is next door to the Nissan plant.

Nissan is a leader in electric cars...the third generation of the Nissan LEAF will

enhance their reputation of building EVs that really do offer 'real world' motoring.

Of course, the LEAF isn't the only vehicle to be built at the Sunderland Nissan plant. There's also the hugely popular Qashqai and Juke.

Both models continue to evolve. As we go to print, both the Qashqai and Juke are in the UK's top five sellers list. In June 2025 the Qashqai was top of the tree...No.1. Which is no surprise because new variations of the Qashqai keep it fresh.

The latest generation has just received a boost in the form of new e-POWER. Nissan refer to this as 'game changing technology.' What that means is lower fuel consumption, fewer emissions and a quieter ride which Nissan say makes the Qashqai e-POWER deliver EV-like refinement.

Use the technology to its full extent and you can achieve a predicted range of 745 miles from the 1.5 litre petrol engine...staggering. Deliveries begin in September. If you're still a bit wary about moving from traditional combustion engine power to full 100 per cent battery power, this could be the



car that provides you with the perfect halfway house. EV driving characteristics ...terrific range...but no worries about having to charge a battery to get home.

Elsewhere in the Nissan range, the Sunderland built Juke has just celebrated its best year of sales...ever.

There's a new all-electric Micra due shortly. This will be the sixth generation of the Micra and will offer up to 253 miles of range.

Throw the Ariya and X-Trail into the mix and you can see that Nissan has something for everyone.





INEOS GRENADIER - Perfect for those who miss the Defender

If you hark for the old Land Rover Defender and can't hope to stretch your finances to a Mercedes G-Wagen, there is an answer.

The Ineos Grenadier.

This is a vehicle which is built to do a job. Yes, it looks unashamedly like the now defunct Land Rover Defender, but it's equally up to the job of traversing seriously rough terrain as well as being a capable A-B load hauler over longer distances on tarmac.

New models are in the pipeline for Ineos, but at the moment, the brand will soldier on with the Grenadier in two forms.

There's the 'normal' Grenadier which looks like the 5-door Land Rover Defender....then there's a double cab pick-up Grenadier which offers a flat-bed

open rear...it's called the Quartermaster.

Prices for the Grenadier and Quartermaster start at £62,495....prices are the same for both models.

Bit of background. Ineos is owned by its Chairman, Jim Ratcliffe, a car enthusiast and experienced adventurer. He made his money from petrochemicals and he's now shedding a lot of that money as a part owner of Manchester Utd. He identified a gap in the market for an uncompromising, rugged 4X4. The Grenadier is designed in Britain and built in Germany. It provides best-in-class off-road capability, durability, and reliability.

The Ineos Grenadier might be viewed as being a bit old school, but that's precisely why it's so attractive and sells so well. It's built to do a job and can take the knocks of being a workhorse. You could also drive across Africa or head to the North pole. It's that sort of vehicle. The phrase is 'fit for purpose.'

You can choose from petrol or diesel power. Needless to say that all-wheel drive is standard. So too is an 8-speed auto 'box.

Put it this way, if you need a car which really can go anywhere, the Ineos Grenadier needs to be top of your list.



DS PLAYS THE NUMBERS GAME

Number 8 to join 3 and 4 at DS Automobiles



When DS was launched here in the UK, it was seen as the posh end of the Citroen range, But things have moved on. DS is now very much a standalone company with its own character and style.

The range is limited to a couple of SUVs, DS 3 and DS 4, but waiting in the wings is the DS No.8 (don't call it DS 8...it's number 8) which is an all-electric sleek cruiser.

The DS 3 and DS 4 have been huge favourites in this country since they were launched. They add a touch of class in an overcrowded section of the car market. It's rare to use the word 'luxury' in small and mid-size SUVs, but that is precisely what these two cars are all about.

The DS 3 has two powerplant options...a 3-cylinder 1.2 litre 134bhp petrol hybrid engine (0-60mph in 9.2 seconds, top speed 126mph and an estimated fuel return of 56.5mpg) or an all-electric version called DS 3 E-Tense which manages 154bhp, 0-60mph in 9.0 seconds and a potential range of 245 miles.

Need something larger?...go for the DS 4. It's available with three different power options...hybrid, plug-in hybrid (PHEV) and diesel. Diesel is a much-maligned fuel. If you do a high-ish mileage and regularly travel with a decent load, it's a brilliant choice.



We like the PHEV. Yes, it's more expensive but you get a punchy 221bhp from a 1.6 litre petrol engine which is helped by an electric motor powered by a rechargeable battery. 0-60mph in 7.7 seconds is good. Economy is excellent because you'll manage 35 miles on electric power only if you go easily.

No matter whether you choose the DS 3 or DS 4, you get a terrific level of standard equipment and one of the cushiest rides around.

However, if you want sleek and luxury, get ready for the DS No.8, an electric long-distance cruiser. On a full charge it'll manage close to 470 miles. You can do a 10-80 per cent boost in under



30 minutes. This car makes electric motoring hugely attractive in every sense of the word. It's one of the most eye-catching cars we've seen for a long time.

If you like to stand out from the crowd and cosset yourself in luxury, the No.8 will be right up your street...or boulevard.



LAND ROVER -

HEAD FOR THE HILLS, OR THEATRE, OR BEACH.

And while you're at it do the school run or drive to the Cote d'Azur

The Land Rover range is renowned for its blend of rugged capability, luxury, and British heritage...they're instantly recognisable and stand out from an increasingly bland marketplace.

Few marques can be a go-to for off-roaders, commuters, holiday makers and luxury SUV buyers alike...but Land Rover can.

The current Land Rover range is divided into two main categories: Land Rover and Range Rover models. The Land Rover-branded vehicles focus more on practicality and off-road capability, while the Range Rover models are more refined, offering premium cabins and advanced technology.

At the core of the lineup is the Land Rover Defender, keeping the tough, go-anywhere spirit of its predecessor while adding modern comfort, connectivity, and safety features. It's available in multiple body styles and engine options, including a plug-in hybrid. There's even a commercial 'Hard Top' version for people who want something which is more utility focussed.

Next is the Land Rover Discovery, a spacious and versatile SUV designed



for active lifestyles. It offers seven-seat flexibility, ample carrying capacity, and genuine off-road ability, combined with refined road manners. The smaller Discovery Sport serves as an entry point to the Land Rover family, balancing affordability with capability, making it a popular choice for younger buyers and smaller families.

On the more luxurious side, the Range Rover nameplate carries significant prestige. The flagship Range Rover oozes luxury. It seamlessly combines off-road capability with limousine-like comfort. The latest model can still rival a mountain goat in terms of off-road ability, and it does it all so gracefully. It represents the pinnacle of the brand's engineering and craftsmanship.

And there's an all-electric version due later this year.

The Range Rover Sport sits just below the full-size Range Rover in terms



of size and price, delivering a more dynamic driving experience. It's ideal for those who want performance without sacrificing all-terrain ability or luxury. It's one of our all-time favourite cars.

The Range Rover Velar gives you a more sleek option while the Range Rover Evoque will fit the bill if you're looking for a premium compact SUV.

With a growing focus on sustainability, Land Rover has introduced mild-hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and upcoming all-electric models across the range. This shift aligns with Jaguar Land Rover's goal of becoming a net-zero carbon business by 2039.

Land Rover goes from strength to strength. Timeless design, luxury, and legendary capability, offering something for every type of SUV buyer.

It's a unique brand...and it's British.



HEY DACIA, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Dacia Duster goes large, Bigster style.

Dacia is steadily extending its range...and this is the latest model to arrive. The Bigster is Dacia's flagship car.

Dacia has a bit of everything....small electric car called Spring...terrific value and ideal for city dwellers. The Sandero, Sandero Stepway and Duster continue to offer everything that any family could sensibly need as well as being ideal for commuters.

And now there's the Bigster.

As ever, Dacia goes big on price...that's big as in making a big noise about how competitively priced it is.

The interior looks and feels solid...it should cope with plenty of knocks. Handy because these cars are for families.

As with the Bigster's stablemate, the Duster, it's a rather endearing sort of car for the simple reason that, for the price, it's up to the job, is equipped with the essentials, and drives nicely. It's also distinctively styled.

Everything about the Bigster screams Duster...which is no bad thing...except that it's bigger in terms of length to the tune of 220mm. From the front seats forward, it's identical. Rear legroom, when compared to the Duster, is up by



40mm and the boot is bigger by around 100 litres. In other words, the Bigster is roomy and, if you drop the rear seats, can carry some sizeable loads.

The entry level vehicle gets a three-cylinder 1.2 litre engine and front wheel drive. Next up is a 130bhp 1.2 litre with four-wheel drive. It'll get you across boggy or slippery ground.

Top of the heap is a four-cylinder 1.8 litre petrol engine with full hybrid set-up.

We'd go for the top-level Extreme trim because you'll get an opening panoramic sunroof, satellite navigation, 360-degree camera; front, rear and side parking sensors, cruise control with a speed limiter, heated front seats, heated steering wheel, powered tailgate, and dual zone climate control.

You can customise the Bigster. How does a Sleeper Pack with a double bed sound? What about a roof tent? The



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centre armrest in the second row can double-up as a backpack. Clever.

Which Bigster would we recommend? Bearing in mind that the most expensive model has a 1.8 litre engine, Extreme trim and it comes in at under thirty grand...which is less than where other chunky SUVs haven't even started..., we'd push the boat out and go for the top of the range vehicle. It's also the most economical. Win win.

Dacia Bigster....it's a Dacia Duster but bigger.

And big on value too. Like the rest of the Dacia range.

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You can use any of those terms to describe this sixth generation of the Audi A6.

The latest A6 continues as both Avant estate and saloon.

There's also a new powertrain on offer referred to as e-hybrid...that's a PHEV to you and I. It's the same set-up as in the Audi A5 and has proved to be hugely popular. There's a 2.0 litre TFSI turbocharged petrol engine with a 7-speed automatic gearbox and four-wheel drive. There's also an electric motor with a rechargeable battery which can give you up to 64 miles of EV-type travel at up to a shade over 80mph before the engine fires up. Impressive.

Total power equates to 295bhp which

provides a 0-60mph time of 6.0 seconds. Top speed is 155mph.

We've tried it...the engine is responsive and provides effortless power whilst also allowing you to make near-silent, fuel free progress around town. You don't know when power switches between electric motor and petrol engine. It really is that smooth.

Oh, and talking of smooth, the A6 Saloon is the smoothest conventionally powered car ever produced by Audi... it has a drag coefficient of 0.23, all of which makes for seriously quiet progress and terrific economy. The official figure is 134mpg. Okay you won't get that, but it still means that if you use the hybrid tech to its full extent, you should easily

get close to something like 60mpg.

As usual, Audi offers a good choice of powertrains. You can go for petrol and diesel as well as the e-hybrid. There's a fully electric A6 e-tron which arrived last year.

We love the Avant version. As with the saloon, you can go for Sport, S Line or Edition 1 trim levels. Along with the e-hybrid mentioned above, the petrol A6 Avant produces 201bhp from its 2.0 litre engine (0-60mph in 8.3 seconds and economy of up to 39.5 mpg) while if you go for the 2.0 litre diesel, you get a 0-60 time of 7.0 seconds and terrific economy estimated to be up to 54.2mpg. If you regularly travel with a decent load and cover a high mileage, the diesel engine makes sense.

Every Audi is well equipped and is dripping in safety gizmos. Build quality is fantastic. Calling it premium is an insult!

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NEW MODELS IN THE PIPELINE TO BOOST JAECCOO SUCCESS FLYING START TO UK SALES FOR JAECCOO

JAECOO is still a fairly new name for the UK car buying public, but they're growing fast, and new models are due to arrive within the next few months.

Their current model, the JAECOO 7 (JAECOO means Cool Hunter in English...in case you were interested!) has got off to a seriously strong start here in Blighty and currently ranks as one of the biggest selling hybrid SUVs. This reflects a market trend as buyers continue to favour hybrid power...especially the plug-in versions...over full electrification.

The JAECOO 7 is a handsome SUV with terrific presence. The large front grille makes it stand out from an increasingly dull crowd. Two versions are available...one with straightforward petrol power and another with PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle) technology. The estimated range is a terrific 745 miles. Two and four-wheel drive models are available.

The entry level petrol model has a 1.6 litre 145 bhp engine under the bonnet which, bearing in mind that this is a sizeable car, manages a return of around 38 mpg.

The PHEV model gets a 1.5 litre engine, but don't forget this version has hybrid power which bumps things up to a healthy 201bhp. If you select electric mode, the JAECOO 7 can travel for 54 miles before the engine bursts into life. Company car drivers should look very closely at this car...it'll make financial sense.

As for the level of kit you can expect...well the best way to describe it is that you get everything you need. It's loaded...that's why it represents terrific value. And don't forget that you get a 7-year 100,000 mile warranty. How's that for confidence.

What about new models?

An all-electric JAECOO 7 is in the pipeline, but next up for the company is the JAECOO 5 which, as you can guess from the name, is a smaller SUV than the JAECOO 7.

The first JAECOO 5 models arriving in the UK will all be EVs but a 1.6 litre petrol option will arrive in due course.

We're yet to drive the JAECOO 5 but we've been in its sister car...the Omoda 5. The electric motor drives the front wheels and delivers 204bhp. JAECOO reckon the car will manage around 250 miles on a full charge. The 0-60mph time is a brisk 7.2 seconds. A charge from 10-80 per cent takes 30 minutes.

It's a good-looking thing...a miniature JAECOO 7...and, again, in terms of kit, you get the full works. Deliveries are expected by the end of the year.

JAECOO...a new name...big ideas.



JAECOO

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BYD

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Which is why BYD offers tremendous value.

Quick run-down of their range.

BYD concentrates on building electric vehicles...EVs...but they also give buyers an option with a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle...PHEV.

The Seal is one of their most popular models. It arrived in the UK hot on the heels of their first car, the family-sized Atto 3 SUV and compact Dolphin hatchback.

There's now the Dolphin Surf city car... Atto 2 compact SUV...and most recent of all, the BYD Sealion 7 performance SUV.

We love the BYD Seal. It has a seriously upmarket feel and look to it.

Under the sleek body you'll find the same platform as the Atto and Dolphin, but the battery is bigger. If you go for the single-motor Seal, the rear wheels are driven. There's also a dual motor version which gives you all-wheel drive.

The single motor BYD Seal Design model gets 309bhp (0-60 in 5.9 seconds). The dual motor Seal Excellence gets 523bhp (0-60 in 3.8 seconds). BYD reckon both models will easily exceed 300 miles on



a full charge (354 miles for the Design model and 323 for Excellence). If you find a rapid charger, you can charge from 30% to 80% in around 24 minutes.

The interior is dominated by a huge 15.6-inch touchscreen which rotates. The driver display screen is excellent...crystal clear. Oh and the panoramic glass roof makes a statement.

Out on the road there's a choice of Eco, Normal, Sport or Snow driver settings. The first thing you realise is that once you get over the slingshot performance of the Excellence model, the cheaper Design version is just as good to drive... and cheaper. Both come fully loaded

with kit and both are great to drive.

The Seal shows that this is a company to watch very closely. The established brands won't admit it, but they're concerned. The BYD Seal really is that good.

And the rest of the range has something for everyone.

You can test drive the BYD models by calling in to Arnold Clark's stunning dealership on Newcastle's Scotswood Road. The company has spent over £1million refurbishing the building which is now one of the most modern, stylish dealerships in the region.



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BYD

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Excess 8.33p per mile

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Durham, DH1 5DQ
0330 096 0845

Vauxhall Sunderland
Alexandra Avenue, Hylton Riverside,
Sunderland, SR5 2TB
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Vauxhall Newcastle
244 - 246 Stamfordham Road, Westerhope,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 2LA
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