

February/ March 2026

autoh!

the North East's own motor magazine : issue 26



BMW iX3 'What Car' Car of the Year. p13



CHERY

A new arrival in the North East. p9

In conversation with Sir Peter Vardy. p16



VOLVO

Excitement mounts for new EX60. p33

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welcome to **autOh!**

This is the 26th edition of autOh! the North East's own motoring magazine. All our magazines are delivered to carefully chosen households across NE, SR and DH postcodes and to over 240 businesses and sports venues. 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.

Remember the Reg Vardy car dealerships? In this edition of autOh! we're joined by the man behind that hugely successful business, Sir Peter Vardy. He tells us how a garage in a North East pit village became the world's most successful Aston Martin dealership.

We'll look at some of the latest award-winning cars and we drive the one which was named '2026 Car of the Year'...the BMW iX3.

Oh, and talking of awards, we'll let you know which car picked up the 2026 gong for being the most anticipated arrival on the UK car scene. Any guesses?

Another new brand has landed in the region. No surprises that it's from China, but this one has a lot of clout behind it and is heavily linked to other familiar brands.

There are road tests from the Polestar range, as well as checking out the Vauxhall Frontera and seeing how the Ford Puma copes with going all-electric.

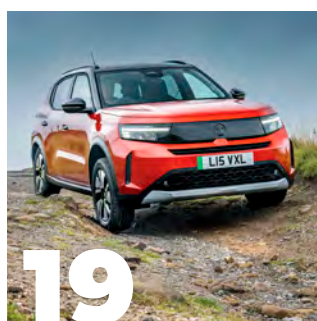
MINI continues to unveil new and exciting models and Mazda joins the battery crowd with its stunning new Mazda6e. We'll also be checking out a car that could be ideal for those of you who qualify for Motability assistance.

Got a few spare quid in your pocket? We've got some suggestions as to where you can spend it, including one car which'll clock over 300mph.

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

Oh, and if you'd like to keep in touch with us, you can go onto our website www.autoh.co.uk. There's loads of latest news, road tests and video reviews, plus you can flick through previous editions of autOh!

Graham Courtney. Editor.



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TRIPLE SUCCESS FOR RENAULT AT LEADING AWARDS EVENT

What Car? Awards trio of gongs for Renault

Renault has had a cracking night at the What Car? Awards 2026...they drove away with three of the major prizes.

The Renault 5 E-Tech electric, Renault 4 E-Tech electric and Renault Clio were all praised by the expert judging panel.

Leading the trio of victories, the Renault 5 E-Tech electric was crowned 'Best Small Electric Car', after drawing praise for its affordability and engaging driving experience.

As Steve Huntingford, Editor of What Car? explained: "You might be drawn to the Renault 5 for the way it looks, but this is an EV that you can buy with your head as well as your heart, because it offers grown-up driving manners, plenty of range and a smartly finished interior. It was our overall Car of the Year last year, and it remains the best small electric car on sale in 2026."

It's also worth pointing out that the Renault 5 was named What Car?'s Car of the Year last year.

The Renault 4 E-Tech electric added to the brand's success by winning 'Best Small Electric SUV for Value', recognised for making electric mobility accessible without compromising on space, comfort or technology.

Huntingford added: "With the Renault 4, you get nimble and poised handling, an intuitive Google-based infotainment system, and one of the biggest boots in the small SUV class. But best of all, it lets you have all this for a bargain price."



Rounding out the brand's success, the Renault Clio was named 'Best Small Car to Drive', reinforcing its reputation for delivering one of the most rewarding driving experiences in the supermini class.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Huntingford continued: "The Clio feels nippy in town and doesn't get breathless on faster roads. But irrespective of speed, it's simply more fun to drive than rivals."

We love the Renault 5 E-Tech electric... it brings an iconic nameplate into the electric era with contemporary packaging and clever technology. Highlights include the OpenR Link infotainment system with Google built-in, a refined chassis tuned for fun and agility, and practical charging features designed for everyday use. Depending on the model, it offers up to 252 miles (WLTP) driving range and can charge from 15-80% in around 30 minutes. No wonder it's a winner.



Sticking with electric, one of our favourite cars is the Renault Megane... drives superbly and looks fabulous.

If you prefer an electric SUV, make a beeline for the latest Renault Scenic. It's one of the UK's most popular cars... roomy and family friendly.

Renault has been wise to not throw its hat totally into the electric ring. The Captur is available as a full hybrid or with just a traditional petrol engine.

The Rafale, Symbioz and Austral are available as hybrids, while the top of the range Rafale is also available as a plug-in PHEV.

In other words, Renault can offer you everything from a city electric car up to a cossetting premium SUV available with 4x4 transmission.

Stuck for choice? Us too.

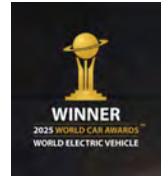
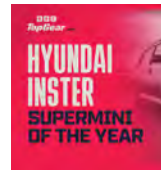
NEW RENAULT 5
E-TECH ELECTRIC
R5VOLUTION



Lookers

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

For more information
Click here



Hyundai Inster

71 kW 01 42kWh 5dr Auto Electric Hatchback

The Hyundai INSTER is a compact electric SUV featuring advanced technology, impressive range, and versatile interior space, making it ideal for urban adventures.

- > 5 year warranty
- > Smartphone integration with Apple CarPlay/Android Auto
- > 10.25" digital cluster and 10.25" centre touchscreen

48 Monthly
Payments
£224

Customer
Deposit
£999

3.9%
APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai Inster 71 kW 01 42kWh 5dr Auto

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), Customer Deposit £999, 48 Monthly Payments Of £224, Finance Deposit Allowance £750†, Cash Price £18,835, Electric Vehicle Discount £3,750, Amount of Credit £17,086, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £8,306, Total Amount Payable £20,807, Duration Of Agreement 49 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 3.9%, Representative 3.9% APR (Fixed).

^£1,000 Loyalty Saving Available to current i10 customers only



Hyundai i20

1.0T GDi 90 Element 5dr Petrol Hatchback

48 Monthly
Payments
£255

Customer
Deposit
£999

6.9
APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai i20 1.0T GDi 90 Element 5dr Petrol Hatchback

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), Customer Deposit £999, 48 Monthly Payments Of £285, Finance Deposit Allowance £1,250†, Cash Price £19,245, Amount of Credit £16,996, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £8,211, Total Amount Payable £22,700, Duration Of Agreement 49 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 6.9%, Representative 6.9% APR (Fixed).

^£500 Loyalty Saving Available to current i10 customers only.



Hyundai Tucson

1.6T Advance 5dr Petrol Estate

48 Monthly
Payments
£329

Customer
Deposit
£3000

4.9%
APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai Inster 71 kW 01 42kWh 5dr Auto

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), Customer Deposit £2,999, 48 Monthly Payments Of £329, Finance Deposit Allowance £3,000†, Cash Price £31,565, Amount of Credit £25,566, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £13,598, Total Amount Payable £35,389, Duration Of Agreement 49 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 4.9%, Representative 4.9% APR (Fixed)

^£1,000 Loyalty Saving Available to current Hyundai customers only.

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Vertu

www.vertumotors.com/hyundai

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ON THE CREST OF A WAVE WITH HYUNDAI

Inster, i20 and Tucson lead the way

2025 was a terrific year for Hyundai in the UK. They shifted close to 100,000 vehicles...fleet sales rose by almost 33 per cent...and they're now a major player in the UK market.

The fleet sales figure is important because fleet managers are picky when it comes to choosing cars. Cars need to be reliable, cost-effective and good to drive.

Hyundai is also forging ahead when it comes to hybrid and electric cars. They even do a hydrogen powered car.

One of our favourite small electric cars is the Hyundai Inster. It only seats 4 people, which is no surprise as it's only 1.6 metres wide, but it's meant to spend most of its life in urban areas where it'll probably carry one person for most of the time and possibly be fully loaded on the school run.

Two versions are available...standard and long range. The standard battery churns out 96bhp while the larger one ups the ante to 113bhp. The 96bhp version hits 60mph in 11.7 seconds and can manage a range of 203 miles. With the bigger battery your range climbs to 223 miles while the 0-60 sprint drops to 10.6 seconds. The more powerful version is available with 17-inch wheels rather than 15-inch. They look better because they fill the wheel arches. A 10-80 per cent charge takes around half an hour.

It's good to drive...fun actually.

Need something larger...or prefer to stick with a petrol engine...head for the Hyundai i20 which was recently updated.

Power comes from a willing 1.0 litre 99bhp petrol engine which gets you to 60mph in a shade over 10 seconds. There's a choice of manual or automatic gearboxes. You should easily achieve around 50mpg. It's well equipped too with stuff like parking sensors, sat nav, DAB radio, cruise control, powered windows, and a rear view camera as standard. The LED headlights are great.

For those of you wanting a seriously family-friendly SUV, the Hyundai Tucson will fit the bill. Thousands of other people obviously like the Tucson because it's Europe's no.1 Compact SUV. It seems to be one of those cars that fits in with almost everything you need to do...commute, shuttle the family, shopping, tip, and the occasional holiday outing which, when it comes to my family, seems to require taking the entire contents of our house.

The Tucson, like the i20, has been updated. The business summary is that this 4th generation Hyundai Tucson features redesigned bumpers, larger daytime running lights, revamped alloy

wheels, and new colour options. The interior has been completely redesigned including new dashboard, steering wheel, seats, and infotainment system. The curved display which sweeps across the dashboard combines a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster and a 12.3-inch infotainment touchscreen in one seamless unit. There's a three-zone climate control, and those new seats are heated front and rear. Front seats are also ventilated.

We think it looks rather smart.

In terms of power, all models use a 4-cylinder, 159bhp, turbocharged 1.6 litre petrol engine but each comes with varying levels of hybrid assistance, apart from the entry level car which comes with a manual 6-speed 'box...the rest are autos. The same engine is then available with a mild hybrid set-up followed by a full hybrid which ups the power output to 212bhp and, depending on trim, the option of all-wheel drive transmission. At the top end of the range there's the plug-in hybrid PHEV which churns out a healthy 249bhp...it's our favourite, hitting 60mph in 9.8 seconds...top speed is 116mph. You can do up to 42.9 miles on battery power alone which beats most of the competition.

Oh, and don't forget, every Hyundai car comes with a 5-year, unlimited mileage warranty and 5 years of roadside assistance. How's that for confidence in the product's reliability?

No wonder Hyundai is flying in the UK.

FOUND SOME MONEY DOWN THE BACK OF THE SOFA?

Here's what you can spend it on.

My uncle had an Aston Martin DB5 (the James Bond car) so I've always had a soft spot for them. The name comes from the Aston Hill Climb which was regularly won by one of the company's founders, Lionel Martin. The DB bit is because the company was bought in 1947 by David Brown. Here's the latest Aston Martin plus our pick of the best super cars.

The **Aston Martin DB12** replaces the DB11 and is powered by a 680bhp 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 with a top speed of 202 mph and 0-60 mph in 3.3 secs. It sounds fantastic. It blends terrific performance with refined cruising ability. The all-new chassis, adaptive suspension and bespoke infotainment elevate dynamics and comfort. Recent variants like the DB12 S further boost power and agility, reinforcing its position as a flagship grand tourer. There's a drop top Volante too. As far as super cars go, this is one which is more subtle than most.

From £185,000.

The **Ferrari F80** is a limited-run hypercar from the Italian marque, succeeding the V12 LaFerrari with a hybridised 3.0-litre twin-turbo V6 and three electric motors, producing around 1183bhp and blistering acceleration which sees you hurtle to the horizon with a 0-60mph of 2.15 secs. 0-125mph arrives in 5.75 seconds and, if you're brave enough, keep your foot to the floor and hit 217mph. It revs to a staggering 9200rpm. Blimey. It celebrates Ferrari's 80th anniversary and uses motorsport-derived technologies for performance and

aerodynamics. Just 799 examples will be made, emphasising exclusivity and cutting-edge engineering.

Yep, it's great on the track but superb on the road.

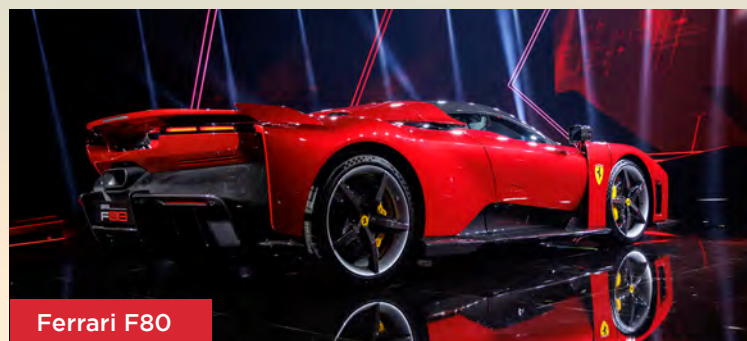
From £3.1 million

The **Lamborghini Temerario** is the Italian brand's all-new mid-engine hybrid supercar, replacing the V10 Huracán with a twin-turbocharged 4.0-litre V8 paired to three electric motors for around 907bhp and a 0-62 mph time of 2.7 secs, plus a top speed over 210 mph. It's the first hybrid Lamborghini with a 10,000 rpm-capable engine and blends dramatic design with advanced tech and drift-focused dynamics. Okay, it still looks typically outlandish...but...hey...it's a Lambo, so what do you expect? Oh, and if you're wondering, Temerario stands for 'fearless'.

From £260,035 or £297,235 for the lighter Allegerita version.



Aston Martin DB12



Ferrari F80



Lamborghini Temerario



Koenigsegg Jesko Absolut



McLaren Artura



Bentley Batur

The **McLaren Artura** is a high-performance plug-in hybrid supercar that is really the stablemate for the 750S. It pairs a twin-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine with an electric motor for around 670bhp and blistering acceleration with 0-60 mph in 3.0 secs and a top speed over 200 mph. If you enjoy the sound of a screaming engine, let it rev to the 8500rpm limit and you'll be in Heaven. The car's built on a lightweight carbon chassis and blends supercar dynamics with modern hybrid efficiency. The price you see below is before you dip into McLaren's extensive options catalogue.

From £202,000 or £220,000 for the Spider

The **Bentley Batur** is an ultra-exclusive, coachbuilt grand tourer from Bentley's bespoke division, Mulliner, and marks the swansong for the brand's iconic W12 engine which will be a huge miss. Powered by a highly tuned 6.0-litre twin-turbo W12 producing 740 bhp which drives all four wheels through an eight-speed dual-clutch transmission, the car has a claimed 0-60 mph time of 3.4 secs and a top speed over 200

mph. It's one of the most powerful production Bentleys ever made. Only 18 coupes were made, each hand-built with extensive customisation options that can include bespoke interiors and 18 ct gold detailing, embodying the pinnacle of luxury and craftsmanship. Good luck finding one.

From £1.65 million-£1.98 million

The **911 GT3 90 F. A. Porsche** is designed to be a collector's item. It's a special limited-edition version of the 911 GT3 Touring created to celebrate what would have been Ferdinand Alexander Porsche's 90th birthday. Only 90 examples will be built worldwide, each featuring exclusive F. A. Green metallic paint, bespoke interior touches inspired by his favourite jacket fabric, unique badging and special accessories including a Porsche Design Chronograph 1 and weekend bag. Mechanically it retains the GT3's 4.0-litre naturally aspirated flat-six producing 503bhp which gives you a 0-60mph time of 3.4 secs and 193mph flat out. You can have an automatic gearbox or a 6-speed manual. (The

911 Carrera S is the only car I've ever driven with a 7-speed manual 'box.)

From £307,000

And finally...let's go for something which, let's face it, is absolutely ridiculous... but we're glad it's here as a feat of automotive genius.

The **Koenigsegg Jesko Absolut** is arguably the fastest street-legal car available in this country. It's an ultra-high-performance Swedish hypercar engineered for extreme top speed, with a streamlined body and a twin-turbo 5.1-litre V8 producing up to 1,578bhp on special E85 fuel which is a mix of petrol and ethanol. 0-60mph comes up in 2.5 seconds and there's a top speed in excess of 300mph. Yowzer. Its aerodynamics target minimal drag. Only 125 are to be built...join a rather well-heeled queue.

From £2.3 million - £2.5 million



911 GT3 90 F. A. Porsche



HANG ON A SEC - SOMETHING'S MISSING

Polestar 4 ditches rear window.

As a motoring journalist, I've had a few firsts along the way... first automatic gearbox, first turbocharged engine, first gearbox with five gears, then six, and on one occasion seven, first EV... and now, with this Polestar 4, my first test car without a rear window.

The Polestar 4 is the first mass-produced car to ditch rear glass. You rely on your wing mirrors and a high-definition, roof-mounted camera system which produces an image onto the interior driver's 'mirror'. It takes a while to get used to it... but you do. It sums-up Polestar... they do things differently.

The Polestar designers say it's to improve aerodynamics, increase rear headroom and allow the glass roof to stretch even further and therefore make the interior light and airy. We can see their point... and it does mean the rear seats are positioned far enough back to allow loads of legroom.

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. We think the four-door coupé styling looks really smart. If you want shattering coupé performance, style, you need to drool over the Polestar 5 and its 800+ horse power.

Just in case you don't know, Polestar is a Swedish-born electric performance brand co-owned by Volvo and Geely focussing on high-quality materials, minimalist interiors and a driver-centric experience across its models. Many moons ago, if you wanted a performance Volvo, you got the version branded as a Polestar... but... Volvo decided to float Polestar as a separate entity. We love them here at AutoH! magazine.

Here's a quick look at the range.

Polestar 2 is at the heart of Polestar's UK. It's a five-door fastback that represents the brand's most accessible and best-selling model. It is designed for

everyday use while still offering strong performance and long range. Polestar 2 is available in several configurations including single-motor rear-wheel drive and dual-motor all-wheel-drive versions.

You can manage a very handy estimated 409 miles of range in its extended-range form, depending on configuration, and can sprint from 0-60 mph in about 4.0 seconds in the top-spec Performance version. The high-tech infotainment system is powered by Google's Android Automotive system for seamless connectivity. It's brilliant.

Polestar 3 represents the firm's move into the SUV segment, adding space and capability while retaining solid performance figures. It's aimed at buyers looking for family practicality without compromising EV performance. Depending on the version chosen, you can go for rear-wheel or all-wheel drive. Choose the most powerful model and the 0-60 mph sprint is a supercar challenging 3.8 seconds in the top Performance spec. One big advantage is that you can use one of the super-rapid chargers... up to 350 kW DC... which means a 10-80% charge takes only 22 minutes. The ride in the top-end versions is uncannily smooth thanks to the air suspension which scans the road ahead of you. It adjusts the suspension before you hit a bump. Clever

As we mentioned at the start, there's nothing like the Polestar 4 coupé-SUV Crossover. Estimated range is around 370 miles.

Lastly, there's the flagship GT



For more information

Click here



Performance Polestar 5. Order books are open, deliveries start in late spring. It could be a gamechanger. 0-60 mph in around 3.1 seconds and an estimated range of over 400 miles. This large four-door electric GT will frighten the life out of traditional, premium sports cars.

The Polestar range covers a broad spectrum of EV buyers, from the well-priced and practical Polestar 2, through family-oriented SUVs like the Polestar 3 and 4, to the flagship Polestar 5 for performance and luxury. Each model is distinguished by strong electric performance, great range, thoughtful design and the latest tech connectivity.

If you're in the market for this sort of car, make sure Polestar is on your list of test drives. Polestar has a service where you can go to a Polestar location, or they'll bring one to your home. Enjoy.

Polestar



www.stoneacre.co.uk/polestar

Number
Stoneacre
Motor Group

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



THREE CHEERS FOR CHERY NOW AT SG PETCH IN SUNDERLAND

Tiggo will ruffle some European brand feathers.

Chinese car brand Chery has launched its own range of vehicles in the UK and they're available here in the North East at SG Petch in Sunderland.

Chery is one of China's oldest and largest car manufacturers. Omoda and Jaecoo are also part of the Chery stable. Chery has been China's leading vehicle exporter for over two decades, and its arrival on our shores is part of a broader strategy to compete with established European brands by offering well-equipped cars at highly competitive prices.

Oh and Chery is a deliberate play on the word Cheery.

So, what's on offer.

The Chery Tiggo 7 is the cornerstone of the brand's UK lineup. It's a compact 5-seat SUV, blending practicality with modern tech. Offered in both petrol and plug-in hybrid (PHEV) variants, the Tiggo 7 is aimed squarely at buyers who want an efficient, affordable crossover without compromising on features. Pricing starts from around £24,995 (Jan 26) for the 1.6 litre, 145bhp petrol version.

The plug-in hybrid variant, which has a smaller 1.5 litre engine but now gets help from an electric motor, ups the power to 201bhp and costs from £29,995. It

delivers enhanced efficiency and allows for electric-only driving over short distances—handy in urban environments.

Standard features include adaptive cruise control, large infotainment screens, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, and intelligent safety systems. It's excellent value, has loads of kit, and hybrid economy.

The Chery Tiggo 8 is essentially a larger version of the Tiggo 7 and offers space for seven people, so it's an excellent choice for families or those needing extra space. It's one of the most competitively priced seven-seat SUVs in the UK market.

Starting prices for the Tiggo 8 are £28,545 (Jan 26) for the petrol model, with the Super Hybrid PHEV kicking off from £33,545. The plug-in hybrid version offers up to around 56 miles of electric-only range and, if you go carefully, you should be able to stretch to a total range over 700 miles...impressive.

Inside, it boasts a premium feeling cabin, a large dual-screen infotainment setup, and extensive safety tech. The seven-seat flexibility, generous boot space, and

family-friendly features will appeal to growing families...ideal holiday transport.

The flagship car of the Chery range in the UK (at the moment) is the 1.5 litre Tiggo 9...a premium SUV. It's aimed fair and square at buyers who want a large premium SUV designed to appeal to buyers seeking extra space, performance, and hybrid efficiency. Power comes from an advanced plug-in hybrid system delivering around 422bhp, with all-wheel drive and an electric-only range of up to 90 miles on some trims.

It sits above the Tiggo 7 and 8 in both size and luxury and competes with larger family SUVs but offers everything at a more attractive price for similar spec levels.

Every Tiggo comes with a 7-year/100,000-mile warranty, which includes three years of RAC roadside assistance. If you like your motoring to come with a large dollop of peace of mind, you can't go wrong.

Overall, the Chery range in the UK offers strong value, advanced technology, and a comprehensive warranty, which could make the brand an increasingly compelling choice for buyers looking for spacious SUVs with modern hybrid options—especially at competitive price points compared to traditional rivals.



EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
BUILT FOR EVERYONE



SG PETCH

SG Petch Sunderland
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www.sgpetch.co.uk/sunderland/chery

LATEST NEW CHERY OFFERS



Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)

NEW Chery Tiggo 7

1.6T Aspire 5dr DCT

SUV | AUTO | PETROL

Trim includes: • LED headlights and rear lights • 18" Alloy wheels
• Rear view camera • 2 Zone automatic climate control

48 Monthly
Payments

£248

Customer
Deposit

£4,443.⁷⁸

**1.9
APR**



For more information

Click here

Personal Contract Purchase: Representative example for Chery TIGGO 7 ESTATE 1.6T Aspire DCT

Monthly Payments £248.78, Customer Deposit £4,443.78, Cash Price £24,995.00, Total Amount of Credit £20,551.22, Optional Final Payment (GMFV) £10,014.00, Total Amount Payable £26,150.44, Rate of Interest per annum 1.9% (fixed), Duration of Agreement 48 Months, Annual Mileage 8,000, Excess Mileage (pence per mile) 7.0p, Representative APR 1.9%, Option to Purchase Fee £10.00



Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)

NEW Chery Tiggo 8

1.6T Aspire 5dr DCT

SUV | AUTO | PETROL

Trim includes: • 19" alloy wheels • LED headlights and rear lights
• Wireless mobile charging - 50W max capacity • 540-degree panoramic view camera

48 Monthly
Payments

£349

Customer
Deposit

£2,132.⁰⁴

**2.9
APR**

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)

NEW Chery Tiggo 9

1.5T PHEV Summit 5dr DHT

SUV | AUTO | PLUG-IN HYBRID

Trim includes: • 540-degree panoramic view camera
• 10.25" Driver display screen • 20" alloy wheels • Leather upholstery

48 Monthly
Payments

£499

Customer
Deposit

£6,728.²⁷

**3.9
APR**



Personal Contract Purchase:

Representative example for Chery TIGGO 8 1.6T Aspire DCT

Cash Price £28,545.00, Deposit (cash or part ex) £2,132.04, Total deposit £2,132.04, Annual mileage 8000 Miles, Interest Charges £2,225.54, Total amount of credit £26,412.96, Total amount payable £30,771.50, Monthly Payment £349.00, Optional final payment £12,235.50, Duration of agreement 48 months, Representative APR 2.9% APR, Interest rate (fixed) 2.86% p.a., Excess mileage charge (per mile) 9p.

Personal Contract Purchase:

Representative example for Chery TIGGO 9 1.5T PHEV Summit 5dr DHT

Cash Price £43,105.00, Deposit (cash or part ex) £6,728.27, Total deposit £6,728.27, Annual mileage 8,000 Miles, Interest Charges £4,126.77, Total amount of credit £36,376.73, Total amount payable £47,232.77, Monthly Payment £499.00, Optional final payment £17,050.50, Duration of agreement 48 months, Representative APR 3.9% APR, Interest rate (fixed) 3.83% p.a., Excess mileage charge (per mile) 12p.



EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
BUILT FOR EVERYONE



SG Petch Sunderland
Castle View, Castletown, Sunderland, SR5 3AJ. 0191 815 5555
www.sgpetch.co.uk/sunderland/chery

Models shown for illustration purposes only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. OMODA & JAECOO UK Limited (t/a Chery UK) is a credit broker, not a lender Building 7 Chiswick Park, 566 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 5YG. Finance provided by Creation Consumer Finance Limited, PO Box 14455, Birmingham, B25 9ER. Finance is available subject to status, over 18s only. Ts & Cs apply. *This offer is available to private retail customers only who complete a test drive. It is not available to Fleet or Motability customers. A £500 voucher is redeemable against the purchase of a new Chery TIGGO 7 CSH, and a £350 voucher is redeemable against the purchase of a new Chery TIGGO 8 CSH, when the vehicle is ordered and registered between 2 January 2026 and 31 March 2026. Offer excludes Chery TIGGO 7 and 8 Petrol and any non-CSH variants. Available at participating Chery retailers only. Chery UK reserves the right to amend, extend, or withdraw this offer at any time without prior notice. For full details, please contact your local Chery retailer. SG Petch Ltd is a credit broker not a lender for this financial promotion. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. If you have any questions about commission please speak to the dealer.

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FROM THE FAR EAST TO THE NORTH EAST – THANKS TO SG PETCH

BYD, Omoda, Jaecoo and Chery are here to shake-up the car market.

Car buyers are a suspicious bunch. When a new brand appears on the UK motoring scene, it's very easy to be a bit wary.

But once you realise one of the region's leading car dealers...SG Petch...is throwing its weight behind these brands, you can be über confident

SG Petch is rated in the top 10 of the UK's 100 car dealers for customer service...given a 'Highly Rated' score from Autotrader...and is renowned for providing customers in the region with the best possible experience at competitive prices, with excellent customer service.

In other words, you can buy with confidence.

Of the brands mentioned earlier, Chery is the latest to arrive.

Chery offers the Tiggo SUVs, providing petrol and plug-in hybrid options with the Tiggo 7, Tiggo 8, and the premium Tiggo 9, offering modern features, spacious interiors, and a 7-year warranty.

Our favourite is the Chery Tiggo 7. It's a proper 5-seat SUV, blending practicality with modern tech. You can choose between petrol or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) variants. It's aimed at buyers who want an efficient, affordable crossover without compromising on features. Pricing starts from around £24,995 (Feb 26) for the 1.6 litre, 145bhp petrol version, but we like PHEV version because it offers the potential for seriously economical motoring via a 1.5 litre engine which gets help from an electric motor. Power climbs to 201bhp. The big savings come through clever PHEV wizardry giving the for 56 miles



of travel using battery power alone. The engine only bursts into life if you need additional oomph or if the battery is depleted. It's excellent value, has loads of kit, and drives nicely. Can't fail.

Need something larger...check out the Tiggo 8 and Tiggo 9. They're available from SG Petch in Sunderland and Middlesbrough South Bank.

What about the other brands?

The BYD Seal U DM-i is currently the top-selling plug-in hybrid in the UK, but the newly launched Sealion 5 DM-i is worth a serious look. Go easily and make full use of the hybrid tech, and you'll crack 600 miles with the engine and hybrid system working together. Impressive. You'll find BYD at SG Petch branches in Durham, Darlington.

Omoda and Jaecoo are sister brands. They're at SG Petch Durham and now Darlington branches.

The Jaecoo 7 SHS PHEV regularly tops the sales charts as the UK's no.1 plug-in hybrid. Other models in the range offer AWD drive. We'd also recommend that you compare like-to-like with other brands. Look at the price...look at what comes as standard. You'll be staggered by the amount of kit Jaecoo includes in their price. Wow.

Omoda tends to aim itself more at the sporty, urban end of the market. The Omoda 5 and Omoda 9 are to be joined by the Omoda 7 very shortly. Omoda offers an all-electric version of their compact SUV, called the Omoda E5 and has a potential range of up to 257 miles. Stick in on a fast charger and you'll for from 30% to 80% in under 30 minutes.

In other words, SG Petch is offering incredible value for money...and a cracking warranty...with these Chinese brands. Hop inside and take one for a test drive...you'll be hooked.



AUDI – WHERE BUILD QUALITY AND PREMIUM INTERIORS COME AS STANDARD

Built from granite, super stylish and incredibly desirable. That'll be Audi then.

2026 kicked off with Audi updating several models...all of which are now available.

The models involved are arguably some of the most important across their entire range...A5, Q5, A6 E-Tron and Q6 E-Tron.

All of them receive a comprehensive update plus other highlights which, Audi says, 'Makes the driving experience even more emotional, intuitive, and efficient, both in terms of hardware, such as new headlights, and software, in the form of new features for driver assistance and entertainment.' So now you know!

You can also expect smoother braking, redesigned interior controls, new multifunction steering wheel and a trim structure which now increases the amount of value you can expect at each level. S5 and S6 models have a new 'dynamic plus' driving mode which gives the cars a sportier feel thanks to more power being sent to the rear wheels. There's also improved parking systems and upgraded adaptive cruise control. Traffic sign recognition is now a standard feature.

And we're delighted to report that Audi, like a lot of manufacturers, has seen sense and is now ditching several of their touch-sensitive interfaces and replacing them with old good buttons. Hurrah.

Electric models are getting improved regenerative braking systems which



can now bring the vehicle to a halt. This should improve the amount of range that drivers can expect from a full battery.

As for the trims, new Black Edition and Vorsprung Edition models are making a welcome return. You'll find them on the Audi A5 saloon and avant, Q5 SUV, A6 E-Tron and Q6 E-Tron ranges. These trims effectively replace the Edition 1 models but now add additional kit such as excellent matrix LED headlights and, on most models, heated front seats and a heated steering wheel.

Audi has also improved its voice system which, to be fair, was already one of the best around. ChatGPT is now part of the software which allows you to give vague instructions or suggestions, and the wizardry will try to make sense of it all.

If we had to pick a favourite from the Audi range, we'd go for the Audi A3. It sits above the A1 which, incidentally, is being phased out along with the Q2

to make way for small Audi electric vehicles, and includes Sportback and Saloon styles. The Sportback is roomy and versatile...great family transportation. If you want some fun, head for the RS3...proper driver's car.

Audi is also introducing more PHEVs (plug-in hybrid electric vehicles). Latest to arrive are the Audi A5 and A6 saloon and avant, Q3 SUV, Q3 Sportback and Q5 SUV and Sportback. The Audi A3 is also available as a PHEV. If you go steadily, the car will manage close to 90 miles using battery power alone which means a lot of you reading this could do a daily commute without using any fuel. You can charge the battery from 0-70 per cent by using a typical public charger in around 30 minutes. Great car.

One thing is for certain, if you've not sat in or driven an Audi lately, you need to give it a go. Great to drive and they feel as solid as a rock. Nicely equipped too



For more information

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Explore the full Audi model range.



Wearside Audi
Newcastle Road, Sunderland, SR5 1JQ. 0191 563 7200
Newcastle Audi
Sanderson Street, Newcastle, NE4 7LA. 0191 226 4500
Tyneside Audi
Silverlink Park, Wallsend, NE28 9NT. 0191 236 0100
www.lookers.co.uk/audi



BMW SWEEPS THE BOARD AT WHAT CAR? 2026 AWARDS

All-new BMW iX3 is named overall Car of the Year.

2026 has got off to a winning start for BMW by welcoming the new year with outstanding success at the 2026 What Car? awards. The biggest prize of all...Car of the Year...went to the **BMW iX3**. It also topped the Premium Electric SUV category.

Alongside these awards, BMW collected six additional accolades across a variety of categories.

The **BMW M3 Touring Competition** was celebrated as **Performance Car of the Year**.

The **BMW 4 Series 420i M Sport** was announced as What Car?'s **Coupé of the year**.

BMW continues to lead the **Luxury Car** category as the **BMW X7** succeeds the BMW i7 in securing the 2026 accolade.

The **BMW X3** attained this year's **Safety Award**.

The award for **Best PHEV to Drive** went to the **3 Series 330e M Sport**

And finally, the award for **Best Luxury Car to be Driven In** was won by the **BMW i7 eDrive 50**.

Quite a night...and it should be pointed out that the overall winner, the BMW iX3, is the first of BMW's Neue Klasse (New Class) model, and is the next generation, all-electric vehicle platform which is introducing a host of innovations and technologies that will soon be adopted across the entire BMW product portfolio. In other words,

this is a seriously important car for the company. Since its unveiling last year, the BMW iX3 has garnered widespread acclaim, and this momentum continues after securing the coveted top gong at the COTY awards.

The BMW iX3 thoroughly impressed judges, claiming the Premium Electric SUV category before collecting the headline award. Handing over the trophy, Steve Huntingford, Editor of What Car? said: "The premium electric SUV market is one of the most hotly contested, yet in so many respects the BMW iX3 offers a step change in capability. It combines a huge range with ultra-rapid charging; its new 'brain' improves everything from the infotainment system to safety; and despite being one of the most enjoyable SUVs of any kind to drive, it's also very comfortable. In short, it's a truly great car."

Praise indeed.

And remember, this is a car which has just arrived on UK roads. The new BMW iX3 launched here in Blighty on 7th March '26...order books are now open. The current generation BMW X3 will continue to be sold alongside the new

BMW iX3, offering customers a choice of all-electric, petrol, diesel and plug-in hybrid powertrains.

It's going to be a busy couple of years for BMW because following the launch of the iX3, BMW will introduce 40 new models and model updates between now and the end of next year, 2027. First up will be the BMW i3 Saloon. Production begins very shortly and will feature fully electric models (i3) which have a predicted range of more than 500 miles, plus a selection of petrol engines. An all-electric, high-performance iM3 saloon is expected to follow at the end of the year.

Oh, and as an example of how dominant those winning cars have been, the BMW M3 Touring has remained a consistent favourite, collecting the Performance Car of the Year accolade for the third consecutive year.

The remarkable winning streak of the BMW 4 Series remains unbroken as it tops What Car?'s Coupé of the Year category for the sixth time since its 2020 launch, and the BMW X7 succeeded the BMW i7 in securing this year's Luxury Car of the Year title, marking a third consecutive victory for the brand.

Collecting anything at the What Car? awards is a massive accolade for any car manufacturer, but to walk away with a hat-full of gongs shows that BMW is still a force to be reckoned with when it comes to choosing your next set of wheels.



SEARCH: www.lloydmotorgroup.com/BMW

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

Tel - 0191 283 6697

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

Tel - 0191 283 8779

LLOYD MOTOR GROUP POWERS AHEAD WITH NORTH EAST INVESTMENT.

New North East sites build on Lloyd Motor Group's strong Jaguar Land Rover portfolio

Celebrating their 50th year in business, Lloyd Motor Group is one of the UK's largest independently owned, family-run car retailer groups... and they continue to grow.

Here in the North East, Lloyd Motor Group is well known for its MINI and BMW retailers at both the Silverlink on North Tyneside and on Barrack Road in the centre of Newcastle.

The addition of the new sites on Silverlink in Newcastle, and Preston Farm in Stockton enhances the Lloyd Motor Group portfolio and complements their successful, long-established JLR retailers in Carlisle, Kelso, Ripon and York.

Their Land Rover influence has been further increased by the opening of a Jaguar Land Rover Service Centre at Stonegate on the A690 between Sunderland and Durham.

The new sites have been acquired from Lithia Group, where, as part of the move, 165 experienced colleagues have joined Lloyd Motor Group ensuring seamless continuity of service for existing Jaguar Land Rover customers in the region.

This is a landmark investment by Lloyd Motor Group in the North East. The expansion represents a significant commitment to the region, combining economic growth with enhanced customer choice and service.

By securing these sites, Lloyd Motor Group has reinforced its position as one of the UK's leading automotive retailers, while ensuring that customers in Newcastle, Sunderland, Teesside and the surrounding areas have direct access to world-class vehicles and services.

The Silverlink Newcastle showroom offers a modern retail environment

where customers can explore new Land Rover vehicles and approved used Jaguar and Land Rover vehicles. Manufacturer-trained teams provide expert guidance, while the facility's design reflects the premium nature of

the brands.

And further south of the Tyne Tunnel, the Stockton showroom serves as a convenient destination for Jaguar and Land Rover customers in the region. With a focus on personalised service, the team helps visitors explore both new and approved used vehicles, providing expert guidance to make every visit seamless, and ensuring visitors feel supported every step of the way.

Land Rover's range spans the versatile Discovery and Discovery Sport, the capable Defender, and the luxury Range Rover brand, including the Range Rover, Range Rover Sport, Range Rover Velar, and Range Rover Evoque.

Together, these vehicles combine cutting-edge technology, distinctive design, and world-class engineering.

This year marks a pivotal and exciting





For more information
Click here

moment as Jaguar enters a bold new era, with a rebrand and an exciting all-new model range. A high performance, electric, 4-door GT is expected to be the first to arrive.

The service centre at Houghton le Spring has been designed to deliver specialist Jaguar Land Rover servicing, MOTs and repairs, in an impressive 18 ramp workshop. Customers benefit from comfortable lounges, complimentary Wi-Fi, and collection-and-delivery options, making servicing convenient and stress-free. For Jaguar and Land Rover owners, this means peace of mind knowing their vehicles are in expert hands. Equipped with advanced diagnostic technology and staffed by manufacturer-trained technicians, the facility ensures that vehicles are maintained to the highest standards.

This development signals confidence in the North East's automotive market and contributes to wider economic growth. By investing in infrastructure and people, Lloyd Motor Group is supporting both the local community and the long-term success of Jaguar Land Rover in the region.

With premium vehicles, modern facilities,



and a focus on customer satisfaction, Lloyd Motor Group's investment is set to transform the luxury car market in the North East. Whether customers are considering their first Jaguar or Land Rover, or are long-time owners seeking expert servicing, the new showrooms and service centres provide everything they need, right on their doorstep.

This expansion is more than a business move; it is a promise to deliver quality, choice, and confidence to the region.



As they step into their 50th year in the automotive industry, the expansion marks an exciting chapter for Lloyd Motor Group.

Scan the QR code below or visit
lloydmotorgroup.com/land-rover



Houghton-le-Spring Land Rover
 Durham Road
 Stonegate
 Houghton Le Spring
 Tyne & Wear
 DH4 4NJ



Newcastle Land Rover
 7 Cobalt Park Way
 Silverlink
 Newcastle upon Tyne
 Tyne & Wear
 NE28 9EJ



Stockton Land Rover
 Concorde Way
 Preston Farm
 Stockton-On-Tees
 Cleveland
 TS18 3RB

SIR PETER VARDY... ENTREPRENEUR, PHILANTHROPIST, SUNDERLAND FAN... AND STILL A CAR SALESMAN AT HEART.

Sir Peter Vardy talks to AutOh! magazine.

You're probably unaware of this, but a lot of you reading AutOh! will have something in common.



Depending on your age, you may have bought or certainly ridden in a car which had a Reg Vardy sticker in the rear window or along the bottom of the number plate.

Those of you who are fans of Sunderland Football Club may have worn...and possibly still wear...a shirt with the sponsorship name of Reg Vardy proudly emblazoned across the front.

There's also a strong possibility that you will have benefitted in some way from the dozens of philanthropic endeavours linked to the Vardy name.

The common denominator between all

these ventures is one man...Sir Peter Vardy. It's quite hard to appreciate the influence he and his family have had across the UK...and even the world...but especially here in the North East.

Sir Peter's father, Reg, delivered fruit and vegetables from a hand cart in Houghton-le-Spring, before buying a small truck which he used for delivering coal. Reg steadily developed a small fleet and, in 1945, bought a garage, which was where he sold his first car. 5 years later Reg Vardy became an official Ford Motor Company retailer...an association which would lead to Ford dubbing the company as the best car retailer in the world.

When Reg died in 1976, Sir Peter took over the reins of the company, having worked for his father since leaving school.



Emmanuel College Gateshead opened September 1990 the first of 5 schools



Sir Peter and Lorna Moran OBE Founding directors of the Entrepreneurs Forum with sir Richard Branson launched 2002

"I'd done everything...washing cars, serving petrol, helping mechanics, even panel beating...but that grounding gave me a grasp of what it was like to run a garage. It also taught me how to assist customers, something which I quickly realised was one of the most important aspects of any business and how long-term customer relationships and service excellence would be foundations for any expansion."

The Reg Vardy dealership at Stonegate on the A690 between Houghton-le-Spring and Sunderland became a familiar landmark. It grew to house marques like Rolls Royce, Ferrari, Lotus, Maserati and Aston Martin. Sir Peter once said..."Imagine, a mining town in the North of England where you could buy an Aston Martin." It became one of the world's most successful Aston Martin dealerships.

Sir Peter transformed the family business. By the time what had become Reg Vardy plc was sold in 2005, it employed over 6000 staff, had a turnover approaching £2billion, owned more than 100 dealerships, and had an impressive head office at Doxford Park on the outskirts of Sunderland. The name of Reg Vardy could be seen across the entire country. In other words, when it came to the buying and selling of cars, Sir Peter Vardy and Reg Vardy plc, were major players in the UK motor industry.

Had it been a difficult decision to sell the firm? "By then we were a plc with shares on the stock market so anyone could make an approach to buy us," added Sir Peter. "We became an attractive target and, bearing in mind the company was floated with shares at 90p each and the bid valued them at £9 each, it was an offer we couldn't refuse and, I must



Sir Peter, Sir Bob Murray and Mr John Mawston BEM Freedom of the City of Sunderland 2022

admit, I had taken the company as far as I could, I was at my limit. We had given shares to colleagues in the business, so they all shared in the success.

"I'd managed to get such a wonderful number of prestigious marques because the company's reputation was so strong. That's something of which I'm immensely proud, although my proudest personal moment was meeting the Queen and being awarded a knighthood."

As for why he was so successful, Sir Peter has some advice for any budding business owner.

"We had a clear vision, so we all knew where we were going, with a strategy of how we were going to get there and having a clear set of values that our entire team bought into. My priority was to surround myself with good people who had the strengths to cover my weaknesses. That way we reduced the risk of making mistakes.

"We were selling cars all over the country to many famous people. David and Victoria Beckham, Elton John, Rio Ferdinand, George Michael to name but a few.

"With the volume franchises we focussed on "Making cars affordable" designing finance schemes to help people buy their first new car. We came up with headline grabbing ideas like Buy a Fiat Croma and get a Panda Free. Fiat weren't too happy initially until they discovered how many Fiats we were shifting."

THE VARDY FOUNDATION



As well as being widely recognised as one of the UK's leading entrepreneurs, he also has a long-standing commitment to educational and social causes. Over several decades, via The Vardy Foundation which he established in 1989, he has built 5 schools in the North of England, championed family support, rehabilitation, youth support services, helping young people develop essential life skills for the future, funding homelessness projects, education, and efforts to address addiction, reintegration after incarceration and community causes both here and abroad. The Foundation's approach emphasises both immediate relief and long-term impact. Sir Peter has focused on early Intervention as in business, get to the source of the problem and fix it. He is the perfect example of how commercial achievement and community betterment can, and probably should, go hand in hand.

Sir Peter Vardy's legacy continues to influence business leaders, educators, charities and communities across the UK and beyond.

And he's from Houghton-le-Spring.



Vauxhall Frontera

83kW GS 44kWh 5dr Auto Electric SUV

SUV | Electric | Automatic

Personal Contract Hire (PCH)

£199 £199

Initial Rental

Per Month

Special offer INCLUDES £1,500 GOV EV GRANT

Personal Contract Hire (PCH): Initial rental £199, 23 monthly rentals of £199, Term 24 months, Mileage 6,000*

Frontera Electric trim comes with:

- > LED headlights with automatic high beam
- > Manual air conditioning
- > Two 10.0-inch displays
(one for infotainment, the other for instruments)
- > Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.
- > 8 years Roadside assistance
- > 3 years manufacturers warranty

Vertu 

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Vauxhall Sunderland
Alexandra Avenue, Hylton Riverside,
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FRONTERA IS UP FRONT FOR VALUE

For more information
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Latest Vauxhall EV is a bargain.

For those of you thinking that this is a new version of the Vauxhall Frontera which many of you will remember...think again. In fact, whatever you're thinking, think the opposite.

For starters, this is Frontera that's available as an EV (Electric Vehicle) and, thanks to the various grants which are available, it comes in cheaper than the petrol hybrid model which is also available.

In other words, if you want a battery powered, 100 per cent electric car, you really should start with the Vauxhall Frontera at the top of your test drives. Simple.

The pricing is significant because it tackles one of the biggest barriers to EV adoption...upfront cost. The result is that the Vauxhall Frontera EV is one of the best-value electric cars currently on sale in the UK, especially appealing to buyers wanting an SUV-shape EV without the high price tag that typically comes with that segment.

At its core, the Frontera EV uses a single front-mounted electric motor delivering around 112bhp. It's tuned to be as economical as possible rather than sporty...something we don't mind at all. Acceleration from 0-60mph takes just under 13 seconds and the top speed is limited to 88mph. The focus is on everyday usability rather than thrills: it's comfortable around town, holds

motorway speeds adequately, and its light steering makes city driving and parking straightforward.

As with every electric vehicle, the all-important question is how far can it travel before running out of juice? Vauxhall reckon you should manage around 186 miles WLTP range, which is competitive given the low price point. However, we'd point you in the Extended Range version which gets a bigger battery. This pushes claimed range up to 253 miles on a single charge. Okay, on a chilly winter's day you won't get that, but you should manage into the low 200s without too much trouble.

As for charging speeds, you can use a rapid charger which'll take you from 20-80% in 26 minutes. If you have a home charger (it's a good idea to get one) you can do a 20-80 per cent charge in around 3.5 hours. Plug it in when you get home and you'll be fully charged for the morning.

The Frontera Electric's interior is functional and spacious. Comfy too. Vauxhall keeps the trim levels simple... you can choose from Design, GS or Ultimate specification. Design trim gives you a rear-view camera, sat nav, wireless

phone charging, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto via the central 10-inch touchscreen, DAB radio, 10-inch digital cluster for the driver, and LED headlights. We'd fully understand anyone who sticks with Design trim. We would. You get the essentials.

Boot space is generous for the class, and interior room makes it a suitable choice for small families or those needing practical versatility.

Oh, and it looks good too.

This is one of the most cost-effective electric vehicles you can buy. The fact that it's currently cheaper (Jan '26) than the petrol hybrid is staggering. We'd go for the Extended Range battery for peace of mind.

In the UK's expanding EV market, where plug-in cars recently made up a record large share of new registrations, the Frontera Electric hits the spot as a budget-friendly, battery powered, electric SUV that doesn't compromise practicality. It's nicely kitted-out, decent to drive, and should be the sort of car that will be easy to live with.

Chuck in the incredible value for money and you can see why the Vauxhall Frontera EV is a compelling option for cost-conscious buyers wanting SUV styling and emissions-free driving.

And if the Frontera EV wasn't already attractive enough, it's available on contract hire from only £199.

It can't fail.





OMODA...GROWING IN SALES...GROWING IN CHOICE

Omoda 5 and Omoda 9 are to be joined by the Omoda 7

Let's start with a bit of a history lesson.

Omoda is part of the Chinese owned Chery Automobile car manufacturing firm. They have a sister brand...Jaecoo. Both brands arrived in the UK just over a year ago...and they're flying. Chery uses Omoda for sporty, tech-focused urban models and Jaecoo for more rugged, adventurous, premium SUVs.

Omoda has rapidly established itself and last year clocked-up almost 20,000 sales which, bearing in mind they're beginning from a standing start and with a brand name that the majority of folk hadn't heard of, is nothing short of staggering growth.

At its core, you'll find a choice of SUVs which include petrol, electric and hybrid-powered options. Omoda say their cars are "Art in Motion,"...a blend of dynamic, expressive styling with functional practicality. Here at AutoH! we'd refer to Omoda as combining excellent value for money with generous equipment levels and modern technology.

Let's have a look at what's on offer.

OMODA 5: The Omoda 5 is the model that introduced the brand to British roads, a compact SUV positioned to take on other mid-size crossovers. It's available with a 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol engine driving the front wheels through an automatic gearbox. The engine produces a healthy output of 145bhp giving you a 0-60mph time of 10.1 seconds. You'll find that the

suspension and damping have been tuned for UK road conditions (which is potholes!)

You have the choice of two trims... Knight and Noble...both of which are fully loaded. We'd go for the Noble trim which 'only' adds around £3500 to the price because you get everything including powered tailgate, sunroof, wireless phone charging, powered front seats and a 360-degree camera. The Sony audio system is terrific.

Fancy an all-electric alternative in the same body style? Head for the Omoda E5. Omoda reckon you'll get 267 miles range and fast-charging capability up to roughly 130 kW. It also benefits from the same high-specification appointments as its petrol stablemate.

OMODA 9: At the top end of the range sits the Omoda 9 SHS, an SUV that represents the brand's move into larger, more luxurious territory. This model is currently plug-in hybrid (PHEV) only and combines a petrol engine with electric motors and a hefty battery to deliver excellent performance (0-60mph in 4.9 seconds) and the potential for terrific range...Omoda reckon over 700 miles. Wow.

There's just a single trim available at the moment...Noble...but others will follow. We shan't list what you get in terms of kit because, well, you get everything.

You also get Omoda's commitment to peace of mind with a seven-year/100,000-mile warranty and an eight-year battery warranty, plus RAC

home-start cover for the duration. How's that for reassurance?

OMODA 7 and Future Models: There's a problem with the Omoda 5 and Omoda 9...some buyers would prefer something in between.

Sorted. The Omoda 7, a mid-size SUV designed to bridge that gap has just arrived...deliveries will begin shortly. It's available with both petrol (1.5 litres) and plug-in hybrid powertrains, including a hybrid with a battery offering roughly 56 miles of electric-only range and combined efficiency and emissions that make it an attractive choice for families and commuters alike. Top speed is 104mph...0-60 comes up in 8.4 seconds.

There's the familiar trim line-up of Knight and Noble...we'd spend the additional £3000 for Noble trim because it makes the car feel really special.

Beyond the current core range, no confirmation just yet, but we'd bet there'll be a smaller Omoda...how about calling it the Omoda 3, plus additional petrol, hybrid and electric powertrains to cover more buyer preferences. Something for everyone.

As the market for hybrid and electric vehicles continues to grow, Omoda's expanding portfolio positions the brand to attract buyers looking for accessible technology, bold design, and family-friendly SUVs, all backed by excellent aftersales support and great warranties.

Surprised by the success of Omoda?

We aren't.

OMODA

EXPLORE the fantastic world of future technology

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Arnold Clark

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GEELY ARRIVES IN THE NORTH EAST AT LLOYD SELECT

Geely EX5 is here...other models to quickly follow.

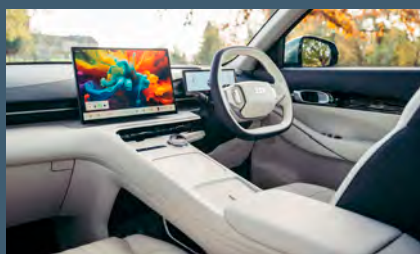
You may not have heard of Geely, but there's a decent chance you've driven or ridden in one of the cars built by a firm in which the company has a significant investment...like Volvo, Polestar, Lotus, Smart and LEVC...makers of the London taxi.

But now they've decided to launch their own brand of models...and they're available at Lloyd Select on Scotswood Road in Newcastle.

Chinese-based Geely Auto is one of the world's most innovative and fastest-growing automotive companies, and they officially launched into the UK market late last year with its first car, the Geely EX5 SUV. It's a good-looking thing.

The Geely EX5 is a five-seat, family-focused compact SUV that combines cutting-edge technology, generous space, advanced safety and strong design, all underpinned by a real-world, future-focused approach to electric mobility.

And if you're a tad worried about the reliability of a brand you may not have heard of...fear not, because Geely provide their cars with a stunning, and industry leading, eight year or 125,000-mile warranty applicable to both vehicle



and battery. How's that for confidence in the product?

The Geely EX5 has a predicted range of up to 267 miles. Find a fast charger and you can boost the battery from 30 to 80% in just 20 minutes. 0-60mph takes a shade under seven seconds.

As for the sort of kit you can expect, there's heated and ventilated front massage seats, cracking 16-speaker audio system, a 15.4-inch central touchscreen and a 10.2-inch driver display above the steering wheel. There's also a head-up display showing key information to keep eyes on the road.

As part of the launch, Geely Auto UK has partnered with Andersen EV to provide every Geely EX5 customer with a reduced cost home wallbox. Alternatively, customers can opt for

£500 of public charging credit through Octopus Electrovse, giving access to more than one million charge points across the UK and Europe.

The Geely EX5 SUV is the first of what the company says will be 10 new models introduced to the UK by the end of next year which represents fantastic growth.

Next up is the Starray EM-i which the firm refers to as a 'Super Hybrid.' Rather than converting an existing model by integrating a new powertrain, the Starray EM-i was designed and engineered from the ground up as a PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle) to help ensure optimum efficiency and strong driving performance. You can get a predicted 84 miles of battery-only travel before the 1.5 litre petrol engine joins the party.

The Starray EM-i is available in three trim levels, Pro, Max and Ultra. All models feature comprehensive passive and active safety systems, earning the Starray EM-i the maximum five-star Euro NCAP safety rating.

To support low running costs for private and fleet owners, service intervals are set at 12 months / 10,000 miles and, as mentioned earlier, you get that brilliant warranty.

The entry-level Starray EM-i Pro gets heated electrically adjustable front seats, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and keyless entry. Stepping up to the Max model brings additional kit like a head-up display and wireless phone charging. At the top of the range, the Ultra, adds a larger battery and increased charging capability.

These are exciting times for Geely and for Lloyd Select in Newcastle.





JAECOO...AN AWARD-WINNING RECORD BREAKER

They're now a household name.

Jaecoo has become the fastest-growing mainstream automotive brand that the UK has seen in the last decade.

Last year the company clocked-up 28,232 new car sales...the Jaecoo 7 accounted for the majority of those registrations, becoming the fourth most popular car sold in the UK which, let's face it, is a remarkable achievement for a brand that only launched in January 2025.

Jaecoo is also an award winner.

The big one...Jaecoo was named Car Wow's Brand of the Year at their 2026 awards ceremony, recognising its rapid rise and growing influence in the UK market. Car Wow highlighted Jaecoo's distinctive designs, advanced technology and commitment to delivering exceptional value.

AND...the Jaecoo 7 was named 'Best Family Car' and 'Best Newcomer' at the 2025 Scottish Car of the Year awards.

Other highlights from last year saw the Jaecoo 7 SHS PHEV ranked as the UK's best-selling plug-in hybrid in August, the fourth best-selling car overall in September, and the best-selling Chinese car in October.

Jaecoo's other models, including the Jaecoo 5 and E5, also sold strongly with UK drivers, combining distinctive design, advanced technology, and intelligent performance.

Jaecoo is still a relatively new name on the UK car marketplace. 'Jaecoo' is said

to blend words including the German Jäger (hunter) and the English word "cool"...so now you know.

Quick look at their models.

Jaecoo 7: The first Jaecoo model to arrive in the UK was the Jaecoo 7, a mid-size SUV powered by a 1.6-litre turbo petrol engine producing around 145bhp. It's available with front or all-wheel drive.

There's also a plug-in hybrid (PHEV) version that combines a 1.5-litre petrol engine with electric drive...producing 201bhp and delivering around 56 miles of electric-only range and strong overall economy figures. You can manage a 30-80 per cent charge in only 20 minutes.

The 1.6 litre model has a choice of Deluxe (FWD) or Luxury (AWD) trims...the PHEV is single trim at the moment. Deluxe gives you a powered sunroof, powered and heated front seats, wireless phone charging, surround camera and parking sensors front and rear. The list is endless. We'd stick with Deluxe trim unless you need AWD.

Both models have a cracking warranty which offers a 7-year/100,000-mile cover, with no mileage limit for the first 3 years, plus an 8-year/100,000-mile battery warranty for electric models, alongside a 2-year/genuine parts warranty, covering manufacturing defects and providing peace of mind with long-term support, including 24/7

roadside assistance through RAC in the UK. Brilliant.

The interiors of the petrol model and the hybrid model are vastly different...different switches...different colours and different materials around the cabin. That is a rarity.

Deluxe trim gives you a 13.2-inch central touchscreen...the Luxury trim swaps that for 14.25-inches.

Jaecoo 5 and Jaecoo E5: A Smaller SUV Alternative with a choice of power.

Following the Jaecoo 7, the Jaecoo 5 entered the UK market as a more compact SUV and comes with a generous list of interior and safety kit.

When it first arrived, there was just a 1.6-litre turbo petrol engine with 145bhp. Trims were Pure and Luxury offering differing levels of comfort and tech.

In response to the growing demand for electric vehicles in the UK, Jaecoo introduced the E5, its first all-electric SUV. The E5 provides a potential range of around 248 miles. As with its petrol stablemate, trims are Pure and Luxury.

These are early days for Jaecoo in the UK...their range will steadily expand. A larger SUV and additional electric-only models are in the pipeline.

There's a common theme with every Jaecoo model...value-for-money, high levels of standard equipment, strong warranty support and competitive pricing. Whether you're looking for a compact SUV with everyday practicality, a family-sized hybrid crossover or a fully electric city-friendly vehicle, the Jaecoo range is a compelling option.

JAECOO

The new **JAECOO 7**
Enjoy True Freedom.

www.arnoldclark.com/jaecoo



Arnold Clark

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Wallsend Silverlink JAECCO

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Tyne Valley Motorhomes – they're national award winners.

They've been named Motorhome Dealer of the Year.

This is a huge achievement for the North East-based family firm.

They picked up their gong at The Out & About Live Motorhome 2026 Annual Awards. It's arguably the most difficult award to win because, unlike the various motorhomes which were named as winners by the judging panel, Motorhome Dealer of the Year is voted for by the general public who, as we all know, are the most critical judges of all. This public vote sees motorhomers and leisure vehicle enthusiasts from across the UK vote for their favourite motorhome dealer who goes above and beyond to give top-quality service.

"Winning this prestigious award is a tremendous honour for us," said Jonathan Bell, Managing Director of Tyne Valley Motorhomes, based in Byermoor between Whickham and Burnopfield on the outskirts of Newcastle. "It reflects not only the quality of the motorhomes we provide, but also the high standard of customer care we pride ourselves on. When a customer buys a motorhome from us, it's not the end of the journey — we want them to feel confident and reassured, knowing we're always on hand to support them and continue delivering exceptional service."

The judges at Out & About Live explained...

Tyne Valley Motorhomes are a true family business. The company was started by Jonathan Bell's late father, Derek, while his mum, Elaine, has been involved from day one and his sister, Carolyn, runs the aftersales.

Jonathan moved from engineering into motorhomes 25 years ago and many of



his staff have also been with the business for well over a decade.

Located on the A692, Tyne Valley Motorhomes is still operating from the site where it all began, although before that, in 1990, Derek was converting VW Type 3 campervans.

A sideline to a bedroom furniture business, selling the finished campervans from outside the family house, soon grew into a motorhome dealership.

It's a very different story today, with a four-and-a-half-acre site and a further three acres recently purchased for caravan and motorhome storage.

There's an NCC-approved workshop at Burnopfield that can undertake anything from awning fitting and full lithium battery installations to E&P self-levelling and VB air suspension systems.

Four bays are dedicated to water ingress issues. You can expect to find around 100 new and used vehicles on display, with prices from £30k. New franchises are held for Adria, Chausson, Elddis and Swift.

Incidentally, the Swift Trekker 540 was named Motorhome of the Year...and it's available at Tyne Valley Motorhomes...

they have one in stock.

'Such a distinctive and well-executed exterior design, combined with an impressive standard specification and an ideal layout, which is so well suited to couples, but can accommodate four occasionally, makes this latest Trekker simply unbeatable.'

Daniel Attwood, Awards Judge and Managing Editor, Motorhome Motorcaravan Monthly.

'It's great to see Swift's designers being brave, perhaps even braver than they were with the Trekker campervans. The success of those models has emboldened the company to bring us more contemporary design that'll appeal to a younger buyer.'

Peter Vaughan, Head of the judging panel, Editor, What Motorhome.

In other words, the winning motorhome is available at the Motorhome Dealer of the Year.

If you'd like more information about Tyne Valley Motorhomes and what sort of vehicles they have on offer, you can contact them by calling 01207 272777 or popping into their dealership at Byermoor, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 6NS.

We'd also point you in the direction of their terrific website www.tynevalleymotorhomes.com where you'll find full details about the new and used motorhomes and campervans which they have available. There are also several pages of useful tips and information. You'll find details of service plans, repairs, warranty work and the sort of accessories which are available.

Tyne Valley Motorhomes...they're going places...so can you.

Choose the Motorhome Dealer of the Year and let your adventures begin.

BYD

BYD Sealion 5

1.5 DM-i Comfort 5dr Auto
Plug-in hybrid (PHEV)

48 Monthly
Payments
£329

Customer
Deposit
£329

**2.9
APR**

- 8.8" TFT full LCD instrument panel
- Apple CarPlay and Android Auto
- Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC)
- Intelligent Cruise Control (ICC)

**Representative example for: BYD Sealion 5
1.5 DM-i Comfort 5dr Auto
Plug-in hybrid (PHEV)**

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP),
Customer Deposit £329,
48 Monthly Payments Of £329,
BYD Deposit £1,525,
Cash Price £28,195,
Amount of Credit £26,341,
Total Amount Payable £30,408,
Optional Final Payment £12,762,
Duration Of Agreement 49 Months,
Excess Mileage Charge 14.9p per mile,
Fixed Rate of Interest 1.49%,
Representative 2.9% APR (Fixed).



BYD Seal U DM-i

1.5 DM-i Boost 5dr Auto

- Drive mode select (Eco, normal, sport, snow)
- 15.6" Electrically rotatable touchscreen
- Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC)
- Intelligent Cruise Control (ICC)
- 360 Camera

**Save £1545
on current list price**



48 Monthly
Payments
£399

Customer
Deposit
£399

**2.9
APR**

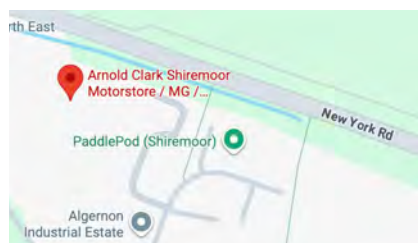
Representative example for: BYD SEAL U DM-i 1.5 DM-i Boost 5dr Auto
Personal Contract Purchase (PCP), Customer Deposit £399, 48 Monthly Payments Of £399,
Cash Price £31,795, Amount of Credit £31,396, Total Amount Payable £34,756,
Optional Final Payment £15,205, Duration Of Agreement 49 Months, Contract Mileage 24,000,
Excess Mileage Charge 14.9p per mile, Fixed Rate of Interest 1.49%,
Representative 2.9% APR (Fixed).

Arnold Clark

Newcastle BYD
Scotswood Road,
Newcastle, NE4 7BP
0191 256 2600



Shiremoor BYD
New York Road,
Shiremoor, NE27 0NA
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BYD LET'S YOU BUILD YOUR DREAMS

And choose from hybrid or electric.

Arnold Clark BYD is redefining what drivers can expect from the fast-growing Chinese brand, proving that BYD is no longer just about fully electric vehicles.

With this year's launch of the new Sealion 5 DM-i, which has just arrived in the Arnold Clark dealerships, alongside the Seal 6 Saloon and Seal 6 Tourer and the already popular Seal U, BYD's plug-in hybrid range has moved firmly into the spotlight. At the heart of this shift is BYD's advanced DM-i (Dual Mode Intelligent) engine technology, delivering impressive real-world economy, long driving ranges and effortless everyday usability.

The Sealion 5 DM-i is the clearest statement yet of BYD's hybrid ambitions. Designed to combine electric driving for short trips with ultra-efficient petrol power for longer journeys...the best of both worlds and removing any thoughts of range anxiety while still allowing drivers to enjoy low emissions and reduced fuel costs. Go easily and the Sealion 5 DM-i gives a predicted total driving range of up to 631 miles. That figure alone shows how far plug-in hybrid technology has come. For many UK motorists who want electrification without compromise, this balance is exactly what they have been waiting for. That 631 miles figure should be more than sufficient for most people to only charge the car once a fortnight...great for commuting...but also allow for longer holiday trips.

BYD's DM-i system stands out because it prioritises electric driving wherever possible. Around town and on shorter

commutes, the Sealion 5 DM-i can run quietly and smoothly on electric power, while the petrol engine steps in seamlessly when required. The result is excellent fuel economy, relaxed performance and lower running costs compared to traditional petrol or diesel SUVs. This same philosophy underpins the Seal 6 Saloon and Seal 6 Tourer, giving drivers more choice across body styles without sacrificing efficiency or comfort.

Buying a BYD through Arnold Clark also brings reassurance that matches the technology. The Sealion 5 DM-i is backed by a 6-year vehicle warranty and an 8-year battery warranty, reflecting BYD's confidence in its engineering and long-term reliability. This level of coverage is particularly attractive to drivers new to plug-in hybrids (PHEVs), offering peace of mind well beyond the industry norm.

Affordability is another key reason the Sealion 5 DM-i is attracting so much attention. Arnold Clark currently offers a special PCP deal, with the Sealion 5 DM-i available from just a £329 deposit and £329 monthly payments. This

competitive offer makes stepping into BYD's latest plug-in hybrid technology more accessible than ever, especially for families and company car drivers looking to manage monthly costs while upgrading to a more efficient vehicle.

For those ready to take their first steps into electrified driving, Arnold Clark also provides practical support through its Go Electric with Arnold Clark scheme. Customers can arrange a home charger via Arnold Clark's trusted partners, Bumblebee, making overnight charging simple and convenient. When out on the road, drivers can take advantage of Arnold Clark Charge, the company's growing, bookable ultra-rapid EV charging network, offering charging at just 55p per kWh. Even better, customers can enjoy a free coffee while they charge, turning charging stops into a welcome break rather than an inconvenience.

With the arrival of the Sealion 5 DM-i, BYD has clearly signalled that it is no longer mainly an electric-only brand. Instead, it is delivering a well-rounded plug-in hybrid range that suits real UK driving needs. Through Arnold Clark BYD, customers can experience cutting-edge DM-i technology, outstanding economy, strong warranties and compelling value, all supported by charging solutions that make electrified motoring easier than ever.



For more information
Click here

NO SIESTA FOR SEAT AS THEY SET NEW SALES RECORD.

Spanish car manufacturer is on a roll.

There's no stopping SEAT. The Spanish automotive brand which is part of the Volkswagen Group sold more cars in 2025 than in any year since the marque was launched... and with the arrival of the latest Ibiza and Arona, you'd suspect that 2026 will see the firm do even better.

In what is a refreshing change to latest trends, SEAT is currently sticking with petrol-powered hatchbacks, estates and SUVs, with an ever-increasing presence of hybrid technology. If you fancy 100 per cent electric power, hop over to SEAT's sister brand, Cupra, and you'll find some tasty stuff.

SEAT cars are known for their crisp design, fun-to-drive character and strong value for money.

Here at AutOh! we were lucky to go on the launch of the new Ibiza and Arona models. The latest versions are still instantly familiar, but SEAT has rounded off a few edges to the exterior design... both models look more sleek than the outgoing version.

The SEAT Ibiza is the brand's most iconic small car and a staple in the UK supermini segment. It's ideal for city driving, offers agile handling, efficient petrol engines and modern infotainment systems. It combines practicality with fun and youthful styling.

Two petrol engines are available... both 3-cylinder 1.0 litre units, but you can choose from either 94bhp with a 5-speed manual gearbox, or 114bhp with either a 6-speed manual or 7-speed automatic gearbox. Both are willing units...and they give the car plenty of oomph... sound nice too.

In terms of trim, SEAT keeps things nice and simple...SE, SE Technology and sportier FR First Edition and FR Sport. You can guarantee that various special editions will arrive over the next year or so.

As for the new SEAT Arona, which is classed as a compact crossover SUV, it's more targeted at buyers who want the practicality of an SUV with manageable dimensions for urban life. It has become one of SEAT's best-selling models in the UK. There's still a really nice, elevated driving position which makes for simple town work, plus a user-friendly interior. Chuck in excellent driving manners and good fuel efficiency means it hard to see why it's success cannot continue. It looks really smart.

Both the Arona and the Ibiza come with an excellent level of standard kit including Apple CarPlay/Android Auto and an impressive array of driver assistance tech.

If you like the idea of the Arona but could do with some additional space, head for the Ateca. The Ateca is SEAT's traditional SUV blending family-friendly space with sharp styling and strong on-road dynamics.

You can choose from various trims including SE, SE Technology, FR Line and FR Black Edition. We like SE Technology because you then add satellite navigation and a rear-view camera to what is already a decent specification which brings a panoramic



sunroof, roof rails and smart 18-inch alloys.

There's also the option of either 1.0 litre or 1.5 litre petrol engines. If you regularly do long-ish trips and often have a decent load, go for the bigger engine... everyone else will be fine with the 1.0 unit.

One of our favourite cars is the SEAT Leon. You can get the Leon either as a mid-size hatchback, but we love the estate. It's one of the most technologically advanced vehicles in the SEAT range, featuring a well-equipped interior and refined driving dynamics. You can choose from petrol, mild-hybrid and plug-in hybrid (e-HYBRID) powerplants. The PHEV model can manage 82 miles on battery power alone and, if you make full use of the hybrid system, you can reach a predicted 559 miles. Wow.

SEAT's lineup gives buyers a solid cross-section of vehicle types ranging from supermini up to family SUV, with an increasing focus on electrification through hybrid technology rather than full battery electric vehicles.

2025 was a record year for the firm...we suspect there'll be another record at the end of 2026.



For more information

Click here

THE MINI REVOLUTION CONTINUES

The icon is in safe hands

The MINI range in the UK blends iconic compact cars with larger SUVs and high-performance models, all designed to offer that classic “go-kart” driving feel.

From traditional petrol-powered hatchbacks to fully electric cars and sporty John Cooper Works variants, there's something for a wide variety of drivers.

Let's have a look at what's on offer.

The Classic MINI Cooper range: At the heart of the MINI family are the Cooper hatchbacks...small, stylish, and fun to drive. If you drove one of the original Minis, you'll feel instantly at home with this latest iteration.

The **3 and 5-door hatchbacks and convertible** models are now simply referred to as Cooper. The 3-door Cooper is the quintessential MINI in its most compact form. With a choice of petrol or electric power. Petrol models are efficient and have the sort of performance which is ideally suited to urban driving and countryside roads. You'll love the way they handle.

The MINI Cooper 5-Door offers a similar driving experience to the 3-door, but with added practicality. Extra rear-door convenience and slightly more interior space make it ideal for small families or daily commuting.

And if you want to make a statement, go for the MINI Cooper Convertible, a stylish choice for summer drives.

Electric MINIs will become a steadily increasing sight on our roads. Several models are already here using battery-only power.

The MINI Cooper E 3-door is a zero-



emission version of the classic hatch. Electric range can reach as high as 250 miles.

There is also the MINI Aceman...a super-stylish 5-door model with a bit of a coupé profile. It's a compact electric crossover that sits between the hatch and the larger Countryman and offers a higher driving position but still with electric efficiency and nimble handling.

The all-electric MINI Countryman is the largest electric model in the MINI range, offering potential mileage up to 287 miles, depending on battery and trim. Available with two electric variants, one focused on range while the other combines all-wheel drive with sharper performance.

The petrol-powered MINI Countryman is an AutOh! magazine favourite offering more space for more adventures. It's arguably MINI's most versatile vehicle...a crossover between a hatchback and an SUV, providing plenty of interior room for 5 adults. There's a range of petrol engines from efficient everyday motors to more powerful variants for dynamic driving.



Performance Variants: The John Cooper Works (JCW) is for drivers who want to up the ante when it comes to performance...and that applies to the petrol and electric platforms. You can choose between the MINI John Cooper Works 3-door hatchback or the convertible. The turbocharged engines deliver sharper acceleration and sportier handling than standard models. The additional body-kit means they stand out.

The MINI John Cooper Works Countryman ALL4 combines MINI's most powerful petrol engine with all-wheel-drive traction for confident performance on any surface.

Electric JCW Models like the Electric JCW Cooper and JCW Aceman bring instant torque and lively dynamics.

There really is something for everyone in the MINI range...petrol classics like the Cooper 3 and 5-door versions which are lightweight, and fun. The electric models provide zero-emission motoring with decent range. There are crossovers, a drop-top, SUVs and performance versions...the tricky bit is choosing which one to go for.

Nothing drives like a MINI...with every model retains that distinctive go-kart feel for which the brand is famous.

Fancy some grin-a-minute motoring? Get a MINI.



Lloyd North Tyneside MINI.

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0191 283 0166

Lloyd Newcastle MINI.

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- 14.6" Touchscreen -
Powered by Leapmotor OS 4.0 Plus
- From 420L up to 1415L of boot space



£299 | £299 | 0%
PER MONTH | CUSTOMER DEPOSIT | APR

Personal Contract Purchase - B10 67.1 kWh, 47 Monthly Payments payments of £299, Customer Deposit £299, Deposit Contribution £1,261, Total Deposit £1,560, Vehicle Price £31,495, LEAP-GRANT Savings £1,500, On-the-Road Price (OTR) £29,995, Total, Amount of Credit £28,435, Optional Final Payment £14,382, Total Charge for Credit £30,000, Term of Agreement 48 months, Total Amount Payable £29,995, APR 0%, Excess Mileage Charge £0.10 (per mile), Mileage per Annum 6,000 miles.

LEAPMOTOR UK ELECTRIC CAR GRANT: GET UP TO £3,750 OFF OUR ELECTRIC CAR RANGE

C10

For more information

Click here



£329 | £329 | 0%
PER MONTH | CUSTOMER 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, 47 Monthly Payments of £329, Customer Deposit £329, Deposit Contribution £416, Total Deposit £745, Vehicle Price (OTR) £36,500, LEAP-GRANT^ Saving £3,750, OTR including LEAP-GRANT £32,750, Total Amount of Credit £32,005, Optional Final Payment £16,542, Total Charge For Credit £0, Term of Agreement 48 months, Total Amount Payable £32,750, APR 0%, Excess Mileage Charge £0.10 (per mile), Mileage per Annum 6,000 (miles).

T03



£169 | £169 | 0%
PER MONTH | CUSTOMER 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, 47 Monthly Payments of £169, Customer Deposit £169, Deposit Contribution £406, Total Deposit £575, Vehicle Price (OTR) £15,995, LEAP-GRANT^ Saving £1,500, OTR including LEAP-GRANT £14,495, Total Amount of Credit £13,920, Optional Final Payment £5,977, Total Charge For Credit £0, Term of Agreement 48 months, Total Amount Payable £14,495, APR 0%, Excess Mileage Charge £0.10 (per mile), Mileage per Annum 6,000 (miles)



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Sherwoods Town Centre, Ferryboat Ln, Sunderland, SR5 3JN.

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www.sherwoodsmotorgroup.co.uk/leap-motor

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THIS IS NO LEAP OF FAITH - IT COULD BE YOUR EV ANSWER.

Leapmotor has big plans for the UK car market.

Whether you like it or not, we're less than four years (unless the government changes its mind...again) from the cut-off date for being able to buy a new car with an internal combustion engine. Apart from the odd exception, you will have to buy a car which is an EV...an electric battery powered vehicle.

And here's a great place for you to start looking at a car which could see you make the switch.

Leapmotor is a Chinese electric vehicle (EV) brand that launched in the UK market early last year through a partnership with Stellantis...the parent company of brands such as Vauxhall, Peugeot and Citroën. In other words, you may be new to Leapmotor, but you can buy with confidence.

Leapmotor's strategy in the UK focuses on value-driven EVs that deliver solid technology, terrific standard equipment and highly competitive pricing. At the moment they offer a compact city car and a pair of SUVs...but you can expect more models before the end of 2026.

So, let's have a quick look at their range.

If you do a lot of your driving in towns or on urban roads, take a close look at the Leapmotor TO3. It's a compact, 5-door, city hatchback which is one of the most affordable electric cars on sale in the UK with prices starting from £15,995 (Feb '26)

There's an estimated range of 165 miles, and a 0-60mph time of 12.7 seconds. You should manage a 10-80% charge in around an hour. In terms of kit you get stuff like a panoramic sunroof with electric shade, 10.1-inch central touchscreen, 8-inch digital instrument cluster, adaptive cruise control, rear parking sensors and a reversing camera.

If you're a first-time EV buyer who wants simple but value motoring, the TO3 will be ideal.

Need something larger?...take a look at



the pair of SUVs.

The Leapmotor B10 is a compact SUV £31,495 (Feb '26) which will suit any family.

When compared to the TO3, this model is larger and will be ideal for family holidays and longer commutes. The estimated range is a very handy 270 miles. With an output of 212bhp, you get a lively 0-60mph time of 8.0 seconds. Charging from 10-80 per cent takes around half an hour.

The list of standard goodies is impressive and includes a powered tailgate, heated and ventilated front seats, panoramic sunroof and smartphone wireless charging.

And lastly, if you want a sleek-looking EV which comes fully loaded with kit head to the Leapmotor C10...a large SUV which offers increased passenger space and added versatility. When compared to the B10, the C10 sees power rise to 215bhp...and the 0-60mph sprint



drops to 7.5 seconds. Overtaking and motorway cruising don't come any more relaxed than this.

Hop inside and you'll find a 14.6-inch infotainment screen and 10.25-inch digital driver display...all of the goodies mentioned in the previous models plus a premium audio system which'll blow your socks off. There's a raft of safety equipment included as standard...one of the reasons why the C10 has a 5-star Euro NCAP safety award.

This model provides a compelling choice for buyers wanting EV practicality with family-friendly space and gadgetry as standard.

Prices start at £36,500 (Feb '26)

Oh...and do you fancy a 5-door coupé style car with frameless doors and 19-inch alloys? Yes? No problem...the Leapmotor BO5 will land sometime this year.

There'll also be another SUV, the BO3X...a compact electric model...which arrives in the autumn.

Leapmotor's range currently spans from city hatchbacks to family SUVs...but it's going to grow and offer more options to more buyers. While the brand is still young in Britain, its Stellantis partnership and value-focused strategy are positioning it as an upcoming, major player in the UK EV market.

PEUGEOT PLAYS THE NUMBERS GAME

Great deals for 208 and 2008...latest 308 and 408 ready to launch.

It's tricky keeping pace with Peugeot because they have a steady stream of new and updated models arriving on what seems like a monthly basis.

Peugeot has always made cars with a sporty yet comfortable ride...economical too...and aimed fair and square at the driver.

We've always liked the Peugeot 208 and it's 2008 stablemate. There's a new electrically powered 208 GTi arriving shortly.

As we hinted at in the headline, there are some cracking deals on the 208 and 2008 now. For example, the Peugeot 2008 1.2 Pure Tech Allure 5dr is available with a £246 initial rental, followed by £246 11 months rental. If you fancy the Peugeot 208, check out the 1.2 Hybrid 110 5dr E-DSC6 which is available with a £299 customer deposit followed by 47 months at £299...6.9% APR.

The interiors of both cars are really smart...you'll love the small steering wheel. It's about the size of a medium pizza and you view the instruments over the top of the wheel.

What about some of the new cars that will be landing very shortly?

First up is the new Peugeot 308 available also as an estate...or SW as Peugeot calls it...Station Wagon. Both are available in Allure, GT, and GT



Premium trims, each boasting advanced features. Four powertrains are available... fully electric, plug-in hybrid, hybrid and diesel. If you do a high mileage and regularly travel with a decent load, go for the diesel. If you do a lot of city work, the electric models will be ideal.

Notable upgrades include a more efficient electric powertrain with a 279-mile range on the hatchback and a 275-mile range on the SW. That works out as an increase of around 25 miles over the previous model. Three levels of regenerative braking are now available, easily adjusted via steering wheel paddles. Oh, and don't assume that this latest model is going to bump up the price compared to its predecessor.... it doesn't. In fact, pricing for the 308 and 308 SW is lower and of course the electric versions also qualifying for the Electric Car Grant (ECG).

Next will be the new Peugeot 408. It looks fabulous and benefits from Peugeot's new exterior lighting. It's very natty.. Inside, the i-Cockpit dashboard continues in front of the driver (good). You can choose from three powertrains: electric, 1.6 litre Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV) and 1.2 litre mild hybrid. The PHEV model can manage 53 miles on electric power only...ideal for those of you with



a short-ish commute. If you want to go 100 per cent battery, the Peugeot E-408 gets a predicted range of 283 miles... impressive.

Peugeot is also adding additional models to its E-3008 and E-5008 models...and they offer some terrific performance. As well as having an electric motor powering the front axle, one is now being fitted to the rear axle which means you get all-wheel drive. Power tops out at a healthy 320bhp which equates to a 0-60mph time in the E-3008 of 6.0 seconds. Range also climbs to a terrific 303 miles in the E-3008 and 289 miles in the larger E-5008. These are hugely impressive figures.

And of course, as with every Peugeot, they're great to drive.

In other words, when you look at the Peugeot range, you have a terrific selection of styles, prices and performance. What's not to love.



For more information

click here



Peugeot 2008

1.2 PureTech Allure 5dr Petrol Estate

Estate | Petrol | Manual

Initial
Rental
£246

24 Month
Personal Hire
£246

Personal Contract Hire (PCH)

Initial rental	£246
11 monthly rentals of	£246
Term	12 months
Mileage	10,000*

- PEUGEOT i-Cockpit with 10" high definition capacitive touchscreen
- Lane keep assist • Front and rear parking sensors
- 6 speakers radio with mp3 compatible • Driver attention warning
- Eco LED headlights • Automatic air conditioning with pollen and active carbon filter



Peugeot 208

1.2 Hybrid 110 GT 5dr
e-DSC6 Petrol Hatchback

Hatchback | Petrol | Automatic

Initial Deposit	47 PCP Payments	6.9 APR
£299	£299	

Representative example for:

Peugeot 208 1.2 Hybrid 110 GT 5dr e-DSC6 Petrol Hatchback

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)

Customer Deposit £299, 47 Monthly Payments Of £299, Cash Price £21,108, Amount of Credit £20,809, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £11,069, Total Amount Payable £25,421, Duration Of Agreement 48 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 6.9%, **Representative 6.9% APR (Fixed)**, Cash Price after £3,250 Peugeot and £2,243 Vertu Contributions

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Hylton Riverside,
Sunderland, SR5 2TB
0191 357 6519

Vertu

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EXCITEMENT MOUNTS FOR THE ARRIVAL OF NEW VOLVO EX60

And it collects a prestigious award just one day after its global reveal.

When it comes to giving awards, there's one group of judges who are more critical and picky than any others... the general public.

Which is why when the all-electric Volvo EX60 won the Reader Award at the 2026 What Car? Awards, just one day after its global reveal, it shows how important to a lot of people this new Volvo is going to be.

The What Car? judges commented: "The 2026 vote was the closest for years, highlighting the strength of the competition. However, ultimately it was the Volvo EX60 that pulled ahead, and it's easy to see why when you look at its style and specs. Among premium brands, Volvo is undoubtedly setting the standard for interior quality. Mixing first-rate assembly standards with materials that look and feel expensive, its cars are unmatched in this area, whether you're looking for a small SUV, a huge seven-seater, or something in between."

Praise indeed. Order books are now open...deliveries start in the late summer.

The EX60 can reach a best-in-class 503 miles on a single charge in an all-wheel drive configuration. You can add up to



211 miles of range in just ten minutes when using a 400kW fast charger.

In other words, the EX60 turns range anxiety into range comfort and demonstrates that going electric is no longer a compromise. Design, engineering, hardware and software all work together to create a car that optimises driving range and matches many petrol cars.

The EX60 is available with three different powertrains. The P12 AWD Electric model offers the class-leading range of up to 503 miles, while the P10 AWD Electric clocks in at a range of up to 410 miles. A rear-wheel powered P6 Electric variant delivers up to 385 miles of range.

There'll also be a Volvo EX60 Cross Country, providing all the benefits found in the EX60. It's aimed at folk who enjoy trips into the countryside for a bit of light off-road work...crossing a field or using a rutted track. It sits 20mm higher than the 'standard' EX60 and has air suspension which can lift the body even higher. It gets wider wheel arches, some



underbody protection and additional skid plates front and rear. First up will be a P10 AWD Electric with up to 397 miles of range. Others follow later in the year.

Multiple other models across the Volvo range were also recognised by the What Car? judges for design, interior, and usability because as well as the massive win for the EX60, Volvo collected five other accolades...

EX30 – best interior of any small electric SUV

XC40 – best family SUV interior

EX40 – best family electric SUV interior

XC60 – best premium SUV interior

XC90 – best plug-in hybrid for big families

Although Volvo is a company which is becoming heavily biased towards fully electric power with SUVs like the EX60, EX90, EX40 and EX30, EC40 crossover and ES90 saloon, they don't forget that a lot of people want to continue with traditional petrol power for now, so if you are in that category, you'll love Volvos mix of hybrid and mild hybrid SUVs and estate models.

In other words, the best idea is have a chat with the sales team...they'll find the right Volvo for you.



For more information

Click here



WHATCAR?

**CAR OF
THE YEAR
AWARDS
2026**

READERS' CHOICE
VOLVO EX60

V O L V O



Meet the new fully electric Volvo EX60

With a progressive silhouette, elegant Scandinavian design and up to 503 miles range* (P12 battery).
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Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3SG
01642 673251

*Range based on preliminary data (from internal tests) for P12 battery, official data not yet available and may vary depending on driving behaviour and other external factors.

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NEW MODELS AND NEW LONG-TERM WARRANTY FOR MAZDA

Get ready for a flurry of new models arriving at Mazda

Mazda's range is getting a makeover. There are new, exciting models arriving very shortly.

Mazda is reviving the Mazda6 as a fully electric fastback called the Mazda6e. It's a stunner...a sleek silhouette with frameless doors, a sporty roofline and a distinctive lighting signature. It's an EV alternative in the mid-size segment and offers a potential range of 348 miles and rapid charging from 30 to 80 per cent in around 15 minutes. Mazda helpfully does a conversion for us...that equates to 146 miles...enough time to grab a coffee at a service station. These are impressive figures. This car gives Mazda a significant new electric model beyond its MX-30.

The Mazda6e is on sale now with deliveries due to begin very shortly.

Prices for the 6e kick off from £38,995 for Takumi trim, with the Takumi Plus model available at around £39,995. Both trims come with a brand-new 78 kWh battery which powers a motor on the rear axle, producing 254bhp. That equates to a 0-60mph time of 7.6 seconds. Top speed is 109mph. Reliability is a strong point for any Mazda...but for additional reassurance, the all-new

Mazda6e is offered with a 6-years or 100,000 miles warranty. The electric battery warranty provides cover for 8 years or 100,000 miles. You're protected against the unexpected.

Hop inside and you'll find the cabin mixes modern tech with a clean, premium layout: a 14.6-inch central touchscreen pairs with a 10.2-inch digital instrument cluster. Fitting a head-up display is a bonus too. The boot offers around 336 litres of space, and there's an additional 72-litre frunk up front for extra practicality.





The Mazda6e essentially revives the Mazda6 name for the electric era, taking the place of the petrol-powered model that was discontinued in 2023, and establishes Mazda's intention to compete seriously in the mainstream EV segment.

The order book is open for the Mazda6e...join the queue. If you fancy a competitively priced, seriously good-looking car with plenty of standard kit, and a reputation for being totally reliable, the Mazda6e ticks the boxes. Oh, and if you like the sound of the Mazda6e but prefer something perhaps a bit more versatile, no problem, there's a Mazda

CX-6e EV SUV arriving later in the year.

What about the other models coming-up for Mazda?

We reckon the third generation CX-5 is going to continue our love affair with this car. It's a UK favourite. There's a big change under the bonnet. The 2.0 litre engine has gone, replaced by a 139bhp 2.5 litre unit giving you a 0-60mph time of 10.5 seconds. You can also get AWD. The interior has been given a revamp... looks smart.

Both the Mazda CX-60 and CX-80 SUVs are receiving upgrades. Enhancements

include new interior trim options, refined exterior styling (like 20-inch alloys on certain grades) and additional active safety tech across the line-up.

The iconic MX-5...now the world's best-selling rag top...makes every day seem like a summer's day. Looks great...smashing to drive...and more comfortable than ever.

Urban motoring doesn't get any better than in a Mazda2 Hybrid.

The Mazda3, available as both a hatchback and a saloon, offers stylish family motoring with efficient engines and strong build quality. We love it. We're also fans of the SUV version...the CX-30.

If you need something bigger, check out the current Mazda CX-60 or their flagship 7-seater Mazda CX-80

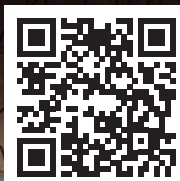
Exciting times at Mazda.

MAZDA2 HYBRID CENTRE-LINE

£227 PER MONTH[^]
£2,041 INITIAL RENTAL

MAZDA2 HYBRID FINANCE EXAMPLE

Initial Rental	£2,041.00
Monthly Payment	£227.00
Profile	9+35
Annual Mileage	6000
Duration of Agreement	36 months
Excess Mileage Charge Applies	pence per mile



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HYUNDAI i20 MOTABILITY... GREAT CAR...GREAT PRICE.

The Hyundai i20 is an ideal car for Motability.

If you qualify for the Motability scheme, here's a tip....go and check out the Hyundai i20.

Not only is it a great car to live with...it's also cracking value.

Various Hyundai models are available for Motability users...but the i20 is arguably one of the best all-rounders because it is so versatile. It's comfy, nicely equipped, ideal for urban and town use but can also easily keep pace with quicker traffic on motorways.

When it comes to which Hyundai i20 to go for...you'll be struggling to make a choice because, at the last count, there were 12 different trim levels and different deals to go for...however the one we



seriously like is the Black Line model which uses a perky 1.0 litre turbocharged petrol engine mated to a manual transmission which, incidentally, is one of the slickest 'boxes we've ever tried. 0-60mph comes up in a shade over 10 seconds. Go easily and you'll get close to Hyundai's predicted 57mpg.

With an advance payment of just £199 and using your total mobility allowance as the PIP, you'll be quickly onto the road.

There's plenty of room for 5 people and, because of the compact exterior dimensions, it's a great car for punting around town doing stuff like the school



run, shopping, going to the tip or heading for a night out. It's also versatile thanks to having 4 wide-opening doors and a hatchback which gives you entry to a handily sized boot. Holiday trips will be a doddle.

The interior comes with all the essentials such as satellite navigation, heated front seats, heated steering wheel, rear privacy glass, seriously bright automatic LED headlights, powered windows, cruise control, rear view camera, rear parking sensors and a host of safety equipment.

And of course every Hyundai comes with their cracking 5-year, unlimited mileage warranty and 5-year roadside assistance.

As we said at the start...Hyundai i20...great car...great deals...great for Motability users.



i20
BLACK LINE
1.0T 90PS 6MT
(Motability Offer)

Available from

£199 Advance Payment**

- Heated Front Seats • Heated Steering Wheel
- 10.25" Touchscreen Satellite Navigation (including Mapcare & Live Services), Apple CarPlay & Android Auto
- Privacy Glass • LED Headlights

Terms and conditions:
T&Cs apply. i20 Black Line from £199 advance payment. Ends 31st March 2026.
Image shown for illustrative purposes only.



For more information

Click here

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site, their dedicated team will ensure it is brought to the centre promptly so you can explore it in person.

Every Lloyd Select used car is appointed with a standout package of benefits, to ensure peace of mind for every journey. This includes; extensive 12-month Unlimited Mileage Warranty, Up-to-date MOT and MOT Test Cover, 12-Month Roadside Assistance, 97-Point Vehicle Inspection, Vehicle History Checks and



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2dr Step Auto
Tech Plus, M Sport Pro Packs
● Lloyd Select Newcastle

£24,950
47,740 Miles



2024 (24) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A35 4Matic
Premium Plus 5dr Auto
Heated Seats, Panoramic Sunroof
● Lloyd Select Newcastle

£36,450
12,648 Miles



2024 (74) POLESTAR 2 220kW 82kWh
Long Range Single motor 5dr Auto
360 Degree Camera, 300 Range
● Lloyd Select Newcastle

£27,950
15,180 Miles



2021 (70) FIAT 500 1.0 Mild Hybrid Star 3dr
Sunroof, Parking Sensors, Sat-Nav
● Lloyd Select Newcastle

£9,995
18,278 Miles



2021 (71) TESLA MODEL 3 Long Range AWD 4dr Auto
300 Mile Range, 15" Screen
● Lloyd Select Newcastle

£19,750
49,057 Miles



2024 (24) LEXUS LBX 1.5 Premium Plus 5dr E-CVT
Reverse Camera, Head Up Display

£28,450

Lloyd Select Newcastle

10,903 Miles



2022 (22) VOLKSWAGEN T-ROC 1.0 TSI Style 5dr
Adaptive Cruise, Sat-Nav, Park Assist

£17,450

Lloyd Select Newcastle

33,661 Miles



2022 (22) AUDI A8 L 50 TDI Quattro Vorsprung 4dr Tiptronic
Bang & Olufsen, Head Up Display

£36,950

Lloyd Select Newcastle

51,338 Miles



2023 (23) AUDI A3 S3 TFSI Quattro Vorsprung 5dr S Tronic
Bang & Olufsen, Nappa Leather

£35,950

Lloyd Select Newcastle

41,245 Miles



2024 (24) KIA SPORTAGE 1.6T GDi HEV GT-Line S 5dr Auto
Panoramic Roof, Harman Kardon

£27,495

Lloyd Select Newcastle

15,544 Miles



2023 (23) MERCEDES-BENZ GLB 200 AMG Line
Premium 5dr 7G-Tronic

7 Seats, Heated Seats, Reverse Camera

£26,490

Lloyd Select Newcastle

28,485 Miles

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Warranty



Up-to-date
MOT and MOT
Test Cover



12-Month
Roadside
Assistance



97 Point Vehicle
Inspection



Vehicle History
Checks



2018 (68) BMW X3 xDrive20d M Sport 5dr Step Auto
M Sport Pro Pack, Harman Kardon

£21,650

Lloyd Select Newcastle

61,436 Miles



2019 (68) BMW 3 SERIES 320d M Sport 4dr Step Auto
Comfort Pack, Technology Pack

£20,750

Lloyd Select Newcastle

50,779 Miles



2020 (20) BMW 4 SERIES 420i M Sport 5dr Auto
Heated Seats, Parking Sensors

£18,250

Lloyd Select Newcastle

49,953 Miles



2021 (21) AUDI A5 35 TDI Sport 5dr S Tronic
Sat-Nav, Heated Leather Seats

£20,950

Lloyd Select Newcastle

56,100 Miles



2021 (21) MERCEDES-BENZ GLC 220d 4Matic
AMG Line 5dr 9G-Tronic
Sat-Nav, Heated Seats

£26,450

Lloyd Select Newcastle

36,154 Miles



2022 (22) MINI HATCHBACK 1.5 Cooper Exclusive 3dr Auto
Comfort Pack, Rear Parking Sensors

£17,950

Lloyd Select Newcastle

40,047 Miles



YOU CAN'T BEAT A BIT OF WIND IN THE HAIR, FLIES IN THE TEETH MOTORING.

Norman Jones and his BMW Z4.

As you can probably guess, we're car crazy here at AutOh! magazine...and it's great to meet people who have a similar passion for their cars, like Norman for example.

As you can see from the photos, Norman is the proud owner of a BMW Z4, finished in Sapphire Black with 19-inch alloys...bet it looks stunning on a sunny day which, to be fair, we've not had many of so far this year.

"To be honest, even if it's a miserable day, I still enjoy going out for a drive with the roof down," said Norman. "I'm lucky the car has a hard top to keep the weather out if I have to do a longer motorway journey. Because you're sat so low, it's always a nightmare if you get stuck behind a lorry on a rainy day...it's like being in a submarine!"

Norman's BMW Z4 has a 2.0 litre twin turbo petrol engine. It's one of the rarer models fitted with a walnut and leather interior. Norman is the second owner, buying it in 2016 from a dealer in Durham.

"I paid around £20,000, but the Z4 was always something I'd fancied. It was 18 months old but had only done 6500 miles and didn't have a mark on it...still

hasn't. My previous car was a Renault Megane Convertible. I bought that car because I'd never had a drop-top and thought I'd give it a go. I was hooked. There really is nothing better on a summer's day than going along with the breeze in your face, enjoying all of the smells and sounds around you.

"I regularly go to visit relatives in Hertfordshire and can drive along loads of country lanes and around places like Windsor. I have to say that there just feels something rather special about driving and riding in a car with the roof down."

Reliability has never been a problem. Norman has the car serviced according to the scheduled time and mileage, but apart from changing a gasket when the engine developed a minor oil leak, everything about the car is totally original.

And he has plenty of admirers who also know a thing or two about having a head-turning car.

"I'm a steward supervisor for Sunderland Football Club and cover both the Stadium of Light and the Academy of Light. I use the same car park as the players at Cleadon and I'm chuffed to say that several first team players often come over for a look at the car. As everyone in the North East knows, the weather up here can be a bit temperamental, so it's a rarity for me to leave the car with the roof down...the seagulls can be a bit of a hazard too. But there was one day when I was busy and one of the players rushed over to tell me it was raining. Phew. I've only been caught out once and needed a load of towels to dry the seats. I learned my lesson."

Were there any downsides to having a BMW Z4?

"Yes...I now go out for a drive when I would previously have ridden my bike. My fitness levels have taken a bit of a hit! Oh, and I have a mate who's 6ft 2in and he finds it a bit tight in terms of headroom. It also helps if you're reasonably agile when it comes to clambering in and out...but...other than those minor points it's a brilliant car to drive, ride in and own. I certainly have no plans to sell it. I'm off for a ride around the Yorkshire Dales when the weather picks up...can't wait."



VOLKSWAGEN ARE TRIPLE WINNERS AT CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS.

T-Roc, ID.7 Tourer and ID.Buzz drive off with gongs.

The What Car? Car of the Year awards are the most coveted of UK automotive awards. Any winning vehicle will have been thoroughly tested and, probably more important, has been compared against its rival. To earn a winning gong and beat the opposition takes some doing.

But Volkswagen managed to win three awards.

If we had to pick the biggest of the three awards, we'd go for the Volkswagen T-Roc collecting the gong for Best Small SUV. That will have been a fiercely fought category, and for the new T-Roc to win is no small achievement.

This latest second-generation Volkswagen T-Roc only went on sale at the start of 2026. It's available in the UK with Life, Style and R-Line trims and builds on the success of its predecessor with expressive design details, bold new colours, a high-quality interior and even more space for luggage and passengers. Assist systems and technologies from higher vehicle classes are included and, in the future, it will feature a completely new full hybrid powertrain.

The T-Roc is Volkswagen's most successful SUV after the brand's global best seller - the Tiguan.

Steve Huntingford, What Car? Editor, said: "Inside, the new Volkswagen T-Roc feels much classier than its predecessor,

thanks to a higher standard of assembly, sharp onscreen graphics and the widespread use of fabric and soft-touch plastics. But, at the same time, the T-Roc continues to offer the relaxed driving manners that have always been its forte. Indeed, its low noise levels and plush ride are now on a level that no other small SUV can match."

What about the other awards?

Volkswagen's ID.7 Tourer claimed Best Electric Estate title for second successive year. The ID.7 Tourer is Volkswagen's first ever battery electric estate car. With five people on board, it can accommodate up to 605 litres of luggage. This figure leaps to 1,714 litres... and a load area that's almost two metres long...with the rear seats folded down. Steve Huntingford added: "Despite facing increased competition in the past 12 months, the Volkswagen ID.7 Tourer remains the best electric estate car around. It's a spacious and practical choice, with a boot that shames most rivals. But with an official range of up to 422 miles, it can also go usefully farther

than most of them between charges, and you'll enjoy those longer journeys, because it rides bumps well and is extremely quiet."

And finally, Volkswagen's ID. Buzz won Best Seven-Seat MPV award.

Spaciousness and practicality are a given for the ID. Buzz. Long family journeys are doddle thanks to the 292-mile range. And this excellent performance doesn't come at the expense of style. The retro-inspired design continues a long tradition of Volkswagen supporting a sense of adventure.

"The Volkswagen ID. Buzz is one of the biggest and most practical MPVs you can buy," said Steve Huntingford. "It offers the comfort and refinement of a luxury SUV, and while we don't award marks for style, it undoubtedly has this in spades, which brings further tangible benefits in the form of strong resale values and competitive finance rates."

Volkswagen...they're winners.





VERTU VAUXHALL VAN CENTRE IS THE BUSINESS.

Vertu Sunderland is now an official Vauxhall Van Business Centre.

You know when a dealership is given official status by a vehicle manufacturer, that the sales and service team know their stuff.

Well, that's what's happened to Vertu Vauxhall Sunderland...they're now an official Vauxhall Van Business Centre. In other words, when it comes to considering a new or used van, you can have full confidence in knowing that they're going to point you in the direction of a van which will perfectly suit your requirements in terms of size, versatility, power option and price.

There really is something in the Vauxhall van range for every business....and every

van is available with either diesel or full electric power.

You can choose from the compact Combo Cargo which offers a one tonne payload...Vivaro which increases your load potential to 1.4 tonnes...or the mighty Movano which can carry up to two tonnes. It even has a towing capacity up to three tonnes and can be bought in three different heights and lengths, which means it's the perfect van for every transportation task and is built to maximise efficiency.

For those of you with an eye on running costs, take a close look at the electric versions of each van. The Combo Cargo can achieve up to 213 miles on a full charge...the Vivaro stretches that to

219 miles while the Movano can reach a terrific 263 miles. In other words, when you go electric with any of the Vauxhall vans you can enjoy lower running costs, zero fuel and emissions costs, plus government incentives for road taxes and charging solutions. A charge from 0-80 per cent takes around an hour.

Oh, and electric power is a sensible move for the drivers because they'll benefit from near-silent running, no gears, and an Electric Drive Mode Selector which gives greater control over vehicle handling, range and running costs.

No matter which Vauxhall van you go for, one thing is certain...it's a smart business move.

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FORD FIESTA REPLACEMENT (SORT OF) GOES ELECTRIC

Petrol engine Puma the UK's BEST SELLING CAR gets a battery powered stablemate and a UK £3,750 Government Electric Grant.

When Ford killed off the Fiesta in 2023, a lot of folk were surprised. It was still selling well and continues to remain a firm favourite on the used car market.

But something had to go as Ford began the move to electrification. Next for the chop was the Ford Focus...the final model rolled off the assembly line in late November '25.

A lot of the underpinnings of the Puma are Fiesta based and of course it fits in with the current trend for SUVs and crossovers as opposed to 3 and 5-door hatchbacks.

So, here we have the electric Ford Puma called the Puma Gen-E.

Battery powered...tick. SUV / Crossover...tick. Compact...tick.

We're off to a good start.

It's good to drive...the heavy battery gives the Puma a low centre of gravity and helps make the car feel seriously secure if you decide to push on through some corners. Yes, it's fun. Granted, the ride is a tad firm at town speeds. where, of course, this sort of car will spend a lot of time, but once you get moving on the quicker stuff, it's fine.

Ford give you an estimated mileage from a full battery in the region of 259 miles. I was unlucky to have the Puma Gen-E in the North East when we had 6 inches of snow and minus 3 temperatures. A full charge gave me 162 miles and it seemed to drop like a stone when on the move. To be fair to the Puma, this is a problem affecting every electric car, but what it means is that the Puma Gen-E will be ideal for those who don't



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travel long distances on a regular basis and, even better, can charge the car overnight at home or at work. Batteries and cold weather are a poor mix. Longer journeys will need to have a bit of slack built into them. Thankfully the Puma charges quickly...0-80 percent in just over 20 minutes on a rapid charger. You can adjust the amount of regeneration...one pedal driving is available and makes town driving simple.

Ford is something of a rarity in that the company also gives an estimated total mileage if you drive at motorway speeds...so...the 259 miles suddenly becomes 192 miles in ideal conditions.

There's only one model in terms of power. The power output is 166bhp which gives you a 0-60mph time of 8 seconds and a top speed of 99mph.

There are two levels of trim...Select and Premium. Select kicks off everything at

£27,045 (Jan 26). This price includes a current promotion, but you'll need to check with your local Ford dealer to see what's available. You get goodies such as sat nav, front and rear parking sensors, 17-inch alloys, LED headlights, intelligent cruise control, wireless mobile phone charging, and auto wipers. There's a squared-off steering wheel (you get used to it) so that it's easier to read the 12.8-inch driver display. It works.

Add a couple of grand if you want to move up to Premium trim which adds stuff like a powered tailgate, Bang & Olufsen audio, rear view camera, keyless entry, powered and heated door mirrors, matrix headlights and 18-inch wheels. We'd probably go for the higher trim. Just about everything is controlled via the 12-inch central touchscreen including climate and driving modes.

There's loads of legroom up front...space in the back is good, although the floor is quite high...it's got the battery underneath it. The boot is surprisingly large...523 litres. There's a 'frunk' under the bonnet for charging cables.

The Ford Puma is the UK's top-selling car. We're not surprised. It looks smart, drives well, has a surprising amount of interior space and is decently equipped. The pricing is also competitive.

The arrival of the Gen-E version merely adds to the choice facing buyers who like this type and size of car...it's a welcome addition to the Ford range.

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BIG NEWS...HONDA CIVIC e:HEV WINS FAMILY CAR OF THE YEAR.

HONDA WINS AWARD FOR RELIABILITY...NOTHING NEW THERE THEN.

Honda has secured two major honours at the 2026 What Car? Awards.

First up is the Honda Civic winning Family Car of the Year. We're not surprised because it's one of the most economical and rewarding cars to drive in the UK.

The second award is no surprise. Honda took home the reliability gong following the What Car? reliability survey.

The Civic's win follows a minor model update, introducing a refreshed exterior and subtle interior enhancements which elevate premium refinement and comfort while maintaining efficiency and performance.

Steve Huntingford, Editor of What Car? said:-

"The Honda Civic is one of the most spacious and practical family cars on sale. Plus, it manages to combine a comfortable ride with fun handling. Its hybrid set-up delivers gutsy performance, quiet running, and superb real-world fuel efficiency. And, if you buy on PCP finance, you get all of this for a competitive price."

Honda's reliability record, which earned the company the year's reliability accolade. Huntingford added:-

"While Honda always performs well in the annual What Car? Reliability Survey, 2025 saw it move to the top spot. For starters, it had the lowest fault rate of any brand. And on the rare occasions that problems did occur, these were put right swiftly and at no cost to owners."

Although Honda's lineup will steadily move towards electrified powertrains, the brand is boxing clever by offering buyers a choice of power with a mix of hybrids, plug-in hybrids (PHEVs) and fully electric vehicles (EVs), aimed at meeting diverse driving needs, from city commuting to family travel.

You also have a really good choice of sizes...there's something for everyone.

If you fancy a compact model, there's the Honda Jazz...a self-charging full hybrid, ideal for urban drivers and small families. If you fancy a more SUV-styled variant, there's the Jazz Crosstar Hybrid which adds a higher ride height and rugged styling cues, blending the Jazz's clever space with crossover flair.

The award-winning Honda Civic Hybrid e:HEV is an AutOh! favourite. It's a good looking, family hatchback which excellent driving dynamics and terrific economy thanks to the self-charging e:HEV system that switches intelligently between electric and petrol power. The Civic is roomy with a large boot, making it a good choice for everyday use and

longer journeys.

Honda HR-V e:HEV sits in the mid-size SUV category and is one of Honda's most popular models. It's versatile without sacrificing efficiency. If you need something a bit larger, check out the ZR-V.

At the top end of Honda's SUV range is the CR-V, available as both a full hybrid (e:HEV) and a plug-in hybrid (PHEV). The hybrid delivers long driving range and all-wheel-drive with excellent economy, while the PHEV manages up to around 50 miles on pure electric power, ideal for shorter commutes without using any petrol.

The Honda Prelude Hybrid is arguably the most distinctive offering. It's a coupe that blends performance attributes with hybrid efficiency, standing out among Honda's lineup for drivers who want more character and fun.

Lastly, if you want to go down the electric route, aim for the Honda e:Ny1 which is

Honda's first fully electric SUV, pairing zero-tailpipe emissions with SUV practicality and a respectable driving range

Honda...ultra reliable and offering a mix of model styles and power options. Perfect.

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VERTU MOTORS... MAKING A SPLASH WITH BYD

BYD continues their aquatic theme as Vertu Motors opens new dealership in Morpeth.

Vertu has expanded its BYD (it used to have the longer moniker of Build Your Dreams) network with the launch of a new dealership in Morpeth, situated adjacent to its existing Ford site on Coopies Lane in the town.

The redeveloped site, which is Vertu's second BYD dealership in the North East, features a suite of modern facilities tailored to BYD's ever-increasing range of new vehicles, including dedicated EV servicing bays, rapid charging stations, and a digitally enhanced showroom experience.

Whilst BYD is well known for full electric models such as the Atto 2, Atto 3, Dolphin Surf and Seal, the best seller in the range is currently the plug-in hybrid (PHEV) Seal U DM-i which benefits from innovative dual-mode hybrid technology and is currently the top-selling plug-in hybrid in the UK.

Further showcasing its blend of innovation, sustainability and value, BYD recently expanded its PHEV range. First up is the Seal 6 DM-i, quickly followed by the Sealion 5 DM-i. The latter offers a staggering estimated potential range of 631 miles if you make full use of the hybrid technology. Because it's a PHEV, under the bonnet you'll find a 1.5 litre petrol engine which, in tandem with the electric system, develops a healthy 209bhp. If you go gently, and mainly at

town speeds, you can manage 53 miles using the battery alone, but if you need power, or the battery runs out of juice, the engine joins the party...although you wouldn't know it. It's seamless. If you have a short-ish daily commute round trip, you should be able to do it without using any petrol. Brilliant.

Throw in the fact that this is a fully equipped, roomy car, available at a seriously tempting price, you can see why it could turn out to be BYD's top seller.

We recently tried one of its BYD stablemates, the Sealion 7, which joins the Seal, Surf and Dolphin in their stable of aquatic cars. Only the BYD Atto miss out on any watery link.

It's a good-looking car. No surprises there because it's designed by the former head of design at Alfa Romeo. Showroom appeal is strong. It's called 7 because it's the 7th BYD to be available in Europe.

The BYD Sealion 7 is an all-electric SUV. BYD market the car as a performance

SUV. It's quick, even in entry level Comfort form which has a single 308bhp motor driving the rear wheels. 0-60mph comes up in a respectable 6.7 seconds. Range is predicted to be 300 miles. There's also a twin motor version with a second motor powering the front wheels, making the Sealion into all-wheel drive. You'll manage a 10-80 per cent charge in about 23 minutes on a rapid charger.

Hop inside and, if you've enjoyed the exterior, you'll love what you find. It's all rather plush and roomy...very roomy. There'll be no complaints from any 6-footers about a lack of kneeroom in the rear.

To be honest, bearing in mind that there's very little difference in the trim levels, we'd stick with the Comfort model. Okay you miss out on the AWD capability, but with a 0-60mph time of 6.7 seconds, it's quick enough for most drivers.

And, in the realm of fully equipped electric cars, it represents good value...as does the rest of the BYD range. Chuck in the benefit of Vertu's terrific reputation for customer service and it's easy to see that this new BYD dealership in Morpeth will fly.

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CITROËN MAINTAIN SALES AND TROPHY WINNING RUN

C3 Aircross, C5 Aircross and Berlingo van collect the accolades

To be mentioned at any point in the UK Car of the Year (COTY) awards, means that a particular car or manufacturer is worthy of serious consideration.

Well, the good news for Citroën is that their new C3 Aircross has won the Small Crossover category at the 2026 UK Car of the Year Awards and stands a chance of winning the overall award later this spring.

Available with mild hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and fully electric powertrains, the award recognises the model's exceptional blend of comfort, versatility and value, hallmarks of Citroën's refreshed design philosophy. In other words, it's among the most highly regarded new vehicles launched over the last twelve months.

If you like a bit of comfort, the Citroën C3 Aircross is fantastic. Citroën have always prided themselves on providing a cushy ride and comfy seats. The C3 Aircross ticks both of those boxes. But the car is much more than that....it looks smart, drives well, is nicely equipped and is keenly priced.

It's basically a slightly larger and slightly higher riding version of the Citroën C3, but it's designed to appeal to folk who



prefer something that offers greater versatility.

Here's what three of the highly experienced judges said about the Citroën C3 Aircross....

Alex Grant..."There's a little of the 2CV's well-chosen mix of practicality, equipment and pricing in the new C3 Aircross. It's a spacious yet compact family-mover with all the kit you need, including an optional third row of seats and versatile electric model."

Paul Hudson..."Vastly underrated: well-priced, comfortable and cheap to run."

Alisdair Suttie..."This car strikes that fine balance between being a versatile small crossover with being quirkily Citroën to perfection. Fun, function, and fanciable."

Praise indeed.

But it doesn't stop there for Citroën because the all-new Citroën C5 Aircross has been awarded "SUV of the Year" by Company Car & Van, highlighting the model's outstanding blend of electrified performance, comfort, and value, making it a standout choice for business drivers.

Available with mild hybrid, plug-in hybrid, and fully electric powertrains, the Citroën C5 Aircross delivers flexibility for every business users need. The electric e-C5 Aircross impresses with a driving range of more than 400 miles, offering business users long-distance efficiency without compromise.

The judging panel praised the C5 Aircross for its distinctive design, competitive pricing, particularly against new international rivals, and Citroën's signature comfort, powered by Advanced Comfort through cushioned seats and Progressive Hydraulic suspension.

If you fancy something in-between that's not (quite) an SUV, go and check out the Citroën C4. It's a 5-door hatchback with a coupé profile. If you a bit more space, go for the C4 X. And yes, you can get it as an all-electric car with a potential range of 257 miles. Handy.

As well as a cracking range of cars, Citroën is also well known for its commercial vehicles...which is reflected in the news that the Citroën Berlingo Van was best-selling small van in the UK last year. It forms of the Citroën van range that includes Ami Cargo, ë-C3 Van, Berlingo Van, Dispatch and Relay. The whole range is available with a fully electric variant, and it's worth pointing out that the ë-Berlingo Van is manufactured at Ellesmere Port, the UK's first EV-only volume manufacturing plant.



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DACIA IS EUROPE'S TOP SELLER.

Sandero is No.1

Next time you go along to the pub quiz, here's a question you can ask your mates...and impress them.

What was the top-selling car last year in Europe?

You'll probably get an answer which includes the name of one of the recognised so-called 'big manufacturers.'

Well, they'd be wrong, because the most popular new car to be bought last year across Europe was the Dacia Sandero. This isn't some sort of fluke either because the Sandero won the title in 2024 as well. What that means is quite staggering...just over one in every 50 cars sold in Europe last year, was a Dacia Sandero. Wow. In other words, Dacia's formula of offering all the essentials in a modern, robust and affordable package is continuing to resonate with consumers.

And we wouldn't be at all surprised if 2026 turns out to be another record year because the Sandero and its Sandero Stepway stablemate, have been updated. Oh, and if you're not sure of the difference between the two models...the Dacia Sandero is a budget-friendly hatchback which rates as the UK's cheapest car, while the Dacia Sandero Stepway is a rugged crossover version of the same car, featuring 40mm higher ground clearance, SUV-style body cladding, and modular roof rails. The Stepway offers a higher driving position and more rugged styling, but both share



similar interior space and practicality.

Both models have been given a refreshed exterior design with Dacia's new inverted-'T' LED light signature and redesigned front and rear bumpers, giving the pair a more modern and robust appearance.

The Sandero Stepway further strengthens its adventurous character with additional body protection. Inside, both models benefit from Dacia's clever YouClip accessory system, an upgraded 10-inch multimedia screen with enhanced connectivity, and the availability of a wireless smartphone charger.

Both are comfy, decent to drive and, despite the seriously competitive pricing, are neatly finished off inside. Surprisingly roomy too.

Need something larger...head for the Dacia Jogger...a versatile 7-seat family car which is one of our favourites here at AutOh! It's distinctive, practical, and blends MPV flexibility with estate car versatility.

The Jogger's modular seating and generous cargo capacity make it perfectly suited to larger families or those who need extra space on demand. Recent updates have added improved safety tech, USB-C connectivity and refreshed styling, while hybrid versions offer better fuel efficiency. It's great to drive and comes with a terrific list of

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standard equipment. Cracking value.

SUVs are the flavour of the month (decade in fact), and if you like that sort of style and versatility but still want to tick the value box, then the Dacia Duster will be ideal.

The Duster continues Dacia's ethos of rugged, simple, and affordable SUV motoring, offering a range of petrol and hybrid engines that balance economy with everyday usability. Three trims are available...Expression, Journey and Extreme...but there's only around £2500 between the price of the entry level trim and the top-spec Extreme, so we'd shell out the extra dosh. The heated front seats and heated steering wheel are worth every penny.

If you'd like some additional space, go for the Dacia Bigster...it's Dacia's current flagship car.

Slowly but surely, Dacia is getting around to electrification. First-up is the Dacia Spring. It follows the Dacia tradition of stunning value for money...but this one is 100 per cent battery powered. Range is predicted to be in the region of 138 miles which, for those of you with a short-ish commute, should see you manage Monday-Friday on a full charge. 0-60mph is just over 12 seconds, but that's sufficient for a car that is likely to spend most of its life in town traffic.

This line-up reflects Dacia's strategy of offering practical, no-nonsense vehicles that deliver great value for UK drivers, while hybrid and battery power hint at exciting models in the Dacia pipeline.

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