

August/September 2026

autoh!

the North East's own motor magazine : issue 27



AION – Where 8 is the magic number.

p4-5



PEUGEOT
Range offers something for everyone. p36



MAZDA
EV executive express arrives. p18

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Million pound dream machines – start saving!

Campervan beats the airport queues

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welcome to **autOh!**

This is the 27th 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.

When you flick through autOh! you'll spot the influence that Chinese manufacturers are having on the UK car trade. You'll now see a host of exciting models coming through from AION, BYD, Changan, Geely, Leapmotor, MG and Chery. Some of those names will be new to you, but we suspect

they'll become very familiar over the next few years. Watch this space.

The UK is a haven for 'staycationers', so it's only right that we should soak up some of the countryside with a campervan...the aptly named Citroen Holidays.

If the National Lottery drops a few millions into your lap, we've got some suggestions where you can spend your dosh. Feast your eyes on six of the most desirable cars ever to come out of the Bugatti and Rolls-Royce stable. You'll need a hefty win mind you!

You could of course take up motor racing instead. We speak to one of the country's most respected coaches and, good news, he's based here in our region.

There are updates from the rest of the UK manufacturers, and we check out a car that could be ideal for those of you who qualify for Motability assistance.

Oh, and following on from the last edition of autOh! where we spoke to Sir Peter Vardy, (if you missed it, it's on our website) we hear from another key figure who made a significant mark on the North East motoring scene.

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

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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PREMIER LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Audi – tops for quality

Have you heard the phrase 'honed from granite'?

Hop into any car in the Audi range and you will understand precisely why that phrase fits the German manufacturer perfectly. Solid build, top quality materials, great ergonomics, understated but seriously classy design. No wonder their models are so popular.

Few premium manufacturers offer a line-up as broad as Audi. Whether you're searching for a compact city car, a practical family SUV, a luxurious executive saloon or a cutting-edge electric vehicle, the German brand has a model to suit almost every lifestyle. The current UK range blends sophisticated design, advanced technology and renowned quattro all-wheel-drive capability across petrol, diesel, plug-in hybrid and fully electric powertrains.



At the entry point sits the Audi A1, a stylish supermini that's perfect for first-time premium buyers, young professionals and anyone wanting an easy-to-drive hatchback with upmarket quality.

Up next is the A3 which remains one of Britain's favourite premium family cars, available as a Sportback hatchback or Saloon. It suits commuters, small families and company car drivers looking for comfort, efficiency and technology. It's one of our all-time favourite cars.

The A5 replaces the previous A4 in Audi's latest line-up and offers elegant saloon and Avant estate versions. Okay, beauty is in the

eye of the beholder, but we reckon the A5 Avant is one of the most stylish cars on the UK market. It's an ideal choice for business users and families wanting executive refinement without moving into full-size luxury territory. The Avant would be perfect for family holidays.

For those covering high motorway mileages, the A6 provides exceptional comfort and long-distance cruising ability, while the A6 e-tron brings fully electric performance and impressive range for drivers ready to embrace zero-emission motoring. Keep an eye on film premieres, fashion shows, TV award nights, and you're very likely to see an Audi A6 dropping off the latest Hollywood star. You can even get the A6 Avant as a hunky Allroad version.

At the top of Audi's saloon range sits the A8, a flagship limousine aimed at executives, chauffeurs and buyers seeking ultimate comfort, craftsmanship and cutting-edge technology.

Audi's SUV family continues to grow in popularity. The compact Q2 is ideal for urban drivers who like a higher driving position without the size of a larger SUV. The Q3 offers greater practicality and family-friendly versatility, making it one of the brand's biggest sellers. The electric Q4 e-tron provides all the benefits of an SUV with silent, emissions-free driving, while the Q5 remains the perfect all-rounder for families balancing performance, practicality and premium quality.

Moving further up the range, the all-electric Q6 e-tron combines advanced technology with long-range capability, appealing to buyers wanting a modern luxury EV. The spacious seven-seat Q7 is built for large families and those who regularly carry passengers, while the sleek Q8 delivers coupe-inspired styling with flagship SUV luxury, making it a favourite for drivers wanting maximum road presence.



Audi's electric performance offering is led by the stunning e-tron GT, a four-door grand tourer that blends breathtaking acceleration with elegant design. It's aimed at enthusiasts who want sports car performance without compromising on everyday usability.

Performance enthusiasts are equally well catered for by Audi's celebrated S and RS models. Available across much of the range, these high-performance variants offer sharper handling, more powerful engines and aggressive styling while remaining practical enough for everyday use.

From the compact A1 to the luxurious A8, from the versatile Q2 to the flagship Q8 and the growing family of e-tron electric models, Audi's UK line-up demonstrates why the brand remains one of the country's most desirable premium manufacturers. Whatever your lifestyle, mileage or driving ambitions, there's an Audi engineered to fit the journey.



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Explore the full
Audi model range.



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Newcastle Audi
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AION – SHERWOODS ARE KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

AION cars are now available at Sherwoods, one of the North East's leading family-owned car dealers.

The arrival of AION in the UK marks an exciting new chapter for electric motoring, bringing a fresh approach to design, technology and value.

Backed by one of the world's largest automotive manufacturers, AION has already established a strong reputation in international markets, and its UK line-up is set to appeal to drivers looking for premium electric vehicles with outstanding ownership benefits.

And the AION cars are available through one of the region's most trusted, family car dealerships...Sherwoods. You can see the AION cars and take a test drive at the Sherwoods dealership in Durham.

Leading the range is the impressive AION V, a spacious all-electric SUV that combines modern styling with everyday practicality. Powered by a fully electric powertrain, the AION V delivers smooth, silent performance along with a driving range of up to 317 miles making it equally at home on daily commutes or longer journeys. Rapid charging capability allows the battery to recharge from 30 to 80 per cent in as little as 18 minutes at compatible ultra-rapid charging stations, helping drivers spend less time waiting and more time on the road. The generous interior, advanced driver assistance systems and premium specification make the AION V a compelling choice for families and business users alike.

AION also keeps it simple...there's only one trim, although you can opt for a Premium Pack which adds stuff like leather upholstery and a cool / hot box which keeps your groceries frozen, drinks bottle chilled or takeaway warm. Fancy a nap? The seats fold flat. Clever stuff.



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Joining the range in the autumn is the eagerly anticipated AION UT, a stylish compact electric hatchback designed for modern urban life. Featuring AION's advanced all-electric powertrain, the UT promises agile performance, impressive efficiency and the latest connected technology. Its compact dimensions make it ideal for city driving, while its contemporary design and clever packaging ensure there's plenty of space for passengers and luggage. The UT is due in the Sherwoods Durham dealership in the next month or so and will broaden the appeal of the AION brand by offering an affordable yet highly sophisticated electric vehicle for first-time EV buyers and experienced electric drivers alike.

One of the biggest reasons to choose AION is the brand's exceptional ownership package. Every new AION comes with the impressive AION Great 8 Promise, one of the most comprehensive packages available in

the UK. This includes an eight-year vehicle warranty (up to 100,000 miles), an eight-year battery warranty (up to 125,000 miles), eight years of scheduled servicing, eight years of roadside assistance and MOT cover until the vehicle reaches eight years old. It is a level of reassurance rarely matched in the industry and demonstrates AION's confidence in the quality, durability and reliability of its vehicles.

That package is worth its weight in gold and is as good a reason to buy an AION as anything else.

Buying your AION from Sherwoods offers even greater peace of mind. Rather than purchasing from a faceless national chain, you'll benefit from knowledgeable local experts who are committed to supporting customers throughout their ownership journey, from choosing the right model to servicing and aftersales care.



Whether you're drawn to the versatile AION V or looking forward to the arrival of the compact AION UT, choosing AION means embracing innovative electric technology, outstanding value and industry-leading customer support. You can also expect a steady flow of additional AION models in 2027...more electric and the arrival of conventional PHEV (plug-in hybrid) cars. Exciting times.

And when you choose Sherwoods, you've also got the trusted family values of an established local business with a proud reputation for looking after motorists across the North East for generations.



DREAM MACHINES START SAVING

Rolls-Royce and Bugatti show how it's done.

When it comes to the most expensive cars in the world, it's tricky to narrow it down. For the record, the most expensive car ever sold was a 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR which was sold at auction in 2022 for a scarcely unbelievable £107million. What would you do with it...pop to the tip?

We could have gone for just about anything from Ferrari including the gorgeous 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO which, in comparison, was downright cheap at £37million. Then you've got a smattering of cars from Pagani, Aston Martin, Porsche, Maserati, Lamborghini, Jaguar, McLaren, Alfa Romeo and even one of our personal favourites, the AC Cobra. You can probably think of others including so very obscure vehicles.

But we've decided to go with two other iconic brands and featured some of their recent models...one of which has just rolled off the assembly line for the last time.

Here we go with our pick of dream machines from Rolls-Royce and Bugatti.



£23 million: Rolls-Royce Drop Tail

Few cars command attention quite like this Roller. Sculpted with extraordinary precision, this ultra-exclusive roadster blends timeless elegance with breathtaking performance. Its sweeping silhouette, bespoke craftsmanship and lavish interior create

an experience far beyond ordinary motoring. Built for an exceptionally select clientele...only two have been built...the Droptail is less a car than a rolling masterpiece where luxury, artistry and individuality meet. It does have a removable hardtop which we're guessing is probably fairly heavy, although we don't expect the Drop Tail owners to be the folk who'll be doing the lifting. It features a natty glass sunroof which can be dimmed.



£10.4 million: Bugatti La Voiture Noire

The Bugatti brand was founded in 1909 by Ettore Bugatti, an Italian-born designer in the French town of Molsheim. Bugatti cars are still hand assembled there...as is this masterpiece of carbon fibre which blends dramatic elegance with breathtaking performance. Beneath its sleek silhouette lies an 8.0-litre quad-turbocharged W16 engine, delivering an astonishing 1,500 horsepower. Inspired by Bugatti's legendary Type 57 SC Atlantic, this one-off hypercar is more than transportation...it is a rolling piece of art, combining

exclusivity, engineering brilliance and unmistakable French sophistication in one extraordinary machine. It's big. Bet you can't open the doors in a multi-



storey car park.

£22 million: Rolls-Royce Boat Tail

Inspired by the elegant lines of luxury yachts, this extraordinary grand tourer blends handcrafted artistry with effortless performance. The Boat Tail embodies exclusivity at its most extravagant...only three examples have been built. We doubt you'll ever see one. It's a shame that when these cars appear at auction, they only have a handful of miles on the clock. It's powered by a 6.75-litre twin-turbocharged V12 engine producing around 563 horsepower which delivers hugely impressive performance for such a large, heavy, luxury car, with a top speed of 155 mph and 0-60 mph of about five seconds. We can't think of another car that comes with standard kit like a parasol and a set of picnic tables and chairs.



£7.5 million: Bugatti Centodieci

The Bugatti Centodieci is an ultra-exclusive hypercar powered by an 8.0-litre quad-turbo W16 engine producing 1,578 bhp. It was built to celebrate Bugatti's 110th birthday. Standard equipment includes permanent all-wheel drive, a seven-speed dual-clutch gearbox, carbon-fibre components, performance-focused aerodynamics and bespoke leather interior detailing. Its performance is extraordinary, reaching 0-60 mph in just 2.4 seconds and 0-180 mph in a staggering 13.1 seconds. Bugatti decided it would be a good idea to limit the top speed to 230 mph. 10 have been built. It's heavily influenced by the Chiron models which we reckon are some of the most beautiful hypercars ever built.



£10 million: Rolls-Royce Sweptail

The Rolls-Royce Sweptail is a one-off bespoke luxury coupé powered by a 6.75-litre V12 producing 453 bhp. Its performance is effortless rather than focused on outright speed, delivering powerful, smooth grand-touring ability. Built for a private client to their specification, it features a huge



panoramic glass roof, a hand-polished solid-aluminium grille, luxurious bespoke wood and leather, and a unique champagne-bottle system... naturally. Its design was influenced by 1920s and 1930s Rolls-Royces, particularly swept-tail models, as well as classic racing yachts, reflecting the owner's passion for yachts and private aircraft. The car is based on a Phantom Coupé and, as you can see from the photo, has one of the most complicated glass roofs ever made.



£4.5 million: Bugatti Mistral

This could very possibly be the ultimate roadster: an open-air hypercar that has only recently ended production, with the final example leaving Molsheim in July 2026. Beneath its sculpted body sits a thumping

8.0-litre quad-turbo W16 producing just under 1,600 bhp, enough to propel this two-seat masterpiece to a staggering 260 mph. Good luck trying to keep your hat on. Inside, luxury comes lavishly, with milled aluminium and titanium details all over the cabin, woven-leather door panels and an exquisite wood-and-amber gear selector which Bugatti refer to as automotive theatre without compromise. Hmm. We're not experts at this sort of thing, but we reckon this could be the fastest roadster ever built, which is sort of appropriate as the Mistral is a wind that blows down the Rhone River in France. Whooooosh.

So there you go. It's hard to believe that if you were to win £20 million on the lottery, you'd still be left scratching around for a few quid to by a car. No... not a fleet of cars...just one, solitary car.

But that's what can happen.

In fact, it's rather surprising to discover that if you won £5 million and wanted a flash motor, you'd have a decent choice.

We're still looking for loose change down the back of the sofa.



HYUNDAI CARS ARE WINNERS

And that's official.

The motoring press can be a critical bunch...and we're one of them...but when a car collects an award, you know that it has been compared with the opposition, and studied for reliability, price, amount of standard kit, comfort and style.

When it wins, you know that it's good.

And if there is one Hyundai grabbing attention in 2026, it's the Hyundai Inster. Sitting somewhere between a traditional city car and a compact SUV, this all-electric newcomer has been designed for urban life while offering enough practicality to make weekend trips a realistic proposition. Despite its compact footprint, the Inster boasts a surprisingly spacious cabin thanks to its tall roofline, flat EV floor and clever sliding rear seats.



That's why it was named the What Car? Best Small Electric for the City, Which? City Car Best Buy, and TopGear.com Supermini of the Year.

Buyers can choose between a 42kWh battery with an official range of up to 203 miles or a larger 49kWh long range version capable of up to 229 miles on a single charge, making it one of the most convincing small electric cars currently on sale. The entry-level model is generously equipped with twin 10.25-inch digital displays, satellite navigation, climate control, adaptive cruise control, a heat pump, battery heater and 15-inch alloy wheels. Step up the range and you'll find heated seats and steering wheel, LED headlights, reclining rear seats and even the rugged-looking Inster Cross, which adds SUV-inspired styling, a panoramic sunroof and enhanced safety technology.

The Inster is ideal for commuters, first-time EV buyers and anyone downsizing without sacrificing comfort or technology. It delivers Hyundai's trademark value-for-money formula while making electric motoring more accessible than ever.

Beyond the Inster, Hyundai's UK range is one of the broadest in the industry, covering almost every type of driver. The i10 remains one of Britain's favourite city cars, offering low running costs and impressive reliability, while the larger i20 appeals to young families and motorists wanting an affordable supermini with plenty of equipment. Drivers looking for a stylish hatchback with a sportier edge will find the i30 continues to offer excellent value against more expensive European rivals.

SUV buyers are equally well served. The Bayon is aimed at urban motorists wanting a raised driving position without the bulk of a large SUV, while the Kona has become one of Hyundai's standout success stories. Available with petrol, hybrid and fully electric powertrains, it's perfect for buyers who want flexibility and modern styling.



Families needing more room should look towards the Tucson, one of the UK's best-selling SUVs, thanks to its blend of comfort, technology and efficient hybrid and plug-in hybrid engines. At the top of the range sits the Santa Fe, a bold seven-seater that combines premium levels of comfort with genuine practicality for larger households.

Hyundai also continues to strengthen its electric credentials. The futuristic Ioniq 5 remains one of the most desirable EVs on the market, while the sleek Ioniq 6 offers impressive efficiency and long-distance capability. The Ioniq 9 offers room for seven adults. Buyers wanting cutting-edge technology without luxury-brand prices will find these models difficult to ignore.



Whether you're after an economical first car, a dependable family SUV or a cutting-edge electric vehicle, Hyundai's current line-up offers something for virtually every budget and lifestyle. The arrival of the Inster simply strengthens a range that has become one of the most complete on the UK market.

And it's a winner...officially.



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Hyundai Inster

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Customer
Deposit
£199

0%
APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai Inster 71 kW 01 42kWh 5dr Auto

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) Pay monthly then buy, swap or return, Customer Deposit £199, 48 Monthly Payments Of £199, Finance Deposit Contribution £3,750†, Cash Price £22,005, Amount of Credit £18,056, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £8,508, Total Amount Payable £22,005, Duration Of Agreement 49 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 0%, Representative 0% APR (Fixed).



Hyundai i20

1.0T GDi 90 Element 5dr Petrol Hatchback

48 Monthly
Payments
£259

Customer
Deposit
£1,000

5.9%
APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai i20 1.0T GDi 90 Element 5dr Petrol Hatchback

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) Pay monthly then buy, swap or return, Customer Deposit £1000, 48 Monthly Payments Of £259, Cash Price £18,890, Amount of Credit £16,890, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £7,391, Total Amount Payable £21,823, Duration Of Agreement 49 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 3.04%, Representative 5.9% APR (Fixed).



Hyundai Tucson

1.6T Advance 5dr Petrol Estate

48 Monthly
Payments
£299

Customer
Deposit
£5,000

4.9%
APR

Representative example for:

Hyundai Inster 71 kW 01 42kWh 5dr Auto

Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) Pay monthly then buy, swap or return, Customer Deposit £5,000, 48 Monthly Payments Of £299, Finance Deposit Allowance £1,750†, Cash Price £29,275, Amount of Credit £22,524, Fees NIL, Optional Final Payment £11,559, Total Amount Payable £32,661, Duration Of Agreement 49 Months, Annual Mileage 6,000*, Fixed Rate of Interest 2.52%, Representative 4.9% APR (Fixed)

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

Hyundai Sunderland
Wessington Way,
Castletown
Sunderland SR5 3NX
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DISCOVER THE KIA RANGE

Smart, Stylish and Built for Every Journey

Few manufacturers have transformed their reputation quite like Kia. Once known primarily for affordable motoring, the Korean brand now offers one of the UK's most impressive line-ups, combining striking design, advanced technology and exceptional value. Whether you're a first-time buyer, a growing family or looking to make the switch to electric driving, there's a Kia to suit almost every lifestyle.

One of Kia's biggest selling points is its cracking 7-year/100,000-mile warranty, providing buyers with long-term peace of mind and demonstrating the brand's confidence in its vehicles' reliability. It's a standout feature that continues to attract private buyers and business users alike.

So, let's have a look at what's available from Kia.

The compact Picanto remains one of the UK's most popular city cars. Easy to park, economical to run and surprisingly well-equipped, it's the ideal choice for new drivers, commuters and anyone who spends most of their time navigating busy urban streets.



If you prefer to go all-electric but still have compact dimensions, you'll love the Kia EV2. Go for the model with a bigger battery and you'll get 283 miles between charges.

Next up you'll find models like the stylish Kia EV3 as well as the seriously



popular Stonic...it's a favourite among motorists wanting a practical crossover / SUV. Offering comfortable seating, efficient engines and generous equipment levels, it's perfectly suited to couples, small families and everyday commuting. The pretty K4 hatchback is also worth a look.

Drivers looking for a more adventurous style will appreciate the Xceed, a crossover that blends hatchback handling with SUV-inspired looks. Its slightly raised driving position makes it particularly appealing to those wanting easier access and better visibility without moving to a full-size SUV.

The hugely successful Sportage has become one of Britain's best-selling SUVs for good reason. It's one of our favourite cars. Spacious, refined and available with petrol, hybrid and plug-in hybrid powertrains, it caters brilliantly to growing families and company car drivers alike. A generous boot, impressive safety technology and comfortable cabin make it equally capable on school runs and long-distance holidays. The PHEV is lively...0-60mph takes 7.5 seconds. You can even get all-wheel drive...handy if you live out in the sticks.

For buyers needing even more space, the good looking Sorento offers seven seats, premium levels of comfort and strong towing capability. It's ideal for larger families, caravan owners or anyone regularly carrying passengers and luggage.

Kia has also become a major player in the electric vehicle market. The award-winning EV6 combines dramatic

styling with rapid charging capability, impressive performance and long-range practicality, making it a fantastic choice for drivers ready to embrace all-electric motoring. Go for the GT version and use the launch device, and you can hit 60mph from zero in 3.5 seconds.

Meanwhile, the flagship EV9 delivers bold SUV styling, seating for up to seven and cutting-edge technology, offering a premium electric experience that rivals far more expensive competitors. The newer EV3 brings Kia's latest electric technology into a more compact, affordable package, making EV ownership accessible to an even wider audience.

Across the range, buyers benefit from intuitive infotainment systems, advanced driver assistance features and impressive build quality. Whether choosing a petrol, hybrid, plug-in hybrid or fully electric model, Kia consistently delivers excellent value for money alongside modern styling and dependable engineering.

Kia's expertise extends beyond passenger cars, too. Its growing commercial vehicle offering includes the striking and innovative PV5 electric van, designed for businesses seeking efficient, zero-emission transport. Available in multiple configurations, it promises the same blend of practicality, technology and reliability that has made Kia's passenger vehicles so popular, helping businesses prepare for an increasingly electric future.

Oh, and Kia has a reliability record that's up with the best.

They're winners.



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SCANDINAVIAN STYLE MEETS ELECTRIC PERFORMANCE

From zero to premium in six years.



It's hard to believe the Polestar brand has only been with us since early 2020 when the Polestar 2 arrived in the UK, although some of you may remember that Volvo did have a performance version of their S60 saloon and V60 estate cars in 2014.

But, since then, Polestar has gone its own way, although the company is owned by Geely which also owns Volvo so there's bound to be some crossover which, to be honest, isn't a bad thing because they're both cracking brands.

Polestar has quickly established itself as one of the UK's most desirable premium electric car brands, combining smart Scandinavian design with impressive technology and sustainable materials. They're also terrific to drive. Let's go through the Polestar models available here in the UK.

The current range consists of the Polestar 2, Polestar 3 and Polestar 4, with additional models on the horizon including the Polestar 5 which is now available to order and should arrive on our shores by the end of the year.

The Polestar 2 is the company's best-known model and remains the ideal entry point into the brand. It combines everyday practicality with sharp handling, generous electric range and a high-quality cabin featuring Google's excellent operating system. Available in single and dual-motor configurations, Polestar 2 appeals to company car drivers, commuters and families looking for a premium alternative. 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.

Moving up the range is the Polestar 3, a large SUV designed for drivers who need extra space without sacrificing performance. With its spacious interior, advanced safety systems, long-distance comfort and powerful dual-motor drivetrain, the Polestar 3 is aimed at growing families and business users who regularly cover long motorway journeys. Depending on the version you go for, there's rear-wheel or all-wheel drive. The most powerful model is a flyer...0-60 mph in 3.8 seconds in Performance spec. Super-rapid chargers can give you a 10-80% battery boost in only 22 minutes. Impressive.

The Polestar 4 occupies the space between the 2 and 3, blending the practicality of an SUV with the sleek profile of a coupe. It's 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 it looks really smart. Its most distinctive feature is the lack of a rear window. It takes a while to get used to but, hey, van and truck drivers manage using their wing mirrors so why can't car drivers?



If you want shattering coupé performance and style, you need to drool over the Polestar 5 and its 800+ horse power. It'll be the brand's luxurious flagship four-door Grand Tourer.

Further ahead, the Polestar 7 is planned as a compact premium SUV that targets one of Europe's fastest-growing electric vehicle segments, making the brand accessible to an even wider audience, and there's even talk of the Polestar 6 electric roadster finally getting the green light.

With a growing line-up that covers executive saloons, luxury SUVs and high-performance grand tourers, Polestar is positioning itself as one of the UK's leading premium electric vehicle manufacturers. Whether you're a business driver, family buyer or performance enthusiast, the expanding Polestar range offers a distinctive blend of Scandinavian design, advanced technology and sustainable innovation that continues to set it apart from the competition.



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Polestar



www.stoneacre.co.uk/polestar

Number
Stoneacre
Motor Group

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



FED UP OF AIRPORT QUEUES... NOT ENOUGH SPACE IN YOUR CASES...YOU NEED HOLIDAYS.

Citroen Holidays campervan offers an alternative.

We have a problem with sun and heat in our family. I'm fine... my dad used to say I could get a tan on a moonlight night... but my wife is the other extreme. She's the classic fair hair, blue eyes, pale skin person who doesn't tan...she just burns. She wears a hat the size of a sombrero.

Which is why we're fans of 'staycationing'... and fans of campervans. Let's face it, this country is a great place for a holiday, and this summer has been glorious.

We timed it perfectly because we had a Citroen Holidays when it was sunny but not too hot. This is Citroen's campervan version of their Dispatch van which has a cracking reputation for racking-up the miles and being a serious workhorse.



The same vehicle is used for the Citroen SpaceTourer MPV.

In a nutshell, the Holidays is an easy-to-drive vehicle with a pop-up roof, a four-berth sleeping arrangement, kitchen, swivelling front seats, and an outdoor shower setup which we suspect will be used mainly for rinsing off a muddy dog.

There was just the two of us and I reckon four adults might be a bit of a squeeze, but for a family with two early teenage kids, it'd be fine. The kids could sleep 'upstairs' in the pop-up section (1.2m x 1.95m). It's a bit of a fiddle, but I suspect once you've raised and lowered the roof a few times, you'll get the hang of it. Undo the locking mechanism and some straps and then push...a pair of gas struts make it easy to lift.

The main double bed (1.15m x 1.9m) is a case of juggling the rear seats and adding additional cushions.



The kitchen is a neat bit of kit which can be unmounted and placed outside for some al fresco dining using the attachable table. You get a two-burner gas stove, sink, running water and a 16-litre fridge. Heating can be programmed and of course, as it's a van, you've got air con. You get plenty of storage space and there's a removeable toilet. Water comes from a 10-litre tank... the waste water tank is the same size.

The ambient lighting provides a nice glow at night and, once you swivel the front two seats, there's a real fun factor to dining in the Citroen Holidays. On a balmy evening, you can dine with both side sliding doors flung open...don't attract the wretched midge though.



There's just a single level of trim too, but you get sat nav, 10-inch touchscreen, heated driver's seat, heated steering wheel, 180-degree parking camera, DAB radio, LED headlights, interior curtains, wireless smartphone charging, and dark tinted rear windows. Plenty of safety kit too.



Okay, you're never going to have the amount of space and versatility that you'd get with a motorhome, but the beauty of the Citroen Holidays is that it's easier to use. For example, because it's van-based, it will fit into most car parks which have a height restriction. When visiting a city, it's simple to park on the roadside.

You can hook-up to mains electricity if you're on a campsite, but if you are the adventurous, off-grid type, there's an onboard leisure battery which not only charges as you drive along using a hybrid system, there's also a solar panel on the roof which trickle charges the battery. Clever.

The Citroen Holidays is also substantially cheaper than a motorhome and is one of the most cost-effective campervans in the UK, retailing at £56,430 (June '26).

You'd never call the interior plush, but it looks hard wearing and should cope with the sort of knocks a campervan can expect. It'll age well...something that's important when the time comes to sell.



It's also worth mentioning that if there are just two of you using the Citroen Holidays, you can remove the rear pair of seats altogether and use the additional space for carrying bikes or bulky equipment.

If you're looking for a decent option for doing some holiday touring but don't want to break the bank, the Citroen Holidays is a great option. You get all of the essentials in a sensibly compact vehicle which can travel and park just about anywhere. Yes, there are more premium campervan products out there plus plenty of motorhomes, but they cost considerably more while still offering much the same as the Citroen Holidays.

And if you're thinking of joining the campervan crowd, this would be a great place to start.

Don't forget the Travel Scrabble.



Out on the road, the Citroen Holidays (like the Dispatch van) is good to drive. The 2.0 litre diesel engine offers plenty of grunt and the ride is surprisingly compliant. A lot of campervans do long distance trips...hopping over to the Continent...but this Citroen should eat up the miles without a hiccup. Estimated economy is 38.7mpg, but we did better than that at just over 40mpg. 0-60mph takes a shade over 10 seconds which is sufficient poke for when joining quicker roads. Top speed is 106mph. Everything goes via a smooth 8-gear auto 'box'. There are no mechanical options.





26 BYD SEALION 5 DM-i

1.5 DM-i COMFORT 5DR
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BYD - HELPING YOU TO BUILD YOUR DREAMS

Chinese giant is now an established favourite in the UK

BYD (originally called Build Your Dreams, but they've just gone with the initials over the last couple of years) has become one of the fastest-growing car brands in the UK, offering a wide range of electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrids that combine impressive technology with competitive pricing.

And their range continues to grow with some really exciting recent arrivals.

Oh, and more are in the pipeline.

The current UK line-up caters for a variety of buyers and they're all available at Arnold Clark in Newcastle. The compact Dolphin is an affordable all-electric hatchback that's ideal for commuters, first-time EV owners and small families, while the Dolphin Surf offers an even smaller, city-friendly alternative. Those wanting a practical crossover can choose the Atto 2 or the larger Atto 3 EVO, both offering generous equipment levels and a comfortable driving experience. The stylish Seal saloon appeals to drivers looking for strong performance and long-range capability, while the Sealion 7 is a spacious electric SUV aimed at families and company car users. Buyers wanting the flexibility of a plug-in hybrid can also choose

models such as the Seal U DM-i, Seal 6 DM-i, Seal 6 DM-i Touring estate and Sealion 5 DM-i.

New additions to the range continue to broaden BYD's appeal. The Shark 6 is a rugged plug-in hybrid pickup that combines impressive towing ability with modern technology, making it suitable for tradespeople, outdoor enthusiasts and anyone who wants the practicality of a pickup without relying solely on petrol or diesel.

The Ti seven-seater (Ti 7 DM-p) is aimed at larger families who need extra passenger space while benefiting from hybrid efficiency and the latest safety technology.

Meanwhile, the new Dolphin G DM-i is designed as an affordable compact hybrid hatchback, delivering the smooth driving experience of an electric car while providing the reassurance of a petrol engine for longer journeys. BYD says it has been developed specifically with international markets, including Europe, in mind.

BYD vehicles appeal to a wide range of motorists. Families will appreciate the spacious SUVs and seven-seat options, while business users and fleet operators are attracted by low running costs, generous standard equipment and attractive benefit-in-kind taxation on electric models. Drivers switching from petrol or diesel for the first time may find the plug-in hybrid DM-i models particularly appealing, as they offer electric driving for everyday trips while retaining the flexibility of a combustion engine for longer



distances. Younger buyers are also drawn to BYD's modern interiors, large rotating touchscreens and advanced driver assistance features.

One of BYD's biggest selling points is its comprehensive warranty package, which provides added peace of mind for buyers who may be new to the brand. Most UK models come with a six-year or 100,000-mile vehicle and an eight-year or 125,000-mile battery warranty, depending on the model. The warranty also includes roadside assistance and reflects BYD's confidence in its technology, which has been designed for durability and safety.

Whether you're looking for a compact hatchback, a family SUV, a practical pickup or a seven-seat hybrid, the growing BYD range offers a model to suit almost every lifestyle and budget.

They're good to drive, seriously stylish and easy to own. What's not to love.

The best idea is to pop into Arnold Clark's BYD dealership on Scotswood Road in Newcastle. They'll find exactly the right model to suit your lifestyle and your pocket.

They'll help you to 'build your dreams' around one of their BYD cars.





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RESURGENT RENAULT IS ON A ROLL

There's something for everyone in their range.

Renault is building serious momentum thanks to a steady stream of new and successful models.

The Clio, Captur and recently arrived Renault 5, are their top three sellers.

And as an example of how popular the all-electric Renault 5 is, it's currently the UK's best-selling EV.

From affordable superminis to stylish family SUVs and cutting-edge electric vehicles, there is now a Renault to suit almost every type of driver.

The evergreen Clio remains the brand's entry point and continues to be one of Europe's best-loved superminis. Renault have the knack of keeping it looking fresh and constantly improving how it drives. It appeals to first-time buyers, commuters and downsizers who want low running costs without sacrificing style or technology. Buyers can choose between a turbocharged petrol engine or Renault's efficient E-Tech full hybrid, making the Clio equally suited to urban driving and longer motorway journeys.

For those wanting a little more practicality, the Captur crossover builds on the Clio's strengths with a higher driving position and a more versatile cabin. It's aimed at young families and

motorists who appreciate SUV styling without excessive size. Powertrain choices include petrol and full hybrid versions, offering buyers the flexibility to prioritise either outright affordability or greater fuel economy.

Positioned between the Captur and Austral is the Symbioz, a family-focused SUV offering extra cabin and luggage space. Available with mild hybrid and full hybrid powertrains, it targets buyers who regularly travel with passengers or luggage but do not want the size or cost of a larger SUV.

The Austral is Renault's answer to the competitive mid-size SUV market. Sold exclusively with a sophisticated full hybrid powertrain, it is designed for drivers covering higher annual mileages who want excellent fuel efficiency without plugging in. Above it sits the flagship Rafale, a sleek SUV coupé available with both full hybrid and plug-in hybrid powertrains. The Rafale appeals to company car drivers and premium buyers seeking performance, efficiency and distinctive styling.

Renault has embraced electrification with enthusiasm. Remember, on January 1st 2030...unless our government changes its mind again...you won't be able to buy a new, conventionally powered car. Hybrids and PHEVs are likely to get a stay of execution, but for most buyers, it'll be electric.

The Renault 5 E-Tech Electric has quickly become one of the brand's biggest attractions, combining retro-inspired design with modern technology. Available with different battery and motor outputs, it is perfect for urban motorists and anyone making the switch to electric. It looks great and it's wonderful to drive. It ticks the boxes for most owners.

The recently launched Renault 4 E-Tech Electric offers similar technology in a



more practical crossover package, while the Megane E-Tech Electric provides a refined hatchback alternative for business users and families. We reckon the Megane is one of the best-looking cars out there. Topping the electric range is the spacious Scenic E-Tech Electric, aimed squarely at family buyers wanting long-range zero-emission motoring.

Every new Renault sold in the UK is backed by a comprehensive three-year or 100,000-mile manufacturer's warranty, with the first two years offering unlimited mileage cover. Electric vehicle batteries receive separate long-term protection, giving buyers added confidence when investing in EV technology.

Looking ahead, Renault shows no signs of slowing down. The company has confirmed that the all-electric Twingo will join the range as an affordable city car early next year, while the dramatic Renault 5 Turbo 3E is set to revive the legendary hot hatch name in electric form. The order book is open...only 1980 will be built. Prices are hinted at being around £140,000. Renault has also outlined wider plans to expand its electric and hybrid portfolio significantly over the coming years, reinforcing its position as one of Europe's most ambitious mainstream manufacturers.

As we said at the start, Renault is on a roll.



NEW RENAULT 5
E-TECH ELECTRIC
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Lookers

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I Love My Car

Steve Hughes has driven, rallied, raced and written about thousands of cars for many regional and national newspapers and presented television motoring programmes. So what is his own motoring story?

In my teens I did many menial jobs to get my dream first car, a red Mini Cooper with a black roof, inspired by the cult film, *The Italian Job*. To raise the money, I pedalled a grocery bicycle like in *Open All Hours*, delivered newspapers, washed cars, and carried hundredweight sacks of coal on my

back to customers in all weathers. A second-hand one in beautiful condition was advertised by the Coast Road Motor Company in North Shields for £500 with just one careful local owner so I bought it and loved it.

Fancying myself as the world's greatest driver, I entered the car into a forest rally aged just 17, crashed it into a tree at speed and, like the Mini, was broken.

I was then reduced to salvaging a Morris Minor Traveller for £50 from a scrapyard before reconditioning it and eventually swapping it for a Frog Eye Sprite that was sensationally good fun.

This was followed by an utterly unreliable Hillman Imp that ate its gearboxes every few weeks, then a delightfully smooth but unwieldy six-cylinder Triumph Vitesse that required



bricks in the boot to aid cornering stability.

My next car was the first of several MGB roadsters before buying a sensible Ford Escort 1.6 Ghia, qualifying as a journalist and eventually graduating to become a motoring correspondent and television presenter.

This was my entry into the world of automotive entitlement, with the latest cars delivered to my door for assessment; taxed, insured and fully tanked-up every week for 30 years. I no longer needed to buy my own and was privileged to race with Formula One icons such as Michael Schumacher and rallied with World Rally Champions like Ari Vatanen.

Imagine the shock to the system when I switched to property development and had to buy my own cars, starting with a Mercedes SL.

This was followed by the first of three Mercedes GLEs, with the last one being swapped for my current car, a Bentley Bentayga despite never having driven one because Bentley were always too snooty to let a Geordie scribe anywhere near their posh motors.

I waited a year for this one in my preferred colour with diamond cut wheels, sports exhaust and the rest of the Mulliner specification that is so important to me and probably utterly irrelevant to almost anyone else.

It cost five times as much as the Mercedes GLE but is it five times better? Er, no.



IT'S ALWAYS HANDY ARRIVING LATE AT A PARTY

Mazda 6e is Mazda's take on the executive EV market.

Mazda has always done things differently. Take the MX-5 for example. Sensibly priced and not a hatchback with the roof chopped off, it is a rarity. Rear wheel drive, brilliant to look at even more brilliant to drive.

Rotary engines. Many of you will remember the Mazda RX-8. It sounded great and looked wonderful.

And what about 100 per cent battery powered EVs?

fix and left the UK last year. In typical Mazda fashion, it looked good and was a hoot to drive.

Which brings us to Mazda's second roll of the EV dice.

The Mazda 6e. We've just got home from the model's UK launch. If you buy a car purely on looks alone, then don't bother to read any further...the Mazda 6e looks wonderful in a handsome understated way. It recently won the World Car Design of the Year gong. Showroom appeal will account for a decent number of sales. Its predecessor, the Mazda 6, was also a bit of a looker. Pat on the back for the designers back at base in Japan.

At the moment there's only a single battery and motor option for

the Mazda 6e, but others are in the pipeline. You get a 78kWh battery which goes through a 258bhp motor. There's a seriously decent potential



range of 348 miles. Power goes to the rear wheels. 0-60mph comes up in 7.9 seconds, but it feels quicker. Charging time is good too with a 10-80% top-up taking 24 minutes. These figures stack up well against the competition.

Oh, and there's no start button...just plonk yourself onto the driver's seat, flick the gear selector and away you go.

The ride is nicely controlled and, thanks to the sleek styling, there's very little wind noise. Long-legged cruising will be a relaxed affair.

There are two trim levels ...Takumi and, for an extra grand, Takumi Plus. The interior is a smart and comfy place to be. There's an upmarket feel to everything.



This is where Mazda's arrival at the party has been rather late. They did launch the MX-30 in 2021 as an all-electric car, but it was a short-term



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All versions get sat nav, 14.6-inch touchscreen, DAB radio, heated and ventilated front seats, panoramic sunroof, powered tailgate, head-up display, 360-degree parking assist, 10-inch driver display, heated steering wheel, LED headlights, adaptive cruise control and keyless entry.



Go for Takumi Plus and you now get stuff like leather upholstery, which looks gorgeous by the way, and a sunshade for the panoramic glass roof.

It's roomy too with loads of space for front and rear occupants. The boot is 466 litres which should be enough for a family holiday. There's a small 'frunk' under the bonnet where you can chuck the charging cables and a small bag.

As we said at the start, if you want a car that's going to attract admiring glances when it's sat outside your house, go for the Mazda 6e. The interior is lovely and fully equipped with everything you seriously need. The 6e is also economical with a good range, comfy and nice to drive.

Mazda may have been late to the all-electric market, but the Mazda 6e is an invitation you should take a close look at.



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MAZDA

Images are for illustration purposes only. They relate to a model in the range and not specifically the model advertised as specifications vary. Subject to status to over 18s. Indemnities may be required. Terms apply. Mazda Financial Services. ^Initial rental applies. Non-ownership. Available on new leases of cars ordered and proposed for finance between 1st July 2026 and 30th September 2026, registered and financed by 30th September 2026 through Mazda Financial Services Personal Contract Hire (PCH).

Vauxhall Mokka 1.2 Turbo Yes

5 dr Petrol Hatchback



- > Cruise Control with Intelligent Speed Limiter
- > Lane Keep Assist
- > Rear Parking Sensors
- > Speed Sign Recognition
- > 10" Digital Instrument Cluster
- > Steering Wheel Mounted Controls
- > Heated Front Seats
- > Heated Steering Wheel
- > Rear Camera rather than sensors

49 Monthly
Payments
£309

Customer
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£309

10.9% APR

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Vertu

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

WAKE UP AND SMELL THE MOKKA

Latest Vauxhall brew is a strong family car contender.

The Vauxhall Mokka is one of the UK's most popular compact SUVs, combining distinctive styling, modern technology and a choice of petrol, hybrid and fully electric powertrains. Its bold design, featuring Vauxhall's signature Vizor front grille and sharp body lines, give it a contemporary appearance that appeals to anyone who fancies a practical family car with plenty of character.

of the UK's most popular EV choices. Powered by a 54kWh battery and which feeds a 154bhp electric motor delivering instant torque, it provides smooth, quiet acceleration and is well suited to both urban commuting and longer journeys. According to Vauxhall, this latest Mokka Electric can travel up to around 250 miles on a full charge. We had one on test not too long ago and got very close to that figure on a chilly day! Rapid charging capability means you can top-up the battery from 20% to 80% in around 30 minutes. The 0-60 sprint is 9 seconds and there's a top speed

of 92mph. A typical 7kW home wallbox will deliver a full charge in around 7 hours. Plug in the Mokka Electric when you get home and you'll be ready to go the next morning. Sorted.

No matter which powertrain you go for, they're all good to drive.

As for the various trims, you have three options allowing buyers to choose the specification that best suits their needs. GS serves as the well-equipped entry model, featuring digital displays, smartphone connectivity, advanced

safety systems, LED headlights, rear view camera, front and rear parking sensors, cruise control, keyless entry and start, and stylish alloy wheels. GSE adds a sportier appearance with larger alloy wheels, enhanced interior styling and additional technology but is only available with the electric Mokka. Lastly, Ultimate trim sits at the top of the range with premium features such as upgraded upholstery, sat nav, terrific Matrix headlights, adaptive cruise control, heated front seats, heated steering wheel, and wireless phone charging.

There's only around £2250 difference between



GS and Ultimate...it's worth it.

Vauxhall build quality and design is top notch. The company is now part of the Stellantis group and can pick and choose the best bits from other brands in the stable. The interior is good to look at and has a quality feel to it. Good news...there are knobs for the audio and temperature controls.

Surprisingly roomy too.

Out on the road, the Mokka is good to drive. The driving position is quite high but, because the bonnet (which has a smart crease down the centre like the old Viva) is also quite high, you don't feel as though you're perched in a lofty position. This is really handy when driving around town.

The Vauxhall Mokka offers a comfortable driving position, compact exterior dimensions that make it easy to park, and a practical interior suitable for everyday family life. Whether choosing the economical petrol model, the efficient hybrid or the fully electric version with its impressive 250-mile range, the Mokka is a terrific choice in the highly competitive UK compact SUV market.



The Mokka range is available with three main power options. Buyers can choose a traditional 134bhp 1.2-litre turbocharged petrol engine, which offers an excellent balance of performance and economy for everyday driving. Vauxhall reckon you can manage up to 50mpg...decent. You can opt for manual or auto. There is also a mild hybrid version that pairs the petrol engine with a small electric motor to improve fuel efficiency, particularly in stop-start traffic. The hybrid system can assist with acceleration and allows short periods of low-speed electric driving without the need to plug the car in. Power jumps to 143bhp and the estimated economy is a terrific 59mpg.

For drivers wanting zero tailpipe emissions, the Mokka Electric is one



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FORMER DRIVER OF THE NORTH EAST MOTORING SCENE LOOKS FOR NEW TALENT

When you've been a senior figure at former North East motoring giants like Reg Vardy and Benfield Motors, you know that Nigel McMinn knows how the motor trade operates. It was no surprise that when Benfield was sold by the Squires family to Lookers, that Nigel was sat in the Lookers driving seat.

He was a regional director for Reg Vardy, looking after their dealers in the east of Scotland...he became Managing Director and CEO of Benfield Motors before becoming MD of the Motor Division of Lookers and eventually the company's Chief Operating Officer.

He then worked in the same role in Scotland for Fleet Alliance, heading-up a company that manages over 70,000 vehicles, until he eventually wanted to return to the North East teaming up with a former colleague who'd formed a recruitment agency. The agency, which McMinn now owns...Pybus Recruitment...is the UK's leading agency for any type of automotive recruitment. He's the MD...naturally.

And, let's face it, when you got a CV like that, it's obvious to say that Nigel McMinn knows what a suitable candidate looks like.

"I have to give massive thanks here to Sir Peter Vardy," said Nigel. "I certainly wouldn't have got to where I am without his guidance and vision. The Reg Vardy operation was

years ahead of its time...the way they operated, the way they did business, how they treated their staff and customers...it was the most wonderful learning environment for a fresh faced, newly qualified accountant. It may sound odd to say that working for Vardy's was fun, but the work was enjoyable...long hours but hugely rewarding...and Sir Peter, even though he was plainly a tough negotiator, made a complicated job seem simple and filled you with confidence. It's also why I can guarantee that if you wander into any of the established car dealers in the North East that there is a very good chance you will end up talking to someone who came from Vardy's.

"Eventually, Sir Peter felt he couldn't take the business any further and sold it to Pendragon. From then on, it wasn't the same...the culture changed. Thankfully, the Squires family at Benfield had been following my career...and the rest is history, although it just goes to show how a well run, family business can be successful...and don't forget, here in the North East we had Sir Tom Cowie who established the Cowie Group

which became what is now known as Arriva; as well as Gateshead based Vertu Motors, the only remaining UK dealer group who's shares are traded on the stock exchange. They are led by Robert Forrester...another Vardy colleague and friend of mine. There's something about the North...we like businesses which have good old family values."





So, via Lookers and the Fleet Alliance, Nigel is now MD of Pybus Recruitment.

“Over the course of my career I will have interviewed, recruited and worked with thousands of talented people. I’ve also met and made some of the best contacts in the motor trade that other automotive recruitment agencies can only dream about. And I love it because there’s nothing better than either finding the ideal candidate for a company or, vice versa, ensuring that we place an individual into the ideal position and know that they and the company they join will be successful together.”

But what about the state of the motor industry? Nigel is ideally placed to comment on current trends and what the future may hold, bearing in mind it’s been his lifeblood for 30 years.

“I think one of the biggest changes isn’t to do with the manufacturers or the dealerships. It’s down to the fact that customers are becoming less loyal to a particular brand and are really looking for the best possible deals. Those customers are also fully clued-up on the car they want and the sort of price they should be paying because there is so much information out there which can guide them to make a decision that is right for them. It’s got to the state that

it needs a sharp salesperson to know more than the customer sat on the other side of the desk.

“It’s also why the Chinese brands are so successful...they tick the boxes for a lot of buyers who want a car with the right sort of kit, a decent warranty and a good price. Many of the Chinese firms now available in the UK were an unknown quantity 3 years ago. In that short space of time, they’ve effectively gone from zero sales to accounting for approaching 17 per cent of all UK car sales. Staggering. They dominate the PHEV market with almost 44 per cent of the market and account for over a quarter of all EV sales. Those sales have come from the traditional manufacturers.

“There’s also less choice in terms of dealerships you can visit. Not too long ago, a city the size of Newcastle for example, would have 2 or 3 dealers of the same brand. Nowadays, there will only be one. We’ve gone from 10,000 franchised car dealerships to around 4,000 during my career...and many of them are foreign owned with some groups, like Stellantis or VAG, having a host of brands under their wing.

“But even now, here at Pybus Recruitment, the influence of North East family firms like Reg Vardy and Benfield, can be felt. Several of us, including founder Colin Pybus, Commercial Director Michael Scott and I, came through the Vardy and Benfield network.”

In other words, if you want to advertise to fill a position within the automotive industry or you are looking for to further or change your career and would like to be involved with vehicles, the Pybus Recruitment is the ideal place to go because you’re dealing with people who know the automotive business inside out.

Interested? You should be. For more information, go onto their excellent website www.pybusrecruitment.co.uk ... that’s where you’ll find contact details and how to both advertise or search for positions within the motor trade.

And you never know, you could be like Nigel McMinn and go on to great things and make a mark in the industry.





VAUXHALL FRONTERA - GREAT CHOICE FOR MOTABILITY USERS

Latest Vauxhall brew is a strong family car contender.

For many people, the Motability Scheme provides the freedom to travel independently, making everyday journeys simpler, safer and more enjoyable. By exchanging the mobility component of a qualifying disability benefit, eligible customers can lease a brand-new vehicle, with insurance, servicing, maintenance, breakdown assistance and tyre replacement all included in one convenient package. It's a hassle-free way to stay mobile without worrying about many of the unexpected costs of car ownership.

One of the best choices is the Vauxhall Frontera, a spacious SUV designed with practicality and comfort firmly in mind. Combining modern styling with

impressive versatility, it offers everything many Motability customers look for in a family-friendly vehicle.

Inside, the Frontera provides a high seating position that makes getting in and out simple. The cabin gives passengers plenty of headroom and legroom, while the wide-opening doors improve accessibility. Its large boot is equally practical, offering ample space for wheelchairs, mobility aids, shopping or luggage, making it ideal for everyday errands as well as longer trips.

Technology also plays an important role. Depending on the model selected, the Frontera features intuitive infotainment systems, smartphone connectivity, driver assistance technologies and parking

aids that help reduce stress behind the wheel. Safety systems such as lane-keeping assistance, emergency braking and traffic sign recognition provide additional confidence for both drivers and passengers.

The Motability Scheme also allows vehicles to be modified. You're Vauxhall dealer can tell you precisely what is available with the Frontera.

With its spacious interior, comfortable driving position, practical design, choice of petrol or electric powertrains, and strong value through the Motability Scheme, the Vauxhall Frontera stands out as an excellent choice for drivers seeking dependable, accessible and modern transport. It delivers the flexibility to support everyday independence while making every journey that little bit easier.



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GOING TO THE MAX AT CROFT CIRCUIT....WITH MAX

Max Coates... racing driver, coach and motorsport expert at Croft Circuit

If you've ever driven along the A167 between Darlington and Northallerton, there's a very good chance that you'll hear revving engines.

No, it's not the Middlesbrough players leaving their training ground at Rockliffe...it's either some racing, practicing or coaching going on at Croft Circuit. Pop in at any point and you're likely to see everything from the UK's top drivers from the British Touring Car Championship, local club racers on both two and four wheels or perhaps even the Christmas Stages Rally!

And it's been like that since 1964.

Aside from the actual racing, Croft Circuit is one of the best places in the country to learn how to drive properly... and we're lucky that one of the UK's top drivers, Max Coates is based there.

"It may sound a bit daft, but one of the best ways to know how to drive a car and experience what it will really do, how it will perform and, crucially, how it can be driven safely, is to take it onto a racing circuit and have some expert tuition," said Max. "It's not all about speed. Anyone can make a car travel quickly...getting it stopped and making it go round corners is the clever bit.

"We offer a bit of everything at Croft Circuit. I spend most of my time coaching aspiring racing drivers of all ages, but I also look after people who just want to improve their driving skills or just have a bit of fun."

Max has spent more than two decades competing at the highest levels of UK

motorsport and has built a reputation as both a race winner and an outstanding driver coach.

He followed a traditional route into motor racing by competing in karting. He began at the age of eight before progressing into cars. He's competed in a wide range of championships including the Ginetta Junior Championship, Renault UK Clio Cup, MINI Challenge, the British Touring Car Championship itself, Porsche Sprint Challenge GB and Porsche Carrera Cup GB in which he's competing this season...he started the season with a podium finish broadcast live on ITV4. Last year he had wins at Snetterton and Brands Hatch.

He's raced in more BTCC support series than any other driver.

In other words...he's good.

He's also one of the most popular drivers on the racing calendar with multiple years on the trot winning the fan voted driver of the year.

Away from racing, Max works as the Business Development Manager at Croft Circuit and is a highly qualified motorsport instructor. He is an ARDS A-qualified race driver coach and a Motorsport UK-qualified race coach, tutor and assessor. Since beginning his coaching career in 2012, he has helped hundreds of drivers develop their skills on track.

"I'm fortunate in that I have great backing from the likes of Newton Aycliffe based Primex Plastics, Plas-tech Thermoforming, Brandfixx, Drivelodge



Motorhomes, Alcema, Beatsons Building Supplies, NGK Spark Plugs to name but a few, as well as local partners like CTL Dental & Green Bricks Building. My car is prepared by Graves Motorsport. I'm also doing a job that I love. I get a real thrill out of teaching people how to be better racing drivers as well as offering tailored one-to-one tuition to anyone who wants to improve their overall driving skills. I can teach drivers to explore the limits of their car while maintaining full control."

So, if you're someone who wants to get serious about motor racing...or wants to hone their driving skills...or just have a bit of fun, Max will keep you on the right track.

Whether you're in need of a driver coach, want to organise a track day, or want to know more about sponsorship, the best idea is to contact Max and he can talk you through what's available. Email max@scorton.com or give him a call on 07783 725728. You could even pop along and watch him race on the BTCC race weekend at Croft on the 5th and 6th September.

Oh. And keep an eye out for Max on ITV4. He's in the red, black and white Porsche...at the front.



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BMW: THREE GREAT WAYS TO FIND YOUR DRIVING PLEASURE

We pick three of our BMW favs.

When it comes to the BMW range of cars, it can be tricky knowing which one to go for. Well, here are three which we reckon rank as some of the finest cars available in the UK.

There are few car brands that have made driving pleasure such a central part of their identity as BMW. Yet today, that philosophy comes in more forms than ever. From the compact BMW 1 Series to the sophisticated BMW 4 Series and the all-electric BMW iX3, the marque offers something for very different lifestyles while retaining the same focus on performance, technology and driver involvement.



At the entry point, the BMW 1 Series makes a strong case for premium motoring without demanding the footprint of a larger executive car. Its hatchback format makes it particularly appealing to younger professionals, couples and urban drivers who want something easy to live with during the week but engaging when the road opens up. Depending on specification, the range offers petrol and electrified powertrain technology, combining everyday efficiency with the responsive character expected from a BMW. It is a particularly compelling choice for buyers stepping into the premium market for the first time.



Move up to the BMW 4 Series and the mood changes. Available in Coupé, Convertible and Gran Coupé forms, the 4 Series puts greater emphasis on style, performance and long-distance refinement. Petrol engines are available across the range, (diesel has been dropped due to lack of demand) while the wider 4 Series family also includes fully electric BMW i4 models. For the enthusiast who wants a car that can turn heads outside the office and deliver genuine driving enjoyment at the weekend, the 4 Series has obvious appeal. At the sharper end of the range, BMW's performance-focused variants add yet another layer of excitement.

Then there's the BMW iX3, representing a glimpse into BMW's next generation of electric motoring. The new iX3 is fully electric and introduces BMW's Neue Klasse technology, including an 800-volt electrical architecture and the brand's new Panoramic iDrive interface. The iX3 offers all-wheel drive, with the flagship iX3 50 xDrive producing 469hp and capable of up to 500 miles predicted range. For families, business users and environmentally conscious motorists who don't want to compromise on space, technology or performance, it makes a compelling proposition.

But choosing the right BMW is about more than selecting a powertrain and ticking options. BMW places considerable emphasis on the buyer experience, from the initial showroom conversation through to servicing and aftersales support. That philosophy is particularly evident at Vertu BMW Durham, where customers can access new and used BMWs alongside servicing, MOTs, repairs, finance and parts. The dealership team will help you find the right BMW to suit your needs.

Whether your ideal BMW is the agile 1 Series, stylish 4 Series or forward-thinking electric iX3, the attraction remains remarkably consistent: a car chosen not simply for getting from A to B, but for making the journey itself something to look forward to.

Oh, and looking ahead, BMW is plotting successors to the 3 Series and X3. Watch this space.

With such a comprehensive range spanning multiple body styles, powertrains and price points, BMW will continue to be one of the most popular car brands on sale in the UK. It's not some sort of fluke that their cars are so popular.

It's 'cos they're seriously good.

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LEAPMOTOR THIS IS NO LEAP OF FAITH

The Chinese firm with plenty of European backing

For many of you reading this, buying a car is not only about colour, style and price, it's also about reputation.

This is where Leapmotor has a couple of big advantages. Okay, the name might be new to a lot of you, but when you realise that they're being sold by a local dealer with a cracking reputation... and...they're backed by the automotive giant Stellantis, the group behind Vauxhall, Peugeot, Citroën and Fiat. Throw competitive pricing, generous equipment levels and impressive technology into the mix, and you can see why Leapmotor has been a big success in a short space of time. For buyers looking to make the switch to electric, or simply wanting maximum value for money, it's becoming an increasingly compelling alternative to more established names.



No surprises that battery power is playing a key role in the current and future Leapmotor lineup. If you fancy an all-electric hatchback, one of the best around is the Leapmotor B05. This is a good-looking car...the range of 300 miles is also attractive, as is the 215bhp being fed to the rear wheels which gives you a 0-60mph time of 6.7 seconds. It comes fully loaded and is good to drive...we've tried it.

It also rides nicely on our rotten roads because the suspension has been set-up to European standards.

The entry point to the Leapmotor range is the T03, a compact five-door city car designed to tempt first-time EV buyers, downsizers and urban commuters. Despite its modest dimensions, it offers a surprisingly spacious cabin, plenty of standard equipment and a practical range of up to 165 miles from its 37.3kWh battery. It isn't intended for frequent motorway journeys, but for school runs, shopping trips and daily commuting it makes plenty of sense, especially given its bargain pricing.

Stepping up is the new B10, a mid-sized electric SUV that sits firmly in the family market. It's available as both electric and petrol hybrid. The hybrid, which pairs a 1.5 litre petrol engine with an 18.8kWh battery, can achieve a terrific estimated 559 miles if you use the hybrid system to its full extent. It'll even do 53 miles on battery power alone.

If you want 100% EV power, then try the B10 with a 67.1kWh battery delivering up to 270 miles of range. The B10 strikes an appealing balance between practicality, performance and affordability. Families will appreciate its generous passenger space and high specification, while company car drivers benefit from the low Benefit-in-Kind tax rates that continue to make electric vehicles attractive.



At the top of the current range sits the C10, a larger SUV. Available as an EV or with Leapmotor's range-extender 1.5 litre hybrid system, the C10 offers greater flexibility than many rivals. The petrol engine acts solely as a generator, reducing range anxiety without driving the wheels directly. It is an appealing option for motorists who regularly cover longer distances but aren't yet ready to rely entirely on charging infrastructure.

One of Leapmotor's strongest selling points is its straightforward approach. UK models are offered in a single, generously equipped trim, avoiding lengthy options lists and ensuring buyers receive features such as advanced driver assistance systems, large infotainment screens, heated seats and premium materials as standard. The brand also provides reassurance through a four-year or 60,000-mile vehicle warranty, while the high-voltage battery is covered for eight years or 100,000 miles.

The line-up is set to expand further. Towards the end of this year, the B03X is due to arrive. It's an electric SUV largely based on the B03 hatchback but, in typical SUV form, it'll be a tad more versatile.

Leapmotor's influence is growing. Keep an eye on future developments.



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RELIABILITY MEETS ELECTRIFICATION

Honda's engineering prowess offers hybrid, PHEV and EV cars.

Honda's UK range typifies a direction that a lot of car manufacturers are heading in. Every Honda car sold in Britain is electrified, reflecting the Japanese manufacturer's belief that hybrid technology remains the smartest stepping stone towards a fully electric future. If you've already decided on going fully electric, they've got that covered too. If you value reliability, sensible running costs and engineering integrity, Honda needs to be your destination.



So, what's on offer?

The entry point to the Honda range is the recently arrived Super-N. It's a funky, fully electric car which looks totally different to anything else but is really good to drive...we've tried it. With a potential range of 120 miles, it'll spend most of its life in urban areas, but there's sufficient to give you the chance for a bit of a hop along the motorway, although the 0-60mph time of 14 seconds means you'll need to anticipate any overtaking. It'll seat 4 adults. The

Super-N broadens Honda's appeal to buyers making the switch from petrol. It'd be a great second car. Think school run and shopping trips.

Next up is the Jazz, a supermini that has earned an enviable reputation for practicality. The Jazz majors on clever packaging, (check out the ingenious 'Magic Seats'), exceptional visibility and interior space. Its full hybrid powertrain delivers impressive fuel economy without the need to plug in, making it an ideal choice for retirees, commuters and small families who want hassle-free motoring. The Jazz is one of the most versatile cars around.

Those looking for a little more ride height are well served by the HR-V. This compact SUV shares Honda's e hybrid technology and combines coupe-inspired styling with everyday practicality. It's aimed squarely at buyers who want the commanding driving position of an SUV without the bulk or thirst associated with larger models. It's comfortable, refined and easy to drive.

Sitting above it is the CR-V, Honda's long-established family SUV. Now available as both a full hybrid and a plug-in hybrid, it offers generous passenger accommodation and a sizeable boot, making it the natural choice for growing families or anyone regularly covering longer distances. The latest model has a seriously premium interior.

For drivers who still appreciate a traditional hatchback, the Civic remains one of the finest all-rounders on sale. Offered exclusively as a full hybrid in the UK, it combines sharp handling with excellent fuel efficiency. It appeals to anyone who enjoys driving but also need a practical everyday car.

Adding a dash of excitement is the Prelude, which marks the return of one



of Honda's most celebrated names. Rather than reviving the badge as an out-and-out sports car, Honda has positioned the new Prelude as a stylish hybrid coupe that blends everyday usability with engaging driving dynamics. It's great to see Honda giving buyers an alternative to the SUV crowd.

A comprehensive ownership package is something a lot of buyers want... peace of mind. Every new Honda comes with a three-year manufacturer's warranty, but you can extend cover to as much as eight years or 100,000 miles through Honda's new Service Activated Warranty, provided scheduled servicing is carried out at an authorised Honda retailer. It's one of the strongest warranty packages currently offered by a mainstream manufacturer.

Looking ahead, Honda's pipeline is firmly focused on electrification. Alongside the launch of the Prelude and the expansion of the Super-N, the company has confirmed future investment will centre on new hybrid and electric models, with further additions expected over the next few years as Honda continues its gradual transition towards an electrified line-up. In other words...watch this space.

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Don't assume that an affordable price means corners have been cut. You couldn't be more wrong. Dacia is part of the Renault Group which means they can access top levels of quality and engineering. The result is a range that appeals to buyers looking for practicality, reliability and value rather than premium badges or cutting-edge technology.



The entry point to the range is the Dacia Spring, a compact electric city car that is also one of the UK's most affordable new EVs. With seating for four and enough range for everyday commuting, it's ideal for urban drivers, first-time buyers or households looking for a low-cost second car. It won't suit those who regularly cover long, motorway distances because the

battery has a predicted range of 140 miles, but for short trips and city driving it offers remarkably inexpensive electric motoring.

Next comes the Sandero, one of Britain's best-value superminis. Offering generous interior space for its size, sensible running costs and a comfortable driving experience, it's aimed at motorists who simply want dependable transport without paying for unnecessary luxuries. Families on a budget, new drivers and commuters will all find plenty to like.

Buyers wanting a more rugged look should consider the Sandero Stepway. Based on the standard Sandero, it adds raised suspension, SUV-inspired styling and a slightly higher driving position. While it isn't designed for serious off-roading, it appeals to drivers who like the crossover look without paying crossover prices.

For larger families, the Jogger stands out as one of the most practical cars on sale, and it's one of our favourites here at AutOh! magazine. Available with up to seven seats, it combines MPV practicality with estate car running costs. Hybrid versions also make it an economical choice for higher-mileage drivers. It's particularly well suited to growing families, outdoor enthusiasts and anyone needing plenty of passenger or luggage space without stretching the budget. Great to drive too.

The Duster remains one of Dacia's biggest success stories. This family SUV offers genuine versatility, available with petrol, mild-hybrid and full-hybrid powertrains. It provides generous ground clearance and a commanding driving position while remaining



significantly cheaper than many rival SUVs. The Duster is ideal for families, rural drivers and anyone wanting a capable all-round vehicle without premium-car pricing.

Sitting at the top of the current range is the Bigster, Dacia's largest SUV. Offering more interior space, a bigger boot and additional comfort features, it targets buyers who want maximum value for money. Hybrid power is available, helping to keep fuel costs competitive while providing the practicality expected of a modern family SUV.

Every new Dacia sold in the UK comes with a three-year or 60,000-mile manufacturer's warranty which can be extended each time the vehicle is serviced at an authorised Dacia dealer, offering valuable peace of mind and helps reduce long-term ownership costs.

Looking ahead, Dacia's range is set to expand further over the next 12 months. The company has confirmed the upcoming Striker, a new family-sized crossover/estate that will slot above the Bigster. Designed to combine the practicality of an estate car with crossover styling. It arrives early next year.

With its growing model range, competitive pricing and terrific levels of equipment, Dacia continues to prove that buying a brand-new car doesn't have to come with a premium price tag. For motorists who prioritise practicality, sensible running costs and honest value, it's one of the strongest choices currently available in the UK market.

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VERTU BYD MORPETH – A NEW ERA OF ELECTRIFIED MOTORING IN NORTHUMBERLAND

There is a sense that something significant is happening on Coopies Lane in Morpeth. The arrival of Vertu BYD has brought one of the world's fastest-growing automotive brands to Northumberland, creating a dedicated home for a range of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles that is expanding at remarkable pace.

Launched in November 2025, the redeveloped Vertu BYD Morpeth site sits alongside the existing Vertu Ford



operation and was created specifically around BYD's growing product line-up. The modern facility includes dedicated EV servicing bays, rapid charging facilities and a digitally enhanced showroom.

At the heart of the operation is Sales Manager Adam Prudhoe, who moved from Vertu Ford Durham to take charge of the new BYD business. Adam has been instrumental in establishing the dealership and building a team capable of guiding customers through what, for many, is a completely new type of car. Moving away from traditional petrol and diesel cars can be a daunting prospect

and sometimes feels like entering a bewildering new world of electric and plug-in hybrid (PHEV) motoring.

But the team at BYD Morpeth is experienced and will lead you by the hand to find the right BYD for you. No matter which model you go for, you'll have a car that's loaded with the latest technology, terrific value for money and the sort of style that turns heads.

Incidentally, if you go onto Trust Pilot and look at the reviews for BYD Morpeth you'll find glowing reports about the sales team's product knowledge and straightforward approach, with reviewers praising them for making the buying process simple and helping customers find vehicles suited to their individual needs. Brilliant. So, what's on offer in the BYD range?

There's everything from compact electric cars through to larger family SUVs and sophisticated plug-in hybrids. The Dolphin and Dolphin Surf offer accessible electric motoring, while the Atto 2 and Atto 3 bring SUV practicality. Further up the range sit the Seal, Seal U, Seal 6 and Sealion models, demonstrating just how quickly BYD has moved beyond being a single-product EV specialist.

However, it's easy to argue that the most exciting part of the BYD story is what is still to come. The new Dolphin G DM-i adds plug-in hybrid technology to the popular hatchback formula, combining electric driving with the reassurance of a petrol engine. The seriously good news is that it can offer up to 65 miles of city EV range which means many of you reading this who have a daily commute with that sort of figure, could complete the entire journey using battery power alone. Plug in when you get home and the car will be ready for the next morning. Sorted.

Then there is the SHARK, bringing BYD's electrified expertise into the pick-up



market, using BYD's Super Hybrid DMO technology, combining four-wheel drive capability with plug-in hybrid power, opening the door to a completely different customer base. The vehicle is due to arrive in Morpeth very shortly.

And the pipeline doesn't stop there. The BYD Ti 7, a technology-focused family SUV, is arriving later in the year, underlining just how rapidly the manufacturer is expanding its presence.

For Adam Prudhoe and the Vertu BYD Morpeth team, that makes the dealership more than a new showroom. It's becoming a front-row seat to one of the most interesting transformations in the modern car industry, with an ever-growing choice of cars and an equally impressive list of new arrivals waiting around the corner.

Why not call in and have a chat...Adam and his team can help you to Build Your Dreams.



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21st CENTURY ICON

Fun factor built in as standard

MINI has come a long way since the reborn hatchback first appeared at the turn of the century. Today, the British marque offers a diverse range that blends iconic styling with cutting-edge technology, covering everything from nimble city cars to practical family SUVs. Whether you're after petrol power, all-electric driving or performance-focused thrills, there's now a MINI to suit almost every lifestyle.



If you are one of those drivers who loves to get behind the wheel and even pop out for a spin on a Sunday morning just for the fun of it, then the MINI is right up your street.

At the heart of the range is the MINI Cooper, available in both three-door and five-door hatchback forms. The three-door remains the purest expression of the brand, delivering the trademark 'go-kart' handling that has made MINI famous. Buyers can choose from efficient petrol engines in Cooper One and Cooper C, and some performance fun in the Cooper S, while those ready to make the switch to electric can opt for the all-electric Cooper E or more powerful Cooper SE. The electric models offer up to around 250 miles

of official range making them ideal for commuters and urban drivers who want zero-emissions motoring without sacrificing fun. The John Cooper Works Electric model is swiriously quick.

For those who need a little extra practicality, the MINI Cooper 5-Door retains the same character but adds two additional doors and improved rear-seat access. It's the obvious choice for young families or anyone who regularly carries passengers but still wants a compact car that's enjoyable to drive.

If open-top motoring is your thing, the MINI Convertible continues to offer one of the few affordable soft-top experiences on the market. Available with petrol Cooper C, Cooper S and range-topping John Cooper Works (JCW) engines, it combines classic MINI charm with the simple pleasure of roof-down driving on sunny British roads.

One of the recent additions to the line-up is the MINI Aceman, an all-electric crossover that slots neatly between the Cooper hatch and the larger Countryman. Designed exclusively as an EV, it offers a higher driving position without the bulk of a traditional SUV. Available in E, SE and sporty JCW forms, the Aceman is aimed squarely at buyers who want the practicality of a crossover combined with compact dimensions for town and city driving.

For families or adventure seekers, the MINI Countryman is now the brand's largest and most versatile model. Available with petrol engines or as a fully electric version, it caters for a wide variety of drivers. The electric Countryman offers up to around 287 miles of official range, while

performance enthusiasts can opt for the muscular John Cooper Works version, which delivers genuine hot-hatch pace in SUV form. With generous interior space and optional four-wheel drive, it's the MINI best suited to long journeys, growing families or active lifestyles.

Performance remains central to the MINI identity thanks to the John Cooper Works range. Buyers can now choose high-performance versions of the Cooper, Aceman and Countryman, with both petrol and electric options available. These models feature uprated suspension, more aggressive styling and significantly increased power, appealing to drivers who prioritise excitement behind the wheel.

MINI's product offensive shows no signs of slowing. The company continues to expand its electric offering, with further updates planned for its EV line-up as the brand works towards a more electrified future. Production of electric MINI models is also set to increase in the UK during the coming years, reinforcing the marque's British roots while supporting growing demand for zero-emission vehicles.



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PEUGEOT – A MODEL FOR EVERY DRIVER

Business commuter, family runabout or holiday holdall.

Peugeot has quietly transformed itself into one of Britain's most comprehensive car brands. Whether you're looking for a stylish supermini, a practical family SUV or an electric flagship capable of covering serious distances, they now offer a choice to suit almost every lifestyle.

And if you like a 'driver's car', look no further.

The range begins with the 208, an ideal first car, city commuter or downsizing option. Available with petrol, mild-hybrid and fully electric powertrains, the petrol versions can cover over 450 miles on a tank (we managed 465 miles in a recent road test), while the E-208 offers up to around 268 miles of official range, making it one of the strongest contenders in the compact EV class.

And we can't ignore one of the most recent arrivals....the Peugeot E-208 GTi, reviving one of the brand's most famous performance badges. Many of you will fondly remember the Peugeot 205 GTi with 1.6 and

1.9 litre engine. They were fantastic. Thankfully, Peugeot has stayed true to the GTi formula because this latest... all electric...GTi is a cracker. Producing 277bhp and capable of 0-62mph in just 5.5 seconds, it combines genuine hot hatch performance with an official driving range of up to 233 miles. We can't wait to try it. The first models are arriving now.

Stepping up, the 2008 compact SUV combines the elevated driving position many buyers now prefer with manageable dimensions for urban driving. It suits young families and drivers wanting SUV practicality without excessive size. Petrol models typically achieve around 450 miles between fill-ups, while the E-2008 delivers between 227 and 247 miles depending on specification.

Every 208 and 2008 is a hoot to drive. The steering wheel is tiny... about the size of a medium pizza...you look at the driver info screen over it rather than through it.

The 308 hatchback is one of Peugeot's most popular models, appealing to company car users and families



wanting premium design without premium prices. Available with petrol, hybrid and plug-in hybrid power, they're seriously economical. An all-electric E-308 is also available with an official range of around 257 miles.

For buyers wanting something more distinctive, the 408 fastback crossover bridges the gap between hatchback and SUV. It suits business users and motorists covering long motorway



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journeys in comfort. Petrol versions can exceed 500 miles on a tank, while the new E-408 promises approximately 281 miles between charges. It's a good-looking thing too.

SUV buyers are particularly well served. The latest 3008 has evolved into a sleek family crossover available as a mild hybrid, plug-in hybrid and the all-electric E-3008. Hybrid versions typically cover well over 500 miles between refuelling stops. The standard electric model offers around 326 miles, with the Long-Range version stretches that to a seriously impressive 435 miles. It is arguably Peugeot's most complete all-round family car.



Need seven seats? The 5008 delivers genuine family versatility with ample passenger and luggage space. Hybrid and electric versions are brilliant for holiday trips due to stunning economy. They're super-comfy too.

The 508 Fastback and 508 SW estate have now been discontinued, but there's a new model in the pipeline and should be here early 2027. If it picks up where the outgoing version left off, it'll be a winner.

Oh, and don't forget that Peugeot has a great range of vans...the Partner, Expert

and Boxer offer a great selection of carrying capacities to suit any business.

Looking ahead, Peugeot's UK line-up continues to evolve. With electrification now extending across virtually every model, Peugeot has created a range that offers buyers genuine choice rather than compromise. From affordable urban runabouts to spacious seven-seat SUVs capable of travelling more than 400 miles on a charge, Peugeot has positioned itself as one of the UK's most versatile automotive brands, with its transition towards an electrified future gathering pace every year.



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BMW's line-up in the UK has never been broader, offering everything from compact hatchbacks to luxurious electric SUVs. Whether you're a private buyer or company car driver, every BMW will give you an engaging driver's experience as well as being practical and stylish. Long distance commuter, practical family holdall, city runabout or a cutting-edge EV, BMW can help you tick your boxes.

At the heart of the range sits the familiar 1 Series and 2 Series. The 1 Series hatchback is aimed squarely at younger professionals and company car drivers who want premium quality without stepping up to a larger model. Meanwhile, the 2 Series family caters for different buyers: the practical Active Tourer MPV appeals to growing families, while the Coupé attracts enthusiasts who value rear-wheel-drive handling and sharp styling.

The ever-popular 3 Series remains one of BMW's most complete cars. Available as a saloon or Touring estate, it's the default choice for business users, high-mileage drivers and anyone seeking an excellent blend of comfort, performance and prestige. Those wanting more space and luxury gravitate towards the 5 Series, which now offers both plug-in hybrid and fully electric i5 variants. It strikes an impressive balance between executive refinement and surprisingly enjoyable handling.



For buyers seeking the ultimate in comfort, the flagship 7 Series and all-electric i7 deliver limousine levels of luxury. These models are designed and built to exacting standards...the pinnacle of luxury and cutting-edge technology.

SUVs account for a significant portion of BMW's UK sales. The X1 is an ideal first premium SUV, offering compact dimensions, efficient engines and the choice of a fully electric iX1. Families needing more space often move up to the X3, one of the most rounded SUVs on sale thanks to its comfortable ride and engaging driving dynamics. Larger X5 and X7 models cater for buyers wanting seven seats, towing capability or effortless long-distance cruising, while the sleek X2, X4 and X6 prioritise style over outright practicality.

BMW's powertrain choice is equally extensive. Efficient petrol engines remain the most popular option for private buyers, while mild-hybrid technology improves economy across much of the range. Diesel engines continue to make sense for motorists regularly covering motorway miles, particularly in the 3 Series, 5 Series and X5, where their effortless torque and excellent fuel economy shine.

Plug-in hybrids bridge the gap between petrol and electric power. Models such as the 330e, 530e and X5 xDrive50e offer enough electric-only range to cover many daily commutes while retaining the flexibility of a petrol engine for longer journeys. They're particularly attractive to company car users thanks to favourable Benefit-in-Kind taxation.

BMW's electric line-up continues to expand rapidly. The i4 has established itself as one of the finest electric executive cars available, combining



impressive range with genuine driver appeal. The i5 offers similar qualities in a larger package, while the iX provides luxury SUV buyers with striking design, advanced technology and long-distance capability. The compact iX1 and iX2 make electric motoring more accessible to families.

Performance remains central to BMW's identity. M Performance models provide extra pace without sacrificing everyday usability, while full-fat M cars such as the M2, M3 and M5 are aimed at keen drivers seeking thrilling performance and precision handling.

Looking ahead, BMW is plotting successors to the 3 Series and X3.

With such a comprehensive range spanning multiple body styles, powertrains and price points, BMW will continue to be one of the most popular car brands on sale in the UK. It's not some sort of fluke that their cars are so popular.

It's 'cos they're seriously good.



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MG – THE LEADING CARS YOU REALLY CAN AFFORD

Great cars – great prices

Here's something you can use at the pub quiz. MG, as in MG cars, stands for Morris Garages. The original British company took dull Morris cars and turned them into something desirable.

The MG of the 21st Century has reinvented itself as one of the UK's fastest-growing automotive brands...and they're still producing cars which are highly desirable...and at an affordable price.

Today, the company offers everything from budget-friendly superminis to family SUVs, cutting-edge electric vehicles and even a striking all-electric roadster. Value for money remains a key selling point, with generous standard equipment across the range.

At the entry point sits the MG3, available in petrol and Hybrid+ forms. It's an ideal choice for first-time buyers, young families or anyone looking for an economical runabout. Entry-level models include a 10.25-inch touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, rear parking sensors, air conditioning and MG Pilot driver assistance systems. The Hybrid+ version, with a 1.5 litre engine, adds impressive fuel economy and lively performance, making it one of the most appealing superminis on sale today.

For buyers wanting a little more space, the MG ZS is the natural next step. Available with petrol or Hybrid+ power, this compact SUV suits growing families, commuters and downsizers alike.



Standard equipment includes alloy wheels, a touchscreen infotainment system, reversing camera, adaptive cruise control and a comprehensive suite of safety aids. The ZS combines a commanding driving position with sensible running costs, making it a popular alternative to more expensive rivals.

Moving up the range is the MG HS, the brand's largest mainstream SUV. Offered with petrol, Hybrid+ and Plug-in Hybrid powertrains, it's aimed squarely at family motorists covering longer distances. The spacious cabin, generous rear legroom and sizeable boot make it a practical everyday companion. Standard specification typically includes dual-zone climate control, heated front seats, a 12.3-inch digital driver's display, large central touchscreen, keyless entry and an extensive list of driver assistance technology. The plug-in hybrid version is particularly attractive for company car users thanks to its low emissions and electric-only driving capability.

Electric car buyers are well catered for too. The MG4 EV has become one of Britain's best-selling electric hatchbacks thanks to its combination of sharp handling, competitive range and excellent value. Depending on specification, buyers can expect LED lighting, a digital cockpit, wireless smartphone connectivity, adaptive cruise control and rapid DC charging. It suits commuters, company car drivers and families looking to make the switch to electric without spending premium-brand money.



Those wanting the practicality of an SUV with electric power should look at the MGS5 EV. Built on the same dedicated electric platform as the MG4, it offers more interior space, a higher driving position and improved practicality. Standard equipment includes a large infotainment display, wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, advanced driver assistance systems and competitive charging speeds, making it an excellent family EV.



At the top of the current line-up sits the stunning MG Cyberster with its dramatic scissor doors. This all-electric two-seat roadster harks back to MG's sporting heritage while embracing modern technology. It's proof that electric cars can still deliver genuine excitement.

Looking ahead, MG shows no sign of slowing down. The company has already introduced new electric models such as the MG IM5 executive saloon and MG IM6 SUV to the UK market, while a refreshed MG4 and additional electrified SUVs are expanding the line-up. Looking further into the future, MG has also previewed concept vehicles that hint at a new compact electric hatchback and a sporty electric SUV, demonstrating that the brand's rapid evolution is set to continue.



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GEELY NEWCASTLE SHOWROOM UNDERGOES FULL REFURBISHMENT

Lloyd Geely Newcastle proudly unveils its newly refurbished home on Scotswood Road

Following Geely's launch as its own branded marque in the UK — backed by the same parent company behind Volvo, Lotus and Polestar — Lloyd Geely Newcastle has given its Scotswood Road showroom a top-to-toe transformation to match the ambition of the brand it represents.

It's an exciting new venture for Lloyd Motor Group, marking the latest chapter in its expanding portfolio and reflecting the same commitment to trusted service and outstanding customer experience that has defined the group for fifty years. From first enquiry to aftersales care, customers can expect the same knowledgeable, no-pressure approach Lloyd is known for — now applied to one of the most ambitious new arrivals in the UK market.

The result is a showroom built for a manufacturer that already has 450,000 annual sales in China behind it, and ten new model launches planned for the UK over the next three years.

Step inside and you'll find the space has been reworked around clean, modern

styling and a relaxed environment for those considering the switch to electric, or who want to learn more about the upcoming brand — the perfect backdrop while you wait for your test drive or finance chat.

Getting to know Geely

Founded in 1986, Geely entered the automotive market in 1997 and has since grown into one of China's largest and most successful manufacturers, now a major international powerhouse with a portfolio of well-known brands. In the UK, Geely is focusing on value-packed electric and hybrid SUVs that pair modern technology with competitive pricing.

Peace of mind, built in

One of Geely's biggest selling points is its generous warranty package. Every new Geely sold in the UK comes with an eight-year or 125,000-mile vehicle warranty, while the high-voltage battery is covered for the same eight years or 125,000 miles. It's a level of cover that gives buyers real peace of mind.

Full range now under one roof

Customers visiting can see Geely's full UK line-up together under one roof:

- **Geely EX5** — the brand's first UK model, a family-sized electric SUV with a spacious, high-tech cabin, advanced driver assistance and a practical boot, built for company car drivers, families and commuters ready to make the switch to EV ownership.

- **Geely Starray EM-i** — a plug-in hybrid SUV designed from the ground up as a hybrid rather than adapted from a petrol platform, offering up to 84 miles of electric-only driving and a combined range of up to 618 miles, with a dual-screen cockpit and Geely-branded controls throughout.

- **Geely EX2** — the newest addition to the showroom floor, a compact electric hatchback and crossover positioned below the EX5, designed to offer first-time EV buyers, urban drivers and smaller families an efficient, practical route into zero-emission motoring. Already China's best-selling vehicle last year with annual sales of over 450,000 units, the EX2 brings a proven pedigree to the UK for the first time.

Whether you're drawn to the flexibility of a hybrid or ready to go fully electric, Lloyd Geely's expert team is on hand to talk you through the range and get you behind the wheel. With its ambitious growth plans and fast-expanding range, this is a brand well worth watching closely — and there's no better way to see why than in person.

Visit the dealership on Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 6UX, call 01912830201 or book online at lloydmotorgroup.com/geely to arrange your personal test drive today.



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For decades, Citroën has carved out a niche by doing things differently. While many manufacturers chase outright performance or sporty handling, the French marque has remained steadfast in its pursuit of comfort, practicality and value. The latest UK line-up continues that philosophy, offering everything from compact city cars to spacious family SUVs, with petrol, hybrid and fully electric powertrains to suit an increasingly diverse range of buyers.

The entry point into the range is the C3, a supermini that stands apart from rivals thanks to its chunky crossover-inspired styling and generous ride comfort. Available with petrol or all-electric power, the ë-C3 is aimed squarely at urban drivers looking for affordable zero-emission motoring without compromising on everyday usability. It's a sensible choice for first-time buyers, commuters and downsizers alike, proving that an electric car doesn't have to carry a premium price tag.

Need a little more space? The C3 Aircross bridges the gap between hatchback and SUV. Offered with petrol, hybrid and electric powertrains, it combines a higher driving

position with impressive practicality, making it an excellent family car. Flexible seating, a generous boot and an easy-going driving experience mean it's equally at home on the school run or a weekend away.

The C4 occupies an increasingly rare place in today's market, blending hatchback proportions with crossover styling. Available with petrol, hybrid and electric drivetrains, it appeals to drivers who want something more distinctive than the average family hatchback. The C4 X gets a bigger boot. Refinement is a strong point, while the all-electric ë-C4 offers silent progress and low running costs for those making the switch to EV ownership. It's a sleek-looking thing.

Sitting at the top of the passenger car range is the new C5 Aircross. Now available as a hybrid, plug-in hybrid and fully electric model, it represents Citroën's vision of the modern family SUV. Spacious, well equipped and designed for long-distance comfort, it's ideal for families covering high annual mileages as well as business users wanting a relaxed motorway companion. The introduction of fully electric and hybrid versions reflects the brand's commitment to giving buyers genuine choice as the transition to electrification gathers pace.

Beyond conventional cars, Citroën also offers the Ami, an ultra-compact electric quadricycle designed for short urban journeys, while the Berlingo and ë-Berlingo continue to provide one of the most versatile MPV-style family vehicles on sale. For adventurous buyers, the Holidays campervan adds yet another dimension to the range.

Comfort remains the defining characteristic throughout the line-up. Citroën's Advanced Comfort programme incorporates specially designed seats with additional foam padding, while Progressive Hydraulic



Cushions suspension technology helps smoothen our dreadful road surfaces without sacrificing body control.

Looking ahead, the future appears equally busy. The new-generation C5 Aircross has recently expanded the SUV offering with electrified powertrains, while don't be surprised if Citroën follow a current trend and revive and old favourite...the 2CV. You can guarantee it'll be electric.

And don't forget that Citroën are experts at commercial vehicles. The renowned Citroën van line-up delivers a solution for every business, from the compact Berlingo Van and versatile Dispatch to the hardworking Relay, alongside the urban-focused ë-C3 Van. Buyers can choose efficient diesel, petrol or fully electric powertrains, depending on model, combining practicality, comfort and low running costs across a range designed to suit every professional requirement.

In a marketplace crowded with increasingly similar SUVs and hatchbacks, Citroën continues to stand out by staying true to its heritage. Whether you're a city commuter, a growing family or an EV early adopter, there's a model in the range designed to make every journey that little bit more comfortable.



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CHERY GETS READY FOR 1ST BIRTHDAY.

August 2025 saw the name of Chery appear on the list of car manufacturers for the first time in the UK. They offer a range of SUVs that combine generous equipment levels, modern technology and excellent value for money. Designed to appeal to families, commuters and company car drivers alike, the latest Chery models offer buyers a compelling alternative to more established brands, while delivering the practicality and reassurance many motorists are looking for.

Ah, reassurance...an important word when buying a car. The good news is that Chery offers one of the best aftercare packages currently available. It's impressive.

We'll get around to that shortly, but let's look at the Chery range.

The UK line-up includes the Tiggo 7, Tiggo 8 and flagship Tiggo 9, and the recently launched Tiggo 4. With a choice of efficient petrol engines and advanced Super Hybrid plug-in hybrid powertrains, depending on the model, they offer that great blend of economy matched to decent, everyday performance. A win-win.

This gives buyers the flexibility to choose a vehicle that suits both their driving habits and their budget, whether they mainly cover shorter local journeys or regularly travel longer motorway distances. Chery's Super Hybrid technology combines electric driving capability with a petrol engine to deliver strong efficiency without compromising



performance.

The Chery Tiggo 4 brings fresh competition to the UK compact SUV market with bold styling, impressive technology and excellent value. Its spacious cabin, modern infotainment and efficient powertrain make it an appealing everyday companion.

Combining practicality with contemporary design, the Tiggo 4 is a confident choice for budget-conscious drivers.

The Tiggo 7 is an ideal for couples, small families and professionals who want



a stylish mid-size SUV with plenty of technology as standard. Available with a turbocharged petrol engine or as a Super Hybrid, it offers a comfortable driving experience, a high level of standard equipment and an attractive balance between everyday practicality and running costs. It's particularly well suited to drivers who want SUV space without stepping into a larger seven-seat vehicle.

For growing families, the Tiggo 8 takes practicality to the next level. With seven seats and a spacious interior, it's perfect for school runs, family holidays or anyone needing the flexibility to carry extra passengers. Buyers can choose between a 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol engine or efficient Super Hybrid version, making it equally appealing to those wanting traditional petrol power or lower fuel bills through electrified driving.

Sitting at the top of the range is the Tiggo 9, Chery's premium seven-seat SUV. Offered as a powerful Super Hybrid, it combines impressive performance with long electric-only capability and an extensive list of luxury features. It's aimed at motorists who want a premium product but are also looking for exceptional value, generous standard specification and the latest driver assistance technology. Whether it's

used as a family car, executive vehicle or long-distance cruiser, the Tiggo 9 offers refinement alongside everyday usability.



One of the biggest reasons to consider a Chery is the manufacturer's confidence in its products. Every new Chery sold in the UK comes with a comprehensive seven-year or 100,000-mile manufacturer's warranty, together with roadside assistance and additional battery cover on hybrid models. This provides valuable peace of mind for private buyers and business users alike, helping to reduce ownership concerns while demonstrating Chery's commitment to quality and reliability.

Chery...cracking cars...cracking warranty. Nuff said.



Lloyd

BODYSHOP

PREMIUM REPAIRS

Repairing premium and prestige vehicles throughout the North-East.

Lloyd Bodyshop accept vehicle repairs for all brands and models.

- We pride ourselves on uncompromising quality.
- Lloyd Bodyshop are proud recommended repairers for a collection of premium brands including BMW, MINI, Porsche, Bentley and Mercedes-Benz.
- Our friendly knowledgeable staff are well versed in insurance claims and will communicate with your insurer on your behalf.
- Using our SMART repair facility (Small Medium Accident Repair Technology) we provide fast, convenient and competitively priced repairs whilst still adhering to manufacturer standards.



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www.lloydmotorgroup.com

LLOYD BODYSHOP NEWCASTLE: Specialists in Their Field

Whether it's a small smart repair or a complete vehicle rebuild, Lloyd Newcastle Bodyshop has the expertise and facilities to handle any repair with care.

It's a common misconception that Lloyd Bodyshop exists solely to repair and finish vehicles for Lloyd Motor Group's forecourts and showrooms. In truth, it does far more than that. Lloyd Newcastle Bodyshop is one of the premier vehicle bodywork repairers in Northern England, holding manufacturer approval to repair BMW and MINI vehicles through its own dealerships, alongside non-franchise approvals for Mercedes-Benz, Bentley and Porsche. It is one of only 18 Porsche-recommended repairers in the UK, with a coverage area stretching coast to coast, as far south as Bradford and as far north as Glasgow. With a similarly extensive footprint for Mercedes-Benz, the team welcomes customers from across the north of England and southern Scotland.

Introducing Lee Elliott, New Manager at Lloyd Bodyshop

Lee Elliott has been appointed Bodyshop Manager at Lloyd Newcastle Bodyshop.

"I'm excited to start my new role as Bodyshop Manager here at Lloyd Newcastle Bodyshop" said Lee. "I've worked here since I was 15 years old, starting out as an apprentice and working my way up to MET Fitter over 10 years. In the 15 years since, I've progressed from

MET Technician to Workshop Controller, then Vehicle Damage Assessor and Assistant Manager, and now Bodyshop Manager.



"Lloyd have been fantastic throughout this career path, providing all the training and support I've needed. That journey has given me real insight into how the operation works from start to finish, and I love dealing with our amazing customers. Normally, when people visit us, they've already been through a difficult experience, and it's our job to do everything we can to put a smile back on their face."

"I believe this is our real strength: we go the extra mile for customers by delivering excellent service through our experienced team."

Lee also highlighted the bodyshop's commitment to modern technology and craftsmanship:

"We're committed to providing first-class repairs that restore every vehicle to pre-accident standard, using state-of-the-art techniques, precision and attention to detail. We've invested heavily in specialist, modern tooling and equipment over the last few years, and we take real pride in our work. Partnering with some of the leading manufacturers in the motor trade allows us to give customers the repair they need without affecting their warranty."

"Whether it's a small dent or a full structural repair, we're here to make our customers' journey through a difficult time as easy as possible. We make sure your vehicle is in the right hands, with our friendly, knowledgeable staff on hand



to guide and support you throughout the repair process."

Four Decades of Expertise

The site has been an established bodyshop for more than 40 years, and some staff have worked there for the full duration. Together, the close-knit team's combined experience runs into hundreds of years, with every member keeping up to date with modern techniques and the latest manufacturer training and requirements. The bodyshop also takes great pride in developing talent from within, having trained numerous apprentices who have since become valued, full-time members of the team.

Lee sums it up: "The team at Lloyd Newcastle Bodyshop are here to offer support and advice, assist with insurance claims, and make the repair process as straightforward as possible, so we can get you back on the road."

About Lloyd Motor Group

Lloyd Motor Group is recognised as one of the UK's leading independent automotive groups. The family-owned company began its journey in 1976 with a single BMW retailer in Cumbria and has since grown to employ over 1,800 people across more than thirty locations throughout the north of England and the Scottish Borders.



Lee Elliott

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Click Here



Latest DUCATI HITS THE STREETS

And it's available at Sunderland Ducati

Ducati has the knack of hitting the sweet spot for the motorcycle-buying public. They also manage to create a bike for every occasion. Take the latest XDiavel V4 for example. When this bike was unveiled, everyone took notice because it looked fabulous. Fire it up and you quickly discover that it sounds fabulous too.

Oh, and it's available at Sunderland Ducati...part of the Vertu Motors group,

As Sport Cruisers go, this Ducati is unmistakable...and it can trace its roots back to the racetrack because power and performance comes from a MotoGP-derived V4 engine.

It's a motorcycle for those who want something different. It also helps if you like to stand out. From enthusiasts looking for a bike with great style to lovers of the cruiser charm, you get all of that plus the sort of performance that characterises the XDiavel.

The XDiavel V4's 1,158 cc V4 Granturismo engine, which develops 165bhp, gives it benchmark performance for the category. It's powerful but also extremely flexible with plenty of grunt from low revs. Don't be fooled by the low and relaxed riding position...the bike still offers the rider great control and allows you to either glide along a country lane or through the streets...or seriously push on when the road conditions allow.

You have four rider options available in terms of how the bike performs...Sport, Touring, Urban and Wet.

The bike is available in two stunning colours...Black Lava and Burning Red... specially created for the XDiavel V4.

Ducati allows riders to customise the motorcycle in terms of seat position. In standard form, the footpegs are set forwards to give a relaxed posture, but if you want to make the most of the performance, you can move them rearwards. The bike can also be turned into a single seater, while the seat itself can be raised or lowered to suit your own personal height preference. Side panniers are also available if you intend doing some long-distance cruising.

Vertu Motorcycles Ducati Sunderland, which is at Boldon Business Park next to the BMW and MINI dealerships near the A19, offers the full range of Ducati and Scrambler Ducati motorcycles, alongside

associated aftermarket accessories and related apparel. The site also offers the Ducati Approved programme and provides specialist expert servicing from dedicated motorcycle technicians.

And, because Vertu Motorcycles is a major player in the UK, you can be assured that the Sunderland Ducati dealership will not only be able to provide you with the latest Ducati bikes, you can guarantee they'll also have some of the limited edition models which keep appearing.

Ducati and Vertu Motors.... a great partnership.



CHANGAN ARRIVES IN BRITAIN WITH DEEPAL AMBITIONS

Designed in Italy...tuned for European roads

One of the latest names to arrive in the UK car market comes from one of China's largest automotive manufacturers...Changan. They've arrived using the firm's premium Deepal brand, bringing with it two stylish electric SUVs – the Deepal S07 and the newer Deepal S05. Both models have been developed in Italy with European tastes in mind, combining contemporary styling, generous equipment levels and competitive pricing, all of which should be a winning formula.

Leading the charge is the Deepal S07, a mid-size electric SUV aimed squarely at family buyers. As well as being designed in Italy, the car has been fine-tuned by Changan's engineering team in Birmingham to cope with our dreadful roads. There's an estimated 295 miles riving range from its all-electric powertrain. A single rear-mounted 160kW electric motor delivers smooth, refined performance, making it well suited to commuting, family holidays and everyday driving. Rapid charging capability and an impressive technology package make it an attractive alternative to more familiar electric SUVs.

per cent in as little as 15 minutes on a rapid charger. Handy.

It'll appeal to professionals, couples and empty nesters who want an SUV that's easy to park around town but equally capable of longer motorway journeys. With its premium-feeling cabin, generous technology and distinctive styling, it offers an appealing balance between practicality and sophistication.

While both models are currently available only as fully electric vehicles, Changan is expanding the powertrain options. Plug-in hybrid versions of both the S05 and S07 are scheduled to join the range around about now (September '26), giving customers who are not yet ready to switch completely to battery-electric motoring another option. The S05 plug-in hybrid, using Changan's new Ultra-Hybrid system, promises an electric-only range of around 62 miles and a combined range of more than 620 miles, making it particularly attractive for drivers who regularly mix short daily commutes with longer trips.

Other models are also in the pipeline.

Backing up the new range is a warranty designed to reassure buyers entering an unfamiliar brand. Both the Deepal S07 and S05 come with a seven-year or 100,000-mile vehicle warranty, while the high-voltage battery is covered for eight years and up to 120,000 to 124,000

If you're looking for a practical family car without paying premium-brand prices, the Deepal S07 should be on your shopping list. Young families, company car drivers and tech-savvy motorists will appreciate its spacious cabin, advanced driver assistance systems and high-quality interior, while its generous standard specification means there are very few expensive options to worry about.

Joining the range is the slightly smaller Deepal S05. This compact SUV is aimed at buyers who want the latest electric technology in a more manageable package. It is powered by a 68.8kWh battery and is available in both rear-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive forms. The rear-drive model develops 200kW and offers an estimated range up to 303 miles, while the all-wheel-drive version increases power to 320kW for significantly quicker acceleration, albeit with a slightly reduced driving range. You can charge from 30-80



miles depending on model. That level of cover comfortably matches many of the industry's strongest warranty packages and reflects Changan's confidence in its engineering.



With sharp pricing, impressive technology and ambitious expansion plans, Changan has made an eye-catching start in the UK. Whether buyers are looking for a spacious family SUV or a compact everyday electric crossover, the Deepal S07 and S05 demonstrate that Britain's newest automotive arrival intends to be much more than just another newcomer.

And once the PHEV models arrive on our shores, you expect their sales to increase rapidly. Both models look good, are fully loaded, represent terrific value and can cope with our potholes roads.





VAUXHALL

Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Turbo Yes

Personal Contract Hire



**Vauxhall Corsa
1.2 Turbo Yes
trim comes with:**

Speed Sensitive Power Steering <
Lane Keep Assist <
Rear Parking Sensors <
Lane Departure Warning <
Cruise Control <

3 years warranty unlimited mileage year 1 <
60,000 year 2 and 3

£249 £249

Initial Rental

Per Month

Personal Contract Hire (PCH): Initial rental £249, Term 49 months,
48 monthly rentals, based on 6,000 miles annually.

Vauxhall Frontera

83kW GS 44kWh 5dr Auto Electric SUV

SUV | Electric | Automatic

Frontera Electric trim comes with:

- > Eco Leather steering wheel with cruise limiter controls
- > Tilt/Telescopic adjustable steering wheel
- > Center console with front centre armrest/hidden storage and 2 cup holders
- > 3 years manufacturer's warranty
- > 8 years/100,000 mile battery warranty
- > 8 years roadside assistance.

£249 £249

Initial Rental

Per Month

Personal Contract Hire (PCH): Initial Rental £249, 24 monthly rentals £249, Term 25 months, based on 6,000 miles annually.



Vertu

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