



April 2023 Update

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'Elm Tree Cars' @ Facebook

HOP DOWN TO ELMTREE FOR SOME CRACKING EASTER DEALS! ☐



BMW X3

3.0 M40I

*Just £31,499*



JAGUAR F-TYPE

3.0 V6

*JUST £25,799*



FORD ECOSPORT

1.0 ST-LINE

*Just £16,499*

**WE'RE ON THE HUNT TO BUY YOUR OLD CARS!**

### **'Egg'cellent News!**

After months of uncertainty, thousands of jobs have been saved as Mini officially confirms a reversal of its October decision and sets out to re-tool its Oxford plant. The plant **won £75m** from the Automotive Transformation Fund and convinced BMW's execs that it remains the perfect hub for the iconic Mini. Oxford is now set to produce the Mini Electric alongside the new electric Mini Cabriolet from 2025 (a model which is currently produced in the Netherlands).

Beside the re-tool grant, the Oxford plant has been saved by a number of factors. Firstly, targeted sales of the Mini Electric have risen from 293,000 to 500,000 by 2030. Secondly, BMW chairman Oliver Zipse recognized the record sales and profits achieved in the UK last year and said it had become a 'matter of honor' for the group to stick to its UK plans - "The United Kingdom is very important to us because we have two very strong brands [Mini and Rolls-Royce] localised there and this is also their origin".

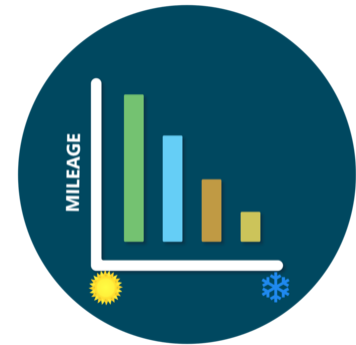
It's also an important part of British history, with the Oxford Plant celebrating its **110th birthday** last week! ☐ Oxford is the oldest mass-production car plant in the UK - it has seen the first Bullnose Morris Oxford, a few aeroplanes(!) and is now stepping into its electric future☐



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## [EV Owners Left Hunting For Missing Mileage This Easter](#)

Just **17.7%** of EV buyers would be comfortable owning an electric vehicle if they had to rely on the public charging network, that's down from 25.3% last year. Why? Increased charging tariffs and news coverage of long queues at charging stations certainly haven't helped. A recent installation local to us charges so much per KWH that it's price comparable to fill up with petrol! It's also a comparison exercise. We started 2023 with 37,055 public EV chargers in the UK (just 6,900 of which are rapid chargers), not great given that the 1 millionth EV has been registered on our roads. Against those stats, the government's recent investment announcement (£56m) to install 2,400 new charging points doesn't seem quite as impressive. (That's not a typo, it really does come to over £23k per charging point).



**47.2%** of survey respondents cited purchase cost as a barrier to EV ownership.

To add insult to injury, WhatCar? just highlighted the toll that cold weather takes on EV battery range. The **best performing** model (Nissan Ariya) still dropped max mileage by 16.4% in the 0-2 degrees Celsius range - that accounts for a lot of UK nights! And in really cold weather the KFTC (Korea Fair Trade Commission) found that Teslas' claimed range drooped up to 50%!

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## [Hot Cross Ban](#)

**What is ICE Ban and why is it constantly in news headlines?**

The ban on new ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicle production

was first proposed by the UK government back in 2017 when Michael Gove announced a ban date of 2040. In late 2020 the current 2-phase approach was announced, with the ban brought forward to 2030 and hybrids ('vehicles that have the capability to drive "significant distance"



in zero-emission mode') given a stay of execution until 2035. ICE vehicles already on the road as of 2030 can keep running and diesel lorries will be phased out. This is a key step in the plan to reach the 2050 net-zero greenhouse gases pledge!

When asked (last month) if the 2030 deadline was still achievable, a massive **66%** of motoring industry professionals didn't think it was. But with a 7-year development cycle on vehicles, manufacturers are already committed. EV re-tooling takes years and is **very** expensive. Last month Ford announced that its move into EVs (Ford Model e Division) had pre-tax losses of **£732m (2021), £1.71bn (2022) & forecasts an astounding £2.44bn loss this year!**



Two exceptions of note so far this year. Germany & Italy lobbied extensively to have carbon-neutral e-fuels (which mix CO<sub>2</sub> & hydrogen) excluded from the ban and last month they were successful. That's a massive relief to Porsche who recently started production at a state-of-the-art synthetic fuel site in Chile. Small scale manufacturers have also won an exception from the EU (not yet the UK), with those registering fewer than a thousand cars annually allowed to continue production. Given the costs of a transition to EV production this is a lifeline for British manufacturers such as Aerial, Caterham and Morgan who can export to the EU!

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## [What's New From The Spring Budget?](#)

1. Fuel duty to be frozen for another year with the 5p cut, saving motorists ~£100. **Fuel duty represents 1/3 cost of a litre of fuel.**
2. Not much for EVs who didn't get a mentioned during the speech! Although **new commercial property will have to install EV chargers.**
3. An additional **£200m for potholes!** A 20% boost of funding for local councils to spend on residential streets. A step in the right direction but not enough. Local roads get less than 20% of the funding major roads get in the UK, despite covering many more miles.



The consultation period just closed on the government's controversial plan to delay new vehicle MOTs by an extra year, meaning new vehicles wait 4 years after first registration for an MoT.

The Department for Transport (DfT) believes that advances made in vehicle safety since the MoT was introduced back in 1960 means the move will save motorists money without increasing risk on the roads. However the backlash from motoring groups has been fierce. Concerns highlight that **a massive 10% of vehicles fail their first MoT under the current rules** and estimate that the proposal would put 225,000 potentially dangerous vehicles on the road. **67%** of people surveyed by the SMMT were against extending the MOT exemption period based on safety concerns and **90%** would rather see money saved in other ways.

It's also not as much as a saving as you would think. Many potentially serious issues are caught early and inexpensively at an MOT. In fact, it works out that the delay would save new vehicle owners just **23p a week over 3 years!**

Couldn't resist sharing this photo from MOT opening day at Elm Tree -

Check out those jumpers..

(Mark, Paula, & Adie still on the team!)



**Upgrading The Easter Bunny Delivery System!**

**HAVE A GREAT EASTER BREAK AND SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!**

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