



February 2024 Update

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'Elm Tree Cars' @ Facebook

♥ VALENTINE'S EDITION ♥



MERCEDES-BENZ

A-CLASS AMG

Just £12,999



MERCEDES-BENZ

A-CLASS AMG

JUST £11,699



MERCEDES-BENZ

B-CLASS SPORT

Just £9,499

**FALL IN LOVE WITH A NEW CAR THIS VALENTINE'S DAY,
AND WE WILL BUY YOUR OLD ONE!**

Love To Read?

If you're a fan of transport news and love to read, then we really have a treat for you this Valentine's day! The UK's longest ever planning application has been submitted for a £10billion dual carriageway scheme. **Covering a staggering 359,866 pages, the application would weigh more than a Volkswagen Beetle if printed off (about 1620KG)!** The proposal covers plans for a new 14.3 mile route between the



M25 & M2 to tackle the gridlock hotspots either side of the Dartford Crossing, including a 2.6 mile tunnel under the Thames to be called 'The Lower Thames Crossing'. A decision is due in the next 6 months, which is pretty impressive given that it would take **an estimated 328 days to read the whole application!** The project has been in planning since 2009 and wouldn't open until at least 2031, drawing much criticism with National Highways having spent **£267million on the application process alone .. That is almost £20million a mile before work even starts!**

[A Reliable Route For Date Night!](#)



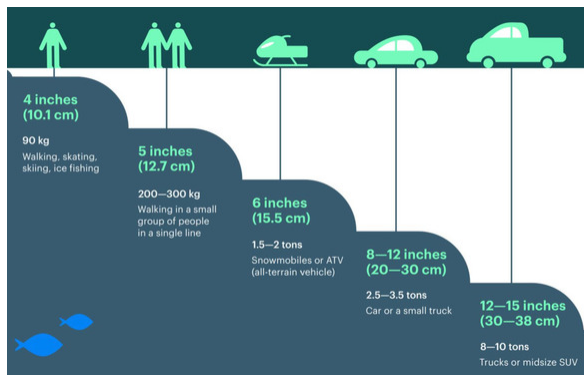
Fed up of the Sat Nav directing you down a closed road? Arriving at your destination only to find there is nowhere to park? It seems that the Government is too! They are set to launch a new set of measures ensuring that Sat Navs are made aware of all Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) digitally. TROs are any short-term traffic measure, including road closures, weight-limits and temporary speed-limits. Digital TROs should help the general public understand when proposals are being made and express their views, and make it easier for utility companies to plan and manage works. We have HS2 to thank as the **£8.3bn funding pot allocated to 'improve Britain's road network'** has been redirected from the scrapped project!

[Cinch - An Investor Heart Breaker!](#)

More bad news for Cinch this Valentine's. The online car dealer, which aims to make selling vehicles 'faff free', **lost £181.2m in last year's accounts.** That's **42% worse than the year before**, when they lost £126.8m. Neil Smith (ex-boss of imperial cars) said "Cinch and Cazoo have done phenomenal things". With losses of millions or even billions of pounds I have to agree - but for different reasons I'm guessing! Cinch insists that they are only worried about long term growth, but we're not sure investors will share the sentiment.. ☐

Wondering How To Break The Ice?

Have you ever looked at a frozen lake and thought 'I wonder if I can drive across that?'. Hopefully you have never actually tried it, but the chart below should help satisfy your curiosity! We assumed that ice road trucking is quite risky, but since 1910, on the roads covered by the ice road truckers programme, exactly ... **zero trucks have fallen through!** Okay, we know that there is a picture of one below, but that doesn't count because it was found to be significantly overweight and was pulled back out. The construction vehicles forming these ice roads ahead of the season (by spraying layers of water to thicken the ice) do genuinely go through though, so maybe the programme 'ice road construction truckers' would be a bit more exciting!



~ Safe Ice Thickness Guide ~

[Click To Enlarge Images!](#)

Heartache Again for EV Owners

It was a stable start to the year for most car prices. Petrol and diesel values actually increased by about 2% whilst electric and hybrid model under-performed by about 1.8%. However, high-end hybrid owners almost certainly suffered from the January blues. The top 3 losers being the Lexus LS & Audi A7 hybrids, which lost £2,500 in value over the month, and the Porsche Panamera Hybrid, which performed twice as badly **losing more than £5,000 in 4 weeks!**

Is This The End Of Our Land Rover Love Story?

We've all felt that impatience waiting for a vehicle part to arrive, but has it ever been so bad that you've set up an Alliance Group? That's the case for some JLR owners!

Delivery dates are often nowhere in sight, with some customers already being told the parts won't be ready this year(!) and with their vehicles remaining unusable in the meantime. After last year's parts debacle, seeing 10,000 JLR vehicles off the road, 2024 has brought new steering part issues. Despite all this, new sales for JLR seem to be holding up well, and at Elm Tree we are very careful about



which cars we buy and sell, so you can avoid those models with particular issues. We still love our Land Rovers, but understand that even the most loyal partners can only be tested so many times!

ZEV Mandates - A Match Not Made In Heaven

Despite a flat-line in EVs sales the ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) pathway for Great Britain is now officially law. That makes us the only major European market to have mandated minimum ZEV targets, whilst also being the only nation to have no EV consumer purchase incentives.. a rather unhappy marriage of policies! The mandate states that 80% of all new cars and 70% of all new vans sold in Great Britain will be zero-emissions by 2030, rising to 100% by 2035. **This year 22% of all new car sales must be zero-emissions, with a £15,000 penalty per-non-compliant sale.**

It is worth noting that this mandate does not apply to Northern Ireland, which has already fallen worryingly behind the rest of the UK, carrying just 1% of the UK's EV charging points (and a significant percentage of these points being outdated and unreliable).

Looking For A Valentine's Gift?

Looking for a last-minute valentine's idea? You could always buy a car! We have some great options, or of course you could order a bespoke, one-off Bugatti Chiron Sport for just a few million pounds.. The Silk Rose exterior and quad-turbocharged 8.0-liter W16 engine (1,500 horsepower) was hopefully a heart-winner, as the chap who ordered this Valentine's gift had the name 'Alice' stitched into the leather upholstery!



See You Next Month!

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