



September 2023 Update  
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**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!**



MERCEDES GLC  
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*Just £28,799*



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SE TDI 4-MOTION  
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RANGE ROVER EVOQUE  
SD4 DYNAMIC  
*Just £14,599*

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**NEVER TOO LATE TO SELL US YOUR CAR!**

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### Volvo - 'Go Big or Go Home!'

Never too late to make drastic changes to your strategy, Volvo has taken the bold decision to cut all non-SUV models from its UK market offering! Many of their estates and saloons have already been removed this year and no longer appear on their official websites. A statement released by Volvo explained that this was part of their strategy to prioritise the shift to “new platforms and technologies across all our



cars... We will naturally need to evolve and consolidate our line-up as we prioritise fully electric cars and make this technological transition.” Certainly the end of an era for Volvo whose mile long estates are rather iconic on our roads!

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## Electric Vehicles – Finally The Right Time To Buy?

Many EVs have experienced a **30-50% price drop in under a year**- finally, might now be the right time to buy?

Despite losing over 30% value on average, Tesla managed to stay out of the top 20 worst performers (see chart opposite) - although in actual pounds lost, **at £17,300 the model Y was the 6th worst performer** over the last 11 months, and at £15,538 the model 3 came in at number 10! Excuse the pun, but this last year has been shocking. Thankfully things do seem to be settling down.

Despite our reservations about the electric movement as a whole, for those of you who know how many miles you cover annually, now might be a good opportunity to jump in.

There seems little doubt that with the substantial investment made by big manufacturers and the government's single-minded electric focus, EVs are here for at least the medium term. Although industry insiders, ourselves included, are convinced the 2030 deadline to stop sales of NEW combustion engines will be pushed back, buying an EV now could still make sense (especially if Mr Khan gets his hearts' desire and extends the Greater London ULEZ zone to Swindon..).

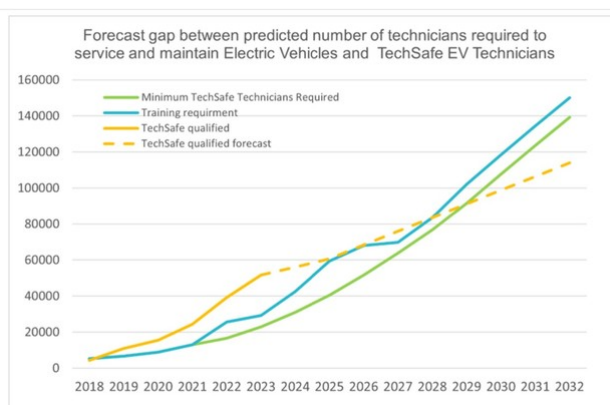
If you've been considering a change, come down and talk to us about some options!

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## But If We All Go Electric, Who Will Service Them?

If we all buy electric, who will service them?

Not a problem today but the pipeline is an issue. As the ban on the carbon fuels races toward us, it appears that technicians are not racing to retrain. According to the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), the number of technicians training in 2023 is **up to 35% lower than in 2022**, despite the jump in demand. *(Click graph to enlarge)*



Even more worrying perhaps, those already trained are struggling to keep up with the changing training requirements as the shortfall of technicians creates a huge demand on those already qualified. And don't forget that, for the first time, we're starting to see significant numbers of EVs more than 3 years old out on the road, which require more maintenance. In fact, the IMI predicts

that in less than a decade the UK could face a **short fall of 25,000 EV technicians!** That's a significant problem for our government's aggressive decarbonisation roadmap.

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## **ULEZ - Many Think 'Never' Would Be Better!**

On the 29th August ULEZ expanded significantly to cover the Greater London area (yes, you'll now need to pay ULEZ to drop-off or collect at Heathrow airport) and it's been hitting headlines almost every day. Legal challenges, Borough Councils refusing to put up ULEZ signage, and now extensive vandalism of ULEZ cameras!



A crowd-sourced anti-ULEZ campaigner map (Julie's Ulez map) reported last week that **750 of 1,762 cameras** installed in the expansion area were currently damaged or missing. In fact, six of the 23 boroughs now covered by ULEZ have experience vandalism of more than a third of their cameras! Spray paint, wire cutting and theft are commonly reported. Bromley has seen the most dedicated attack with a massive **83% of its cameras currently missing or damaged.**

Whichever side you take, the ULEZ expansion is becoming rather expensive to enforce!

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## **Pristine!**

Our long-standing customer Russell Sampson has racked up an impressive 90,000KM in his truck in just one year, but you wouldn't know it!

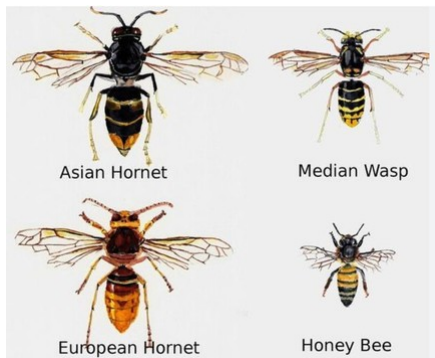
This is Russell with his lorry, which was up for prizes at Truck Fest earlier this year - every bolt and button shining! What is even more impressive it that he was driving that lorry through France just 2 days before this photo was taken by one of our team.



## **Don't Get Stung!**

*A rare non-car related subject* 🐝

I have just got back from a week identifying and tracking Asian Hornets on the island of Jersey. I returned to find a European Hornet in my fridge (obviously it's been too hot for him outside as well!). As a beekeeper, I am probably more sensitive to the looming issues than many others but this has the potential to affect everyone. With **17 nests per square kilometre possible**, no-one's picnic or beer will be safe. Even more seriously, there is a good chance someone will eventually die as a consequence of one or multiple stings.



Tracking involves marking a hornet at a feeding point, watching its direction of flight when it leaves, and timing its return - every minute taken to return means the nest is approximately 100m away. Move the bait station closer, then check again and Bob's your uncle. However, the last nest took three of us two days to find!

The easiest way to identify this Asian monster is its **bright yellow legs**. My experience is that these characters are actually rather placid. We were able to mark them with coloured paint whilst they sucked a refreshing sugar water bait and never once (after the first hour) did I worry about being stung. Honey Bees on the other hand WILL have concerns. 🐝

I have had European Hornets take the odd bee, as have wasps, but the Asian hornet is a bit of a greedy honey-bee specialist. If you see a hornet and you're not sure which type it is, you can take a (safe) photograph and notify the great British non-native species, Secretariat NNSS at, **ALERTNONNATIVE@CEH.AC.UK** - I am also happy to take a look.

Better to start the hunt late than never - **Enjoy that picnic! Mark**



Never past its prime! This 1967 Ferrari 275 GTB, once owned by actor Steve McQueen sold for a massive \$5.4m at auction in California last month - and believe it or not you won't have to pay ULEZ on this classic. Bargain!!

**SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!**

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