

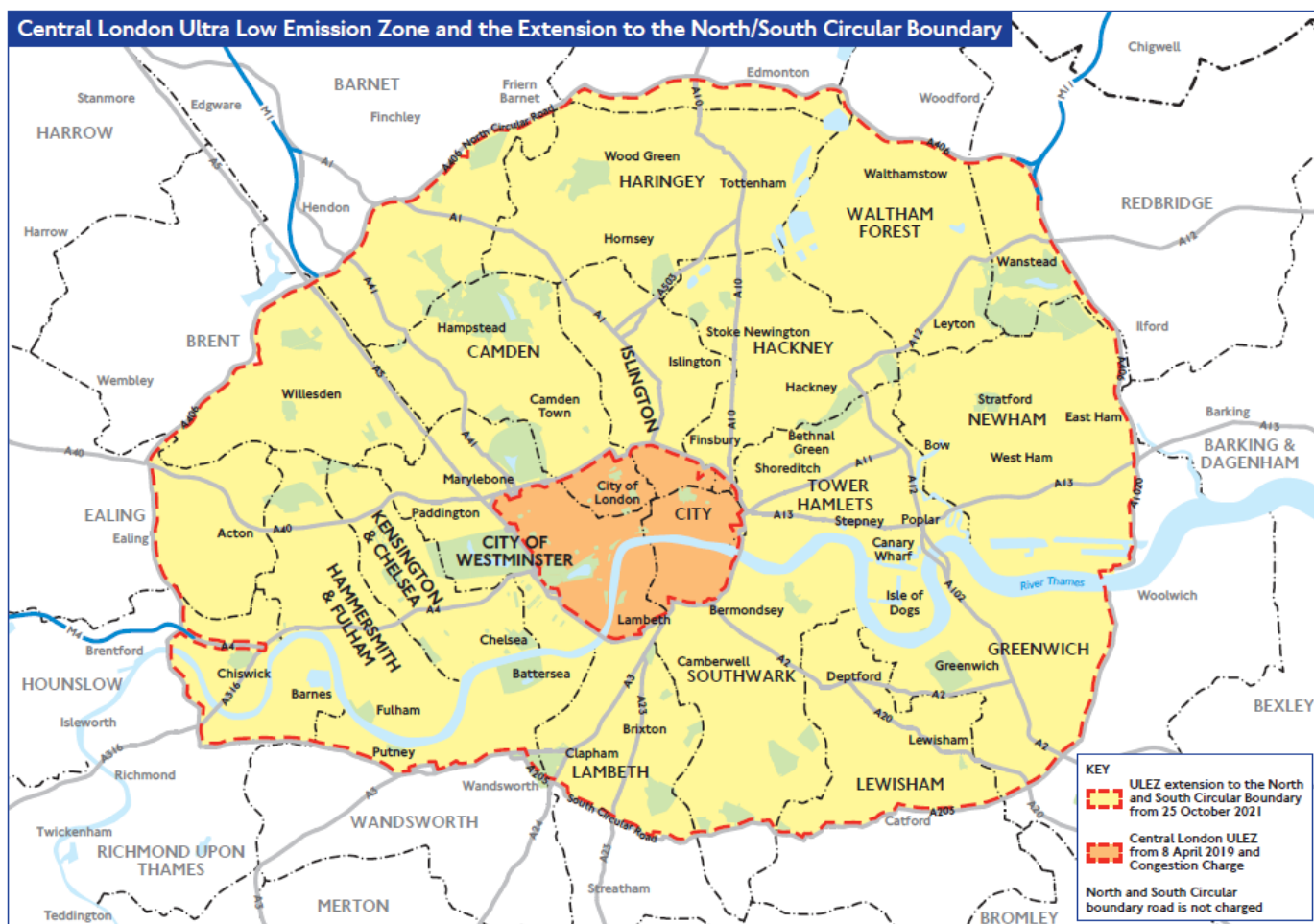


# Clean Air Zone Guide



## London

The capital already had a non-charging low emission zone covering most of Greater London, but tighter emission standards were introduced for central London from **8 April 2019**, under the new Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ). It is set to be expanded to cover most of Greater London from **25 October 2021**.



The current charges for the Central London ULEZ are:

- £12.50 for private cars, vans, motorcycles and mopeds
- £12.50 for taxis
- £100 for buses, coaches and HGVs

Soon other towns and cities across the UK will also follow suit.



There are two main types of CAZs: those that charge drivers and those where there is no charge but councils promise "action to improve air quality".

A CAZ can be applied to all vehicles or a selection, from buses, lorries, vans, taxis, private cars, to motorcycles and mopeds and government guidelines state that profits made from CAZs should then be reinvested in local transport schemes.

## **Bath & North East Somerset**

**Clean air zone** planned by 2021

**Vehicles affected** : all vehicles failing to meet minimum emission standards, apart from private cars

**Low emission charge** : £9 for non-compliant vans and taxis; £100 for lorries and buses

Earlier proposals to charge drivers of private cars £9 to enter the city centre have been dropped after the council received a record 8,000 responses during a public consultation.

It looks likely that lorries, buses and coaches that fail to meet the minimum emissions standards will be charged £100 per day and non-compliant vans and taxis £9 if the proposed zone goes ahead as planned by 2021.

The council is requesting a government fund so that residents and workers with old cars, which don't even meet Euro 4 emissions standards - which have been mandatory for new cars since 2006 - can upgrade, contributing to an improvement in air quality.

## **Birmingham**

The Birmingham Clean Air Zone was due to start in **January 2020**, but has been delayed until **July 2020** at the earliest because of technological problems.

The government told Birmingham City Council that it must reduce levels of NO<sub>2</sub> in the air to a maximum average of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> as soon as possible, before continuing to lower the amount of NO<sub>2</sub> and particulate matter.

Non-compliant cars, taxis and LGVs will be subject to a daily charge of £8, rising to £50 per day for HGVs, coaches and buses.

[Click here for more information on the Birmingham CAZ and how it affects you.](#)



## Bristol

**Clean air zone** under consideration

**Vehicles affected** : unknown

Bristol City Council is currently considering everything and nothing: from a clean air zone that brings in some measures to reduce emissions without charging, to the full London option, where all older vehicles will have to pay to drive in a sizeable area of Bristol. Five different proposals are currently being considered before councillors make their decision this year.

## Cambridge

**Clean air zone** being examined for 2020

**Vehicles affected** unknown

Cambridge has recently published its Air Quality Action Plan, which includes mention of a feasibility study into a Clean Air Zone. If it goes ahead, the Zone will cover central Cambridge and come into place during 2020, according to the document.

The study will consider the effect of including private cars in the charging scheme, as well as buses, taxis and lorries. One possibility involves "potentially permitting access to low emission vehicles only", alongside reducing the amount of parking available in the city, the plan states.

## Cardiff

**Clean air zone** feasibility study underway

**Vehicles affected** : unknown

Cardiff has the worst pollution in Wales, and NOx levels exceed legal limits in some areas of the city, It has been told to investigate the possibility of a clean air zone by the Welsh government and is due to report back in 2019 with a proposal to improve air quality. It's too early to tell whether vehicle charging will form part of this.

## Derby

**Clean air zone** a possibility

**Vehicles affected** : either none, or all lorries, buses, vans and cars failing to meet minimum emission standards.

Derby is one of five councils outside London that have been told to set up clean air zones to deal with air pollution that's far in excess of legal limits (more than 10µg/m<sup>3</sup> over the 40µg/m<sup>3</sup> standard in Derby's case). It has published a consultation with three options, two of which include charging cars that don't meet minimum emission standards.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Fareham

**Low emission zone** being considered

**Vehicles affected** All vehicles failing to meet minimum emission standards

Fareham residents are currently being consulted over a proposal to introduce a clean air zone on the A27 and A32, along the south side of the town centre, where air pollution is at its worst.

The council hasn't published any concrete plans, but is considering charges for all types of vehicles. It says that the zone would be a "last resort" and would have "considerable impact on the lives of Fareham and Gosport residents". The consultation closes in October and the responses will influence the council's final plans, which are due to be published shortly.

## Leeds

Leeds City Council will be introducing a CAZ, but 'due to reasons beyond the council's control,' the launch has been delayed beyond **6 January 2020**.

The proposed Clean Air Zone covers a wide area, but no vehicles will be banned from entering the zone. Instead, all non-compliant HGVs, buses, coaches, taxis and private hire vehicles will have to pay a daily fee. The costs range from £12.50 to £50.

Private motorists and LGVs will not be charged for driving into the CAZ.

A £29m government grant will largely be given to vehicle operators to help them to adapt. HGV firms will share £13.8m to finance cleaner trucks; taxi drivers have been allocated £7.3m to upgrade. Leeds has some of the most polluted roads in the country, with average NOx levels of 55µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is 38% above legal limits.

## Manchester

**Clean air zone** proposed for 2021

**Vehicles affected** : non-compliant HGVs, buses, coaches, taxis and private hire vehicles from 2021, plus vans and minibuses from 2023

Clean air zone charges:

- £100 for HGVs, buses and coaches from 2021
- £7.50 for taxis and private hire vehicles from 2021
- £7.50 for vans and minibuses from 2023

There are 152 stretches of road in Greater Manchester, covering seven local authorities, where NOx levels exceed legal limits, and the widespread pollution is set to result in one of the biggest clean air zones in the country.

The latest plans do not involve privately-owned cars.

Greater Manchester was also exploring the idea of differential parking charging, where vehicles could be charged based on their emissions but these have now been discounted.



## Newcastle

**Low emission zone** proposed from 2021

**Vehicles affected** : buses, lorries and taxis. Potentially cars and vans

Newcastle City Council is considering imposing a clean air zone that applies to all vehicles in the centres of Newcastle and Gateshead. However, a council study found that it was unlikely to improve air quality to within legal limits **by 2021**, so the local authority is proposing a series of alternative measures that are likely to affect all road users.

A low emission zone for buses, lorries and taxis has been suggested for Newcastle City Centre and Gateshead Town Centre, in conjunction with tolls on city centre bridges, which would apply to most vehicles with the exception of public transport and the most economical hybrid cars.

## Nottingham

A Clean Air Zone is no longer being considered in Nottingham.

Instead, Nottingham City Council is working on a series of measures designed to improve air quality, such as retrofitting buses with clean exhaust technology, requiring every taxi and private hire vehicle to be low-emissions, and replacing its own fleet with electric or other low emission vehicles.

## Oxford

**Oxford is not among those 29 areas** ordered to do more but is nonetheless drawing up a bold plan of its own. The City and County Councils have already started a public consultation on their proposal to turn the city centre into the world's first Zero Emission Zone.

**Starting in 2020**, any non-zero-emission cars and vans will be banned from a few streets in central Oxford. Many more roads will be added in 2025 and 2030, and non-zero-emission **HGVs will also be banned from the zone from 2035**.

The councils project that NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations on George Street (the city's most polluted street) will fall by 74% by 2035 if the Zero Emission Zone is brought in.

## Reading

**Clean air zone** under consideration

**Vehicles affected** unknown

Reading Borough Council is planning to consult residents over the introduction of a clean air zone to improve air quality, even though nitrogen oxide levels are expected to comply with legal limits **by 2020**.

The type of vehicles and cost are still under consideration, as is the scope of the zone: officials are examining a wide area, as council documents speak of "tackling higher polluting vehicles travelling through the Reading borough".



## Sheffield

No final decisions have been made yet. However, the council's preferred option would see the creation of a charging CAZ in Sheffield's inner ring-road:

- £10 a day for taxis, private hire vehicles, vans/LGVs
- £30 a day for buses, coaches and HGVs

## Slough

**Clean air zone** proposal is being examined

**Vehicles affected** : taxis, buses, coaches, lorries and vans

Slough council has ruled out clean air zone charges for cars, but is considering charges for other types of vehicles.

## Southampton

Southampton City Council introduced a non-charging Clean Air Zone in **2017**. Earlier plans to introduce a charging CAZ were dropped in **January 2019**.

The council has introduced stricter new conditions for taxi operators in the city, with the first stage of changes coming into force on **1 January 2020**.

The council is also offering financial incentives to encourage taxi and private hire vehicles owners to upgrade to a low emission vehicle.

## Warrington

**Clean air zone** proposal being examined

**Vehicles affected** unknown

Warrington estimates that there were 95 premature deaths in 2013, due to pollution from tiny exhaust particles alone. Even though pollution is predicted to be within EU legal limits this year, the borough council is still considering introducing a clean air zone.

The council is looking into the viability and effectiveness of a zone and says that the location and types of vehicle affected will form part of this. The study is part of the council's latest local transport plan, which is expected to be announced in a consultation document.

## York

York's proposed zone would come into force in 2020 and would apply to buses that do not meet emission standards travelling within the city's inner ring road five or more times a day.

The council says operators that do not comply will not be able to run services in the area.



## Scotland

### Aberdeen

**Low emission zone** planned by 2020

**Vehicles affected:** buses and lorries failing to meet minimum emission standards

Aberdeen is one of four Scottish cities where low emission zones are planned by 2020. Unlike Glasgow's wide-ranging scheme that will ban older cars and taxis from city centre roads, Aberdeen is only looking at restricting buses and lorries.

As with other Scottish schemes, you're not expected to have the option of a daily charge if you have a vehicle that doesn't meet the required standard. Drivers of banned buses and lorries are likely to be issued with a penalty fee for driving in the zone, which a government consultation has suggested would be higher than a standard clean air zone charge.

### Dundee

**Low emission zone** planned by 2020

**Vehicles affected:** *all vehicles failing to meet minimum emission standards*

Another Scottish town that's expected to ban the most polluting vehicles and fine them if they drive into a low emission zone, Dundee is expected to introduce measures by 2020. The council is drawing up proposals, which are expected to be published shortly.

### Edinburgh

**Low emission zone** planned by 2020

**Vehicles affected:** All vehicles failing to meet minimum emission standards

Scotland's capital city suffers from the worst pollution in the country, with more areas of illegal air quality than anywhere else north of the border. It's currently working on plans for a low-emission zone, which is likely to be finalised this year.

Council documents reveal that a city-wide zone is under consideration, as are a series of mini-zones in the areas of poorest air quality. Vehicles failing to meet modern emission standards will be banned from the affected areas entirely and the Council is considering including private cars in the scheme. Pedestrians and cyclists will be given greater priority at the same time, according to one of the council's transport leaders.





## Glasgow

**Low emission zone** rolled out between December 2018 and December 2022

**Vehicles affected:** All vehicles failing to meet minimum emission standards

**Low emission charge** - drivers of non-compliant vehicles will be fined

Glasgow's low emission zone came into force at the end of 2018. Initially, only local buses in the centre of the city are affected.

The city council plans to extend restrictions to all vehicles, including older petrol and diesel cars, from **December 2022**. The zone will cover the same central area, which is bordered by the River Clyde, M8 and High Street.

It will be the first test of the penalty model in Britain, where the most polluting vehicles are banned from driving into the zone. Drivers will be sent a penalty if they try. The vehicle criteria and fine amount has not yet been announced.

## Elsewhere

Eight other councils have been told to produce plans to tackle NO2 levels:

**Bolsover, Bradford, Portsmouth, Broxbourne, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Leicester and Liverpool.**

They have until **31 October** this year to submit plans.