

Useful links

www.electricbikemag.co.uk
www.atob.org.uk/electric-bike-reviews.html
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/cycling
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/smartertravel
www.travelplus.org.uk

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eBiking the smarter choice



Travel+, Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils working together to improve local transport

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Go electric!

travel 

Electric bikes combine pedal and electric power. You choose how much (or little!) effort you wish to exert, to make riding easier and more enjoyable for you. They are great to ease a new cyclist into cycling, and can also assist those with a disability. They can be bought from many cycle shops.

The benefits of using an electric bike

Consider buying an electric bike if you want to invest in a green and affordable mode of transport. Benefits include:

- Assistance with pedalling – cover longer distances.
- Easier to ride up hills
- Very low running costs
- Less time sat in traffic jams
- Environmentally friendly – no emissions
- Some electric bikes are foldable, for ease of use on public transport.
- Improve fitness gradually
- Arrive at work less flustered
- Fun to ride!

How far can I go?

Electric bikes are generally suitable for return journeys of around 20 miles on a single charge. The exact range will



depend on how much you pedal, the terrain, battery condition and the rider's weight. More expensive models will have a greater range and yet don't necessarily weigh more.

Cost

The cost of a decent electric bike can vary from £800 to £2,000 depending on quality, the type of bike and the accessories. Lithium-ion batteries are used on the majority of models as it is a light, efficient technology. Lead acid batteries are used on very cheap modes but these are heavy and dated. If your

employer operates the Cycle to Work scheme you can obtain one with a retail value of up to £1000 – tax-free!

In addition to the costs of maintaining a conventional cycle, such as an annual service, it will cost around ten pence to charge the bike's battery. A battery has a life of around four to five years and it can cost from around £150 – £500 to replace, depending on your bike model and battery type.

Keep legal and safe

In Great Britain, electric bikes are covered by the Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles Regulations. There is no requirement for a licence, tax, insurance, or MOT. There is no requirement for

a helmet although you should consider wearing one, especially if you are new to cycling.

If you might commute in the dark, or in adverse weather, don't forget your bike lights – many electric bikes have these built in. A high-vis jacket gives drivers plenty of warning that you are there – so they are much more likely to give you plenty of room. Invest in a good quality lock to secure your investment and always lock your bike to a solid object.

