

Impressive

Ian Lamming assesses the new Renault Koleos

SCARY to think it is only autumn, particularly when you see the state of the roads.

Too late to miss it, the pothole must have been caused by an asteroid and was big enough to swallow a small car.

Waiting for the impact I winced preparing to lose a wheel in the collision. But impact was little more than a bump and the big Renault SUV continued unperturbed – impressive that.

But then Renault's resurrected Koleos is impressive in many ways. The biggest of the brace of Renault SUVs, that also includes the excellent Captur and Kadjar, Koleos now lives in a different global market.

The last one was a reskinned version of a Nissan X-trail and to be honest wasn't a bad car. Buyers didn't agree and it disappeared.

Today SUVs are kings of the road, probably because of the state of the roads, and Koleos returns with a vengeance.

Its bold front end leaves you with an instant impression that it could have you in a fight and it is a large and imposing vehicle. Trendy LED lights, signature-style, carry on cues that started with new Megane and it does all echo brand Renault.

Inside is characteristically latest generation Renault too and the dash is dominated by the iPad-esque infotainment centre.

Top of the range Signature spoils its occupants with cracking Bose surround sound, gorgeous leather and a very up-market and well put together feel. Impressive again.

There is also bags of space in what is a large vehicle. No option for seven seats but bags of room for five sizeable adults and their luggage, accessed via a natty electronic tailgate.

Big, yes, but never unwieldy, the Koleos remains sharp and well mannered on the road. The 2.0 litre diesel is strong enough and is mated to an excellent CVT automatic box.

While the combination makes it a great drive I couldn't get anywhere near the promised on-paper 47.9 combined miles per gallon figure.

All the latest safety stuff is under the skin, all the latest infotainment gubbins is there for adults and kids alike.

New Koleos is bold, capable, well put together and is set to put a considerable hole, dent and crater in the burgeoning SUV market.

Fact File

- Renault Koleos Signature dCi 175 4x4 X-Tronic
- Engine: 2.0 turbo diesel
- Power: 177HP
- 0-62mph: 9.5 secs
- Top speed: 125mph
- Combined MPG: 47.9
- Transmission: 7-speed CVT
- CO2 g/km: 156

