

# Reaching Far



# and Wide

Motoring journalist **Ian Lamming** assesses the ability of the Crossland X to reach far and wide

**D**OWN south can be a long way so if you have to go you need the right sort of vehicle.

It's 500 miles in each direction and a heady mix of motorways, A roads and single tracks. The car needs to be big enough to travel comfortably, tall enough to be safe, but narrow and compact to slot through tiny gaps and find rest in busy car parks.

Sounds demanding? Is there a car that will fit the bill? Certainly is; meet Vauxhall's new Crossland X.

This SUV has a look of an Adam but pumped up and ready for anything. With 1,000 miles to cover economy is up there with comfort as a major consideration and the 1.2 litre petrol motor is just the job with 50mpg within its reach.

It does this in a spritely fashion thanks to a turbocharger and the three-cylinder is an aural delight with that characteristic off-beat note.

It's the perfect match for taut, entertaining handling and excellent ride making Crossland X fun to drive cross country.

What is never fun and only to be endured are the roads that begin with an M. Here X marks the spot once more as its light, airy cabin cossets and there is time to play with the touch screen infotainment centre.

Junior in the back is happy too surrounded by his travel paraphernalia. His portable DVD player fits easily on the back of the front seat headrest, there's a plug in the back to power it and room for all his books, discs, iPad and snacks.

The miles roll by, he barley notices, switching from blockbuster to games and good old fashioned text in his latest Alex Ryder.

If he is happy, driver is happy and Crossland X ensures there is minimal tiredness and no aches and pains.

A double-decker boot is handy for luggage and valuables that can be secreted away during stops. Doors also have decent-sized pockets and there is more useful storage between the front seats and iPad sized slots in the back ones. Now there is a sign of the times and proof Vauxhall remains on trend.

Not being an automatic causes a wince of concern as we all get lazy in our dotage but the six speed box proves so easy to use that it isn't an issue and is soon forgotten about.

Never one to skimp, the hotels and B&Bs used on the trip attract a certain clientele so the car parks tend to be full of Beemers, Mercs and Range Rovers. Not a problem. We all know what these Bourgeois-mobiles look like but the Crossland X draws plenty of quizzical and admiring glances because people don't really know what it is. It holds its head high, plops into tight parking spaces perfectly and reminds me how much I love driving the new stuff.

Down south remains a long way, particularly if driver opts for Land's End, but in a Crossland X it isn't half as far as it used to be.

## Fact File

- Vauxhall Crossland X
- Engine: 1.2 petrol turbo
- Power: 130PS
- 0-62mph: 9.1 secs
- Top speed: 128mph
- Combined MPG: 55.4
- Transmission: six speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 116

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