

Give a little Respect

Ian Lamming holds his head high in the Freelander

RESPECT is due. While Land Rover and Range Rover flirt with the 21st century with radical and tantalising designs, wowing drivers the world over, they can only do this because of the bedrock of the company.

There, sitting on the firm foundations of Defender, rests the other stalwart of the range, the Freelander, like a block of granite bearing the weight of the world.

Freelander has changed little over the years the designation '2' speaking volumes for the longevity of its design.

The entry-level Land Rover is formidable and functional not flash. It wears its green oval badge with pride because it has proved itself countless times on and off the road for generations.

Simple lines remain unpretentious and characteristically Land Rover. They say smart and appealing, at home in the most esteemed of company, but they also hint of what lies underneath the skin – a no nonsense capable mover which will reach journey's end no matter what gets in the way.

Climb into the relatively high-set cabin and the driver wants for nothing. It is a very appealing and well-equipped interior

complete with lovely leather, hi-tech touch screen technology and superb ergonomics.

The glass sunroofs fitted to test vehicle illuminate with natural light a truly excellent interior.

Fire up the 150PS diesel engine and there is power aplenty from low down the rev range. It is torquey for towing and the rough stuff put peppy on the hoof and quiet on the motorway. Freelander comes with all wheel drive which can be changed at the push of a button for a variety of conditions, anything from snow, gravel, mud and rocks.

On the asphalt it corners confidently and grips like the English bull terrier it is.

In Aintree Green and with 19in alloys Freelander looks particularly at home in the country, at the races or outside the posh shops.

Only time will tell whether its timeless charm will eventually fall prey to contemporary designers and if it does I'm sure it will look as great as Evoque and Range Rover.

Until then Freelander can continue to hold its head high.

Fact File

Model: Land Rover
Freelander 2 TD4
Engine: 2.2 litre,
turbo diesel
Drivetrain: six speed
manual
Power: 150PS
Top speed: 112mph
0-62mph: 11.7 secs
Miles per gallon 45.6
(combined):
CO2 (g/km): 165

