

# Taking the Strain

Ian Lamming assesses the new Nissan Qashqai

COUNTRY roads take me home, as the song goes, which means turning off some of the safety features in this new SUV.

Lane assist, designed to stop you drifting out of your carriageway on the wide stuff, struggles to cope with the back roads so off that goes.

Then emergency braking seems to flash at the prospect of every drystone wall and even panic brakes with some despite me steering a safe path – so goodbye.

I also must admit that stop/start might not last the week either so if the Polar icecaps go that'll be my doing.

All these gizmos are great and the new Nissan Qashqai seems to have more than most –

I've never seen so many sensors on the bodywork keeping you safe from all directions – but one of the best things is being able to switch them off easily when they aren't required.

So it's me against the world and that's the way I like it. The Nissan is the way I like it too.

The new Qashqai has changed subtly but does look better for the tweaks up front and in the rear.

It stands out too thanks to vivid blue livery and big attractive alloys so well done style gurus.

The hatchback is dead, long live the SUV and it is easy to see why when they are as good as Qashqai. It is such an easy car to live with getting on with the job of life in an incredibly fuss-free manner.

I need a car that will gobble distances and the Nissan does a great job. High-set driving position gives you a splendid view, offers a lofty feeling of safety and well being while Qashqai is quiet and composed on long journeys.

It is up hill and down dale between work and home and the 1.5 litre diesel is powerful, refined and very economical; just the ticket.

It is also narrow and twisty in parts, many parts, so the car has to handle well and the Qashqai is excellent round the bends, over the crests and through the potholes. As well as country and motorways I have to traverse towns, time always pressing, and need to be able to park easily.

The Nissan is a sizeable SUV but incredibly simple to slot home thanks to the best camera arrangement around, coupled with beeps

galore. You can pot the blue in the smallest holes that only need be a few inches longer than the car itself.

Inside is well equipped and appointed. Toys galore help you get through the day and the satnav and infotainment re easy to pilot. The boot is a double decker so you can hide goodies away.

Nissan's latest Qashqai is very much a car for its time and wants for nothing. Whether you are a townie, a city dweller or, like me, a country boy, it has everything anyone could need to take the strain and some things some of us don't.

## Fact File

- Nissan Qashqai
- Engine: 1.5 litre diesel
- Power: 110PS
- 0-62mph: 11.9
- Top speed: 113mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 74.3
- Transmission: six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 99

