

The spacious SUV



that delivers

Ian Lamming goes on the move in the new Kia Sorento

Fact File

Kia Sorento

Engine: 2.2 turbo diesel

Power: 194BHP

0-62mph: -

Top speed: 118mph

Combined miles per gallon: 42.2

Transmission: six speed automatic

Insurance: 21

CO2 g/km: 175

THE furniture has been standing there for months and short of hiring a van there seemed to be no way to move it.

The travertine table needed to come home and the tall boy was destined for the Lakes but both were too large and awkwardly shaped to fit in most cars, even with the seats folded down.

Then, spookily, Kia's gargantuan Sorento came to town. A damaged windscreen on the scheduled Sportage had prevented its delivery. No matter when the first substitute turned out to be the awesome seven-seater Sorento.

New Sorento looks like its smaller sibling nowadays and benefits from its peerless good lines. Rear end gets much tidier taillights while the front boasts trick and trendy LED day running lights on top of the headlamps. The result gives a stalwart vehicle even greater aesthetic appeal.

It remains a fabulous car and its voluminous interior swallows up to seven adults and masses of cargo – including furniture.

Drop the rear and middle seats and there is a flat load area that easily swallowed both chunky bits of wood, stone and MDF. The deck is also about hip height making loading as easy as it comes.

But when the seats are in place there is plenty of room for passengers who are cosseted by ride and equipment.

The powerful 2.2 diesel is untroubled no matter how heavy the payload or steep the inclines and the fact it remains so relaxed boosts economy to the 40mpg mark; again impressive for such a big 'un.

Despite the girth, Sorento handles and rides stupendously. It never feels unwieldy and is an absolute pleasure to drive.

Like all Kias the interior is quality; it is well equipped and beautifully put together. You just know it will last every day of its spectacularly long seven-year warranty. It is also exceptionally comfortable and long-distances are dispensed seemingly in the blink of an eye.

And when there is furniture to be delivered, there's no better way to perform the task.