

A car for all



Seasons

Ian Lamming drives the Peugeot 3008 Allure HDi 115

WHEN is a 4x4 not a 4x4? When it's a Peugeot 3008.

As your eyes fall on to a round knob on the transmission tunnel it is easy to think you are in an all wheel drive SUV.

There are symbols denoting snow, sand, rock, very much like those on modern Land Rovers and they drive every wheel.

But no, think again, the power in the case of the new 3008 goes only through the front tyres and if you feel cheated don't.

Four wheel drive isn't always all it is cracked up to be. One snowy day in North Yorkshire I remember spinning broadside in a so-called off-roader (whose make shall remain nameless to avoid corporate blushes).

You see, if the engine can't lay down the power properly then it doesn't really matter how many wheels receive a push.

Generally it means that instead of spinning two wheels you spin all four and the front flies off in one direction, the rear another.

The 3008 is much cleverer as it uses traction control and electronic stability control to ensure maximum grip is achieved at all time. So the front wheels bite rather than slither, which is all you need.

It also comes with proper Michelin mud and snow tyres, something many SUV manufacturers forget in their homage

to sporty low profileness. Big mistake come the slippery stuff.

This novel approach works, really works. T'other week a well know Japanese SUV was outperformed in the snow by my zesty Abarth; how can that be?

But the Peugeot proves to be a truly grippy contender, which is much appreciated on the slurry-coated roads of North Yorkshire, even more so when this freezes to ice.

Grip always comes in useful and knowing the cross-over is tenacious boosts confidence in all weathers.

The 1.6 litre diesel is incredibly refined and strong with massive mid-range and spirited performance.

I love the way the trip computer never drops below 52mpg so I drive without even trying to eek every mile from every drop of fuel.

The Peugeot is also joyous inside with delightful dash, switches and clocks, a wonderful full-length glass roof and fabulous double decker boot with access to the basement via a dropdown split tailgate. It is so comfortable, so practical, so well thought out.

New corporate looks – like those of the 308 – freshen aesthetics of a model that hadn't really dated.

The 3008 is a car for all seasons that you can't fail to enjoy driving in all-weather and conditions safe in the knowledge you will always get home.

Fact File

Peugeot 3008Allure HDi 115

Engine: 1.6 litre turbo diesel

Power: 115BHP

0-62mph: 13.6 secs

Top speed: 112mph

Combined miles per gallon: 57.6

Transmission: automatic

CO2 g/km: 127