

The Skoda Yeti Urban

by Ian Lynas

THE Skoda Yeti is a crossover with the practicality of a hatchback and a recent test drive found me behind the wheel of the Urban 1.2 TSI with 105PS.

Many may think considering the moderate capacity of the engine may be odd in a vehicle with generous dimensions.

After having spent several days with the Yeti I too was surprised, but pleasantly just how much power was on offer.

A top speed of 109mph and rest to 62mph in 11.8 seconds. Perhaps not exactly sportscar-like, but more than adequate for the task in hand.

Linked to this small power unit a slick six speed manual transmission and the combination can deliver just over 44mpg on the combined fuel cycle.

There are a number of models in the Yeti range, some with four wheel drive and like the version tested, two wheel drive.

I must say that the Urban with its 17 inch black and chrome Matterhorn alloy

wheels and wheel arch extensions does produce a rather butch look

While the outside is chunky, moving to the interior and the standard of finish and equipment produced yet more surprises for me.

A sporty three spoke multi function leather steering wheel for radio and telephone. Yes there is telephone pre-installation GSM 11 with Bluetooth.

Also I was able to connect my iPhone with ease, great not having to call on the instruction book.

A good quality DAB radio and very efficient dual zone air conditioning added a lot of pleasure to driving this Skoda in what was mainly very unkind weather.

In order to find those difficult locations the standard sat nav system was useful, although a larger screen would be welcome.

The sports seats offer plenty of support and the relatively high stance of the Yeti makes for ease of getting onboard.

More and more vehicles are coming with parking aids of one form or another and with this Yeti there are acoustic parking sensors.

I have to add that I used to think that such were unnecessary but with parking spaces becoming smaller now especially at our large supermarkets I would really



miss such on a vehicle.

You might think that the Yeti would be lacking in road holding and handling. Well I



proved just how good this Skoda is, some will know the road that winds by Strangford Lough from Newtownards to Kirkistown race circuit; it can be a challenge and the Yeti scored highly.

Along with good road manners the comfort levels are high and being higher than a hatchback, all onboard have excellent visibility.

I have tried hard to find a fault with this Skoda and I can report, a much better vehicle than I had expected.

When it comes to value for money, here again the Yeti scores, the model tested costs £16,995. Certainly worth taking a test drive.