

## Great Wall Steed

By Jim Mc Cauley

The name, the vehicle and the dealer network are all new, launching the Chinese brand in Northern Ireland. First to arrive from the manufacturer Great Wall, is the Steed, a double-cab 4X4 that is aimed at the agricultural and industrial markets, offering high specification levels and extremely competitive pricing.



Design-wise, the vehicle has the chunky no-nonsense appearance that characterises this popular workhorse category and under its galvanised steel skin lies a separate, rust-proofed ladder-frame chassis, strengthened and braced by reinforced middle cross-members, an impact-resistant rear beam and a reinforced cargo bed.

Carrying capacity compares very well with established pick-up rivals, the spacious cargo bay measuring 1,380 mm x 1,460 mm x 480 mm (length, width, depth). Added to this is its maximum payload of 1,000 kg and a braked towing capability is 2,000 kg.

On-road, and the Steed's 2.0 litre turbocharged diesel produces 143 bhp with a useful 305 Nm of torque delivered from 1800 to 2800 rpm. Driving through a 6-speed manual gearbox, default drive is rear-wheel only with all-wheel drive selectable on the move at speeds of up to 12 mph. For difficult conditions, there is also a low-speed 4-wheel drive option. Ride is firm and supportive and for tight manoeuvring the SE model is equipped with distance sensors.

Accommodation-wise, there is an abundance of space inside the double-cab with ample headroom as well as generous leg and shoulder room for the driver and up to four passengers. Storage areas are plentiful, including a lockable glove-box, front centre console, front door pockets with cup holders and front seatback map pockets. The rear seat back also folds flat for additional internal load carrying capacity.

Both the standard S and higher specification SE models come with a host of features typically offered as high-cost options with competitor models, including 16-inch alloy wheels, daytime running lights, remote central locking, a Thatcham-approved Category 1 alarm,



electric front and rear windows, CD/radio with USB/MP3 and Bluetooth connectivity, steering wheel mounted audio controls, air conditioning, heated seats and a full leather interior.

All Steeds come with a comprehensive three-year / 60,000-mile mechanical warranty, three-year paint warranty and a six-year anti-perforation warranty. Additional benefits include a commitment to collect vehicles for servicing, and the offer of fixed-price service plans.



The SE model as tested is priced at £15,998 with VAT where applicable adding £3,200. A combined fuel consumption of 30.1 mpg is quoted and this model is in Group 8A for insurance purposes.