

# LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SPORT 2.2

By Jim Mc Cauley



Land Rover has refined the styling of its Discovery model which is now clearly identified by a more rounded front end, sporting taper to the rear roofline and a gentle rounding of the rear pillars. The Discovery is the middle model in the company's three vehicle line-up, sitting between the Range Rover and Defender. Power source is a 2.2 litre turbocharged diesel engine which in the case of the test vehicle drives through a 9-speed automatic gearbox. Power

output is 190PS with a substantial 420Nm of torque on tap from 1750 rpm. This more than justifies the 'Sport' badging as it takes the vehicle from rest to 60 mph in 8.4 seconds with a potential top speed of 117 mph.

Power delivery is instantaneous with the ZF transmission doing an excellent job of slipping into the next ratio before tempting the engine sound to intrude too much into the cabin. Steering is precise and the suspension generally does a good job of supporting the car's bulk of just short of two tonnes to maintain good cornering pace. This is aided by the fact that the Discovery Sport enjoys full-time all-wheel drive with automatic balance transfer between axles via the electronically controlled Haldex central coupling. Side roll is relatively well controlled through corners, and for the driver who wants an overall sharper response, there is always the Sport setting. The automatic gear selection can be overridden at any time by using the steering mounted paddles.

However off-road, the driver can tailor the handling by choosing from the four-way menu of General, Grass/Gravel/Snow, Mud&Ruts, and Sand settings. This is achieved through a range of six electronically managed transmission options that included Hill Descent Control and Electronic traction Control.





Appealing to its luxury market niche, the interior of the Discovery Sport is finished to a high level with the unique option in class of a foldaway pair of rear seats to extend the carrying capacity to seven. The driver also has a comprehensive package of technologies that include automatic lights and wipers, autonomous emergency braking, automatic high beam assist, touch-screen navigation, and Autonomous Emergency Braking which avoids or minimises the impact of collisions using an innovative stereo digital camera system. Designed to operate at between speeds of 3 and 50mph, the system helps to avoid collisions below 32mph, and reduces the severity of an

impact at speeds of up to 50mph. If the system deems a collision likely, it will alert the driver with a visual and audible warning. If no action is taken and a collision is judged unavoidable, a further driver warning is triggered while the system applies full braking pressure to bring the vehicle to a stop. The vehicle also comes with Bluetooth connectivity and Land Rover 'InControl' apps developed in conjunction with Bosch to enable smartphone apps to be displayed and controlled from the 8-inch infotainment screen.

On this Sport specification, seating is finished in Windsor leather with 10-way memory adjustment on the front seats and heated front and rear seats as well as a heated steering wheel. Cabin comforts also include a full length glass sunroof and extended heating outlets for the rear seat occupants.

On the environmental and economy fronts, this 2.2 litre model has an official combined fuel consumption of 44.8 mpg, and with a CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 139 gms/km is in Band E for annual car tax of £130. Over a few hundred miles of mixed driving, the test vehicle recorded 34.4 mpg, representing an excellent 77% of the official figure. The Discovery Sport as tested in HSE Luxury specification is listed at £43,400 and among the options fitted were adaptive xenon headlights at £375, electric deployable towbar at £950 and 'InControl' Connect at £650. The model can be further enhanced with a wide range of personalisation options and accessories. For additional peace of mind, a 5-year / 50,000 mile service plan is available for a one-off payment of £499. The model is in Group 38E for insurance purposes and is covered by Land Rover's comprehensive 3-year warranty.



(Driven February / March 2016)