

VAUXHALL CROSSLAND X

By Jim Mc Cauley



With the traditional family hatchbacks morphing into SUVs and SUV lookalikes, Vauxhall intends to encompass the market with their growing line-up. The Mokka X is the current mainstay SUV from Vauxhall and now the new Crossland X will sit just below the Mokka, although with a close relationship in both size and pricing. Later this year the company will re-badge the Peugeot 3008 as the Grandland X to sit on the upper side of the Mokka X and complete the SUV trio.

With the French parentage of Vauxhall, it comes as no surprise that resources are already being shared and the platform for the new Crossland X is shared with the new C3 Picasso and will be built at the company's Zaragoza plant in Spain.

While the Mokka X offers four-wheel drive, the Crossland X is available only in front-wheel drive, with a choice of petrol and diesel power units as well as 5- and 6- speed manual transmissions and a 6-speed automatic. The entry level petrol engine is a normally aspirated 1.2 litre unit while two 1.2 litre turbos complete the line-up. On the diesel side, there is a 1.6 litre turbo engine, again with a choice of two outputs.

First test choice at the vehicle's UK launch was the top petrol engined model, producing 130PS and the only petrol model to use a 6-speed manual gearbox. This combination takes the car from rest to 62mph in 9.1 seconds with the potential to top 128mph. The car benefits from a higher seating position and resulting commanding view, while ride is much more compliant and car-like than the sharper set-up of the Mokka X. However, the softer set-up and higher bodywork allows a greater degree of roll through corners, so easy does it to maintain passenger comfort on tight bends.



Progress is smooth through the 6-speed gearbox, although it requires good working of the higher ratios to maintain pace. Steering is light and ideal for city manoeuvring as well as winding roads.

Also driven at launch was the 99PS diesel driving through a 5-speed manual gearbox. Achieving maximum torque of 254Nm at 1750rpm, the diesel was noticeably more relaxed than the petrol model and was overall quieter on the road.



For the occupants, the cabin provides generous space but front seats may be overly firm to be fully appreciated on longer journeys. There is the option of sliding rear seats which move through 150mm to balance requirements between the back seat passengers and luggage area. In the full forward position, this gives a maximum boot volume of 520 litres extendible to 1,255 litres with the seats folded.

Instrument layout is now the accepted norm but the central infotainment screen is set below the dash top and would benefit from higher positioning. The steering wheel is comfortably moulded with neat gripping details and on the two models driven in higher trim levels, the spokes featured the full range of remote infotainment controls.

The infotainment equipment includes a standard 7-inch touchscreen and Bluetooth connectivity with audio streaming. Also standard are Apple CarPlay and Android Auto while every model also comes with Vauxhall's own OnStar package which features mobile 4G WiFi hotspot which can be used by up to seven devices simultaneously. It also allows connection to an adviser who is able to help with various requests while a dedicated App extends the interaction to mobile devices. Supporting safety technologies in all models include Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Hill Start Assist, Corner Stability Control, Traction Control and Electronic Brakeforce Distribution.

Other safety features, depending on specification, include a 180 degree panoramic rear view camera, advanced park assist, lane departure warning, blind spot alert, head-up display and traffic sign recognition technologies.

The diesel model tested in 'ecoTEC' trim is listed at £18,715 and this vehicle also featured upgraded 17-inch alloys at £400 and premium LED lighting pack at £695.

The petrol model tested in 'Elite' specification is listed at £19,395 with heated windscreen adding £100 and keyless entry and starting at £405. All models are covered by Vauxhall's



comprehensive 3-year / 60,000 mile warranty.

(Driven May 2017)