

Keeping the wheels of industry turning

The Arctic weather that goes with the UK's winter tends to cost industry millions. So, here's a few of the latest 4x4 offerings that should keep the wheels of industry turning, whatever the weather

Range Rover Evoque

With a rising beltline, a muscular shoulder running the length of the SUV, and a distinctive taper to the low floating roofline, the Evoque adopts an extremely vibrant profile with an imposing and muscular stance. Inside, the cabin provides exactly what you would expect; sumptuous surroundings with quality materials and an elegance befitting of a Range Rover interior.

Rather than using a traditional trim hierarchy, the Evoque gives you the choice of three design themes - the cool and contemporary Pure, the luxurious Prestige and the sporting Dynamic. Our SD4 Prestige LUX Automatic 3dr Coupé came with a silver exterior, a panoramic roof, leather seats and a hide covered dash. Under the hood lurked a potent 2.2 litre turbo diesel engine married to a six-speed, creamy smooth automatic transmission.

Behind the wheel, you feel confident and comfortable. Despite the low roof, visibility is very good, and the

expressive Evoque feels solid, yet speedy and balanced at motorway speeds, with very little roll on more twisty routes.

Not surprisingly, as a true Range Rover, the Evoque delivers all-weather, all-surface competence too, which is enhanced by the company's Terrain Response system. The standard four-wheel-drive transmission is a full-time intelligent assembly which continuously varies the front and rear torque split to deliver optimum grip and balance. The upmarket motor also has generous ground clearance and better breakover, approach and departure angles than other compact SUVs.

The Evoque will undoubtedly tempt country based motorists who need this kind of vehicle to get around, as well as a new generation of business executives who want a no-nonsense car that also delivers oodles of style.

2013 Honda CR-V

The Swindon built Sport Utility Vehicle is perfectly

Mitsubishi L200 Trojan

Max speed: 111 mph 0-62 mph: 12.1 secs Combined mpg: 35.8 (unladen)

Engine: 2477 cc 4 cylinder 16 valve turbo diesel

Max. power (bhp): 173 at 4000 rpm Max. torque (lb/ft): 295 at 2000 rpm Max. towing weight (braked) 2700 kg CO2: 208 g/km

Price: £19,324 + VAT on the road

suited to many motorists' way of life. It behaves and drives like a 'normal' car; it has the space of an estate, as well as 4x4 safety, and enough grunt to tow a trailer, caravan or horsebox.

The fourth generation CR-V offers even more quality, practicality and refinement than its forerunner. And with environmental concerns of growing importance, the up-to-the-minute 2.0 i-VTEC and 2.2 i-DTEC engines emit significantly less CO2 than before.

The new CR-V is available with four liberally equipped trim levels S, SE, SR and EX. The 2.2 i-DTEC SE we drove at its press launch impressed us. The model's intelligent multi info display, idle stop, dual zone climate control, cruise control and 17-inch alloy wheels made motoring effortless.

The CR-V's 2.2 litre oil burner pulls very nicely and, although its acceleration won't set your pants on fire, it's certainly not sluggish. The SUV feels robust, and in slippery conditions the 4x4 traction gives you a sense of security – something many rural-based business owners might well be glad of. Add Honda's standard vehicle stability assist, anti-lock braking system, electronic brake force distribution, brake assist and trailer stability assist and you're protected in your own bubble of safety heaven.

Mitsubishi L200 Trojan

Mitsubishi's L200 Trojan is practical, comfortable and with 4x4 ability it'll get you out of the trickiest

environments with utter ease. Not only that, the pickup does what it says on the tin – it'll be your best friend when it comes to picking up loads and, when the cargo area is full, it's the perfect vehicle for lugging a laden trailer around.

The L200's looks aren't bad either. It's mean and handsome – in a rough sort of way. The double cab means there's enough room for four, so when the Trojan isn't tackling off road areas or hauling heavyduty merchandise around, it's a handy family motor, especially kitted out with a luscious leather interior.

Pace, although it's not the first thing you think about when you buy a pickup, isn't an issue on the L200. There's a reason for this - the 2012/13 Trojan has had some improvements, such as 30% more clout, with an increase in engine power from 134 bhp to 173 bhp and 27% more torque. The result is that the Mitsubishi gathers pace like an angry rhino - when it does get rolling you feel it's like an indestructible road-train. Good job, then, that the pickup has first-rate brakes to scrub off any unwanted speed.

If you want individuality, forget it. The mighty Mitsubishi is available in two colours only, Aztec Red and Cosmos Black, but the Trojan is a great option for business users who demand resilience, versatility and performance.

2013 Honda CR-V

Max speed: 118 mph 0-62 mph: 9.7 secs Combined mpg: 50.4 Engine: 2199 cc 4 cylinder 16 valve turbo diesel Max. power (bhp): 148 at 4000 rpm

Max. torque (lb/ft): 258 at 2000 rpm

Max. towing weight (braked) 2000 kg CO2: 149 g/km

Price: £26,105 on the road

