

Fashionable, Stylish and Sophisticated...



The Citroën DS3 WRC powered French superstar Sébastien Loeb to an eighth consecutive World Rally Crown. But how would the road-going version fare? Well, after a thorough morning of testing, the DS3 proved to be tremendously capable little car: fun to drive, well-built and exuding plenty of French style, and, with prices starting at £11,295 on-the-road, it won't break the bank either.

For: Trendy styling, with plenty of options for further customisation, fun to drive, well-built, competitive pricing, impressive fuel economy, stands out from the crowd.

Against: Rear space a little tight... little else.

Performance:

I tested the 1.6 turbo diesel 91bhp version and was pleasantly surprised, both by the potency of the engine and the fuel economy. Reaching 70 on the motorway/dual carriageway took very little time at all, and strong middle gear performance made overtaking a straightforward task.

**Ride and Handling:**

The DS3 proved much more responsive and handled far better than the C3 supermini on which it is based. The DS3 inspired far more confidence negotiating bends, and there was decent body control. Some motor publications have criticised the DS3 for having a jiggly ride – but overall, I found the DS3's road handling to be perfectly satisfactory, and it coped well with some of the rougher Cheshire road surfaces.

Refinement:

There was very little wind noise or road noise, and whilst the engine had a pleasant rasp in the lower gears, once at cruising speeds there was very little noise at all. Overall, there was nothing to suggest that the DS3 would be anything other than a pleasant long distance cruiser.

Buying and Owning:

Citroëns of the past were not renowned for strong residuals, but the DS3 should fare better due to its desirability. It also benefits from being competitively priced, certainly when compared to a Mini. The 1.6 diesel also averaged 70mpg on test, so you should save at the pumps too.

Quality and Reliability:

Citroën has made a huge improvement in this area in recent times, and the DS3 only builds on these improvements. The cabin is a pleasant place in which to sit, and the dash is imaginatively styled. The chrome rimmed dials give the cabin real flair and there is a premium feel to the switchgear and plastics. Citroën models have also performed well in recent reliability surveys.



Safety and Security:

The DS3 was awarded the maximum 5 stars in its Euro NCAP test. Electronic stability control, traction control and six airbags come as standard. Security equipment matches that of its rivals.

Behind the Wheel:

It is noticeable that you sit quite far away from the windscreen, but this does not make judging where the front end is too difficult. The pedals are offset, which isn't to everyone's taste, but overall the driving position is hard to fault. All the major controls and switches are logically placed and within easy reach.

Space and Practicality:

The DS3 has a major advantage over its main rival, the Mini, when it comes to boot space, with a 285 litre capacity the Mini simply cannot match. There is plenty of room in the cabin, and room (just) for two adults in the rear, though rear leg room is tight.



Equipment:



The model I tested was a DStyle, which sits slap bang in the middle of the DS3 trim-range. Even entry-level models come with cruise control, central locking and electric front windows. My model added LED daytime running lights, air conditioning and rear tinted windows, as well as the side stickers and roof decals.



About the Dealer:



GRENSON CITROËN

MARSHFIELD BANK EMPLOYMENT PARK,
MIDDLEWICH ROAD, WOOLSTANWOOD
CREWE, CHESHIRE. CW2 8UY
TEL: 01270 251212

As an official Citroën dealership we pride ourselves on offering a first class experience designed to meet all of your Citroën needs and expectations. Our Citroën team of dedicated professionals are always here to provide you with the highest possible levels of service. So, why not drop by today to discover what Citroën has to offer you.

Grenson is synonymous with excellent service and ensuring that customers are completely satisfied, a reputation built up over 34 years. We have developed steadily in to the new, purpose built showrooms on the Marshfield Roundabout site on Middlewich Road in Crewe, whilst remaining an independent privately run business.

- With so many fantastic models to choose from, Grenson MUST have a car for you
- In addition to new and used car sales, Grenson offer both a full after sales service, and an “Express Service” facility

If you are looking for a personal, customer-orientated service, look no further than Grenson.

