



**WHAT VAN?
AWARDS
2007
WINNER
Small Van**

Vauxhall Corsavan

Looking to minimise your carbon footprint without compromising on performance, ride, safety or cab space? Looking to achieve these goals in a small van you can park just about anywhere?

Then look no further. We reckon that Vauxhall's latest Corsavan could be just what you're looking for. That's why it's *What Van?*'s Small Van of the Year for 2007.

As for keeping your carbon footprint in check, how does 56mpg grab you? That's what we averaged in a recent Road Test of a Corsavan powered by the remarkably impressive 75hp 1.3-litre CDTi diesel engine.

The alternative is an 80hp 1.2-litre Twinport petrol engine, but it's the diesel you want, no question about it, unless you're contemplating having your van converted to run on liquefied petroleum gas.

For your money you get a just under 1.0m³ cargo area accessed via a top-hinged back door and equipped with a half-height steel bulkhead and four load tie-down rings. The all-conquering diesel will handle a 550kg payload and haul a braked trailer grossing at up to 1005kg.

A five-speed manual gearbox comes as standard as does an impressive package of safety devices. It includes ABS, Electronic

Brakeforce Distribution and Emergency Brake Assist; and that's not all. The deal also includes Cornering Brake Control and Straight Line Stability Control.

The former makes the vehicle easier to control if you have to brake sharply half-way into a bend while the latter helps to keep you pointing in the right direction under heavy braking.

On top of all that you benefit from Drag Torque Control. It helps maintain stability if you suddenly take your foot off the accelerator.

For such a small vehicle Corsavan boasts a remarkably roomy cab. Oddment storage space is limited, but there's no shortage of holders for

cups or cans. We counted six.

As we indicated earlier, diesel Corsavan accelerates strongly from rest, doesn't lag as you accelerate through the gears and packs sufficient top-end punch to keep high-speed motorway cruisers happy. Its suspension also seems capable of coping with the worst Britain's increasingly dreadful road surfaces can throw at it.

Cards on the table. We don't like the electric power steering because we feel it spoils the handling, but we have to recognise that it makes it easy to manoeuvre Vauxhall's little load-lugger into confined spaces.

If you fancy something a bit sportier than the standard offering,

then check out the Corsavan Sportive. It's now included in the Vauxhall line-up alongside the Astravan Sportive SE after both models were exhibited in concept guise at the British Commercial Vehicle Show earlier this year.

Under the bonnet you'll find a 90hp version of the 1.3-litre diesel, this time married to a six-speed manual box. Body-coloured side mouldings and door mirrors, 15in alloy wheels, a sports exhaust tail-pipe and front fog lights help you stand out from the pack, while air-conditioning, sports seats and electric windows figure among the internal features. We like it a lot. We reckon you will too. ♦

