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## Bailey Pursuit 550-4

CANDY EVANS takes the latest version of the Bailey Pursuit to Oxford Club Site

**WHY DON'T MORE** UK-built caravans have a large, one-piece front window?

I love this feature of the Pursuit 550-4. It was great to sit inside on a sunny-but-chilly early spring day and watch the world go by at Oxford Club Site, with the picture window giving me a living, super-high-definition screen on the world.

This window is just one of the so-called 'entry level' features of the Pursuit range. You won't find masses of extras in this 550-4, a twin-fixed-bed model, but that doesn't mean the occupants miss out on the best bits of caravanning.

There's plenty of space to relax during the day and the single beds are comfortable at night. You'll need to check they fit your family, however, as they aren't the longest beds available, but as a 5ft-6in-tall tester I found they were perfect for a good night's sleep.

The exterior of the Pursuit follows a similar profile to Bailey's earlier Orion models, so the top corners have curves - designed to lower drag when the caravan is on the road. This gives the rear washroom a distinctive feel and the headheight's a little restricted, especially in the shower area, but for me it's worth it for improved fuel efficiency in the long run.

Overall, I like the new Pursuit. There are some things I'd change - such as including a rubbish bin - but it's a practical caravan for the money, with a great front window.



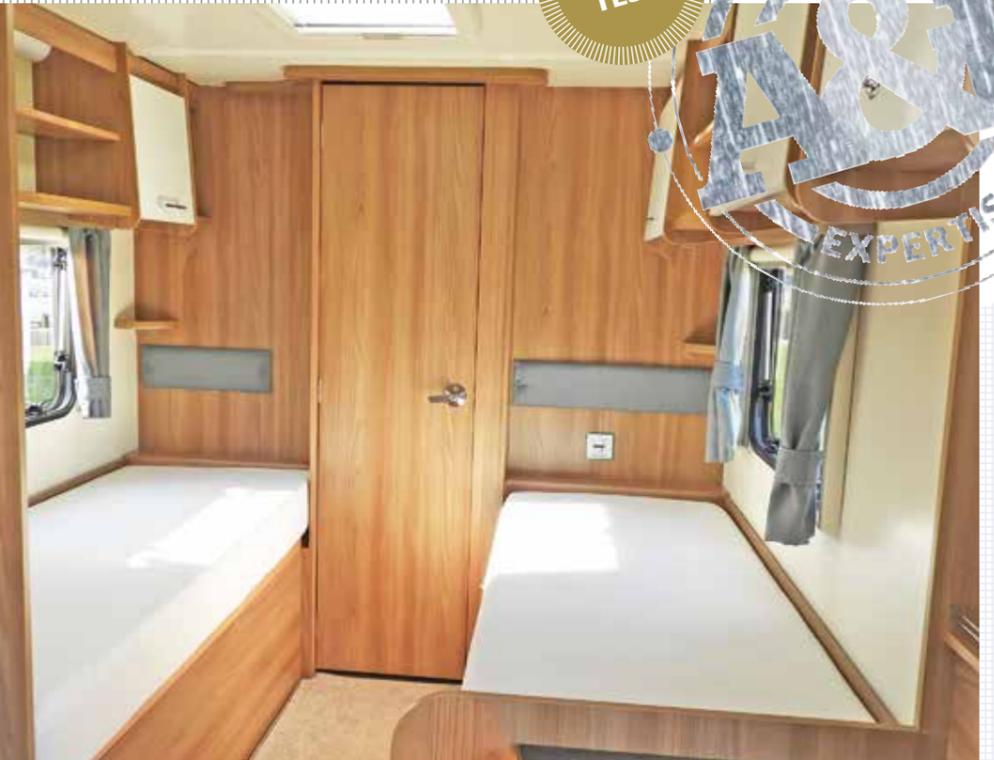
### DURING THE DAY

The front living area is bright and comfy, helped by the large opening rooflight across the sloped roof front. The two long seats transform into a large double bed at night using a slatted base that's tucked away beneath the small chest of drawers at the front. The big shelf at the front gives a great space for books, magazines and cups of tea.

### AT NIGHT

The bedroom has two comfortable single beds, each with its own reading light and corner shelf. You'll find plenty of storage space here, including a couple of eye-level cupboards and accompanying shelves on each side as well as the areas underneath the beds.

Space is used carefully, with the corner of one bed curved to accommodate the washroom door, but it doesn't detract from the practicality. I'd prefer, however, to see at least a privacy curtain to divide off the two sleeping areas.



### PREPARING FOOD

The kitchen has everything you need in a compact unit. The Thetford Triplex cooker has three gas burners and an oven. It's next to a smart square sink, with a microwave oven above. There's no draining board so you'll probably need to use the cooker lid when you're washing up, but this means there's a fair-sized area of working surface on the other side of the cooker, which can be extended using a pull-up section above the seat.

### KEEPING CLEAN

The rear washroom has a shower cubicle with an Ecocamel water-saving shower head. A vanity unit includes a small basin and cupboard, with a toilet roll holder on one side, right up against the swivel-bowl Thetford toilet.

There's also a good-size wardrobe here that provides storage space for the freestanding table.

The fact there are only two towel hooks suggests Bailey also sees this as a caravan for two, perhaps accommodating the occasional guest or two, and I think the 550-4 would work well like this.



ON TEST



at a glance

<b>Price as tested</b>	£16,764
<b>Club Care insurance</b>	£303
<b>Berths</b>	Four
<b>Length x width x height</b>	7.4m x 2.24m x 2.59m
<b>Mass in Running Order</b>	1,236kg
<b>Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass</b>	1,392kg
<b>User payload</b>	155kg
<b>BE licence required</b>	No, with suitable vehicle such as Mazda6 2.2 D SE Tourer
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Bailey
<b>Tel</b>	0117 966 5967
<b>Web</b>	<a href="http://www.baileyofbristol.co.uk">www.baileyofbristol.co.uk</a>

verdict

A practical, comfortable, twin-bedded caravan for the money. **FA**