

AIRFUSION ELITE



Airfusion Elite

A short note from land-locked Leicestershire, compensated for by Rutland Water, which at nearly five square miles is the UK's largest reservoir. After receiving the OK from Anglian Water, who wanted confirmation that the Kayak had at least three Boston valves (no problem here!) and liability insurance (not expensive), we took the Air Fusion Elite out into Whitwell Creek for a couple of spins in July. Neither of us had never done any serious kayaking before, so the relative calm of a just a small part of the Water was a good place to start.

Setting up gets easier with practice. Best to have a 'dry run' at home, first. The poles that run beneath the seat need a little 'persuading' when bringing them together, extending the kayak to its full

length. The push button also needs to be depressed firmly to enable the locking sleeve to slide into place. As you said, doing this on level ground is essential.

I found that by pressing down on the push button with the end of a key shaft whilst sliding the sleeve made this part of the job easier.

The Elite isn't heavy, rather it's reassuringly sturdy. It looks great, is very comfortable and handles with responsiveness and stability, even with a steady North-Easter creating some lively conditions later on. I'm sure that it would cope with rougher weather than we encountered. It just ploughed sure-footedly through the chop with ease.

Seasoned members of the local canoe club were pleased to see us and "the inflatable" generated a range of views - excitement and curiosity to mild surprise. In the end we had a bit of a job wresting it back from them!

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