

Small-scale kit

There are many small, privately owned woodlands all over the country that could benefit from management to increase their value. As owners are encouraged to manage these woods, the need for small-scale equipment to assist in this endeavour increases. This equipment needs to offer a high level of manoeuvrability, ease of access and the flexibility to deal with different sizes of material. Here we take a look at some of the kit currently on offer.



JAS P WILSON WOODLAND MANAGEMENT WITH A HARVADIG

JAS P Wilson's Harvadig – a term which fittingly sums up their forestry-adapted excavators – is an ideal machine for small- to medium-sized woodland management work and contracting. As the name suggests, these forestry and plant hybrids are capable of working in both sectors.

In under five minutes a forestry-spec Harvadig can have its timber harvesting head removed and swapped for a standard digger bucket to work on a site. It doesn't even need to be a bucket; the true benefit of this system is that one machine acts like a Swiss army knife, capable of swapping tasks effortlessly. It could be fitted with a tree shear, a mulcher or a timber grapple. Whatever the job, the Harvadig system ensures that this is one machine which will be busy round the clock.

Wilson's have now created a systematic manufacturing process around their Harvadig production, with their sister company European Forestry Machinery manufacturing the guarding in south-west Scotland. EFM, best known for their Botex range of heavy-duty forestry trailers and cranes, have designed and built these frames to be just as robust.

The Harvadig system includes a heavy-duty but lightweight frame, full-length track guides, Margard window, quick-release hose system, heavy-duty underbelly guards, extra working lights, protective mesh vents, hinged lockable steel protection doors for easy access and maintenance, zero tail swing for thinning, and part or full front/top guard.

As Wilson's supply both SP and Keto harvesting heads, amongst other suitable attachments such as Lasco cone splitters, FAE mulchers and JAK tree shears, buying from one source can often cut down on costs, allowing for cost-effective solutions to woodland management.

Wilson's range of JAK tree shears are very popular with woodland owners doing thinnings. The simple yet robust design creates excellent value for money whilst providing a solution which works on even a very small base machine.

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HOME FORESTRY ALSTOR 840 PRO COMBI

ALSTOR AB of Sweden has released its new 8x8 mini forwarder, the 840 pro combi. Based on the very successful 833, the new machine is hydrostatic drive. With a 1.3-litre Kubota 29 hp diesel engine, the new 840 pro has electrically operated locking differentials and with these disengaged the turning circle is greatly reduced, as is the impact on the ground. The transmission is a two-speed variable hydraulic system with hydraulic work brake and a manual park brake. The standard crane on the Alstor 840 pro is now 4.95 m with larger support legs. The Alstor 840 pro is available with a full flow sharing Parker valve, with the ability to store up to four operators' mini lever control and speed settings. The valve also has a Bluetooth app that can connect to the factory to monitor performance. The forwarder body is available with 2, 3 or 4 bunks to allow short wood operations.

The Alstor 840 pro combi can also be set up as a small, first thinnings harvester using a Tapio 160 stroke head, all controlled through the Parker valve and mini levers. The timber bunks are removed with the crane and a counterweight is added to the chassis to enable more stability and less need for the support legs. The cab is full rops, fops and ops and can be fitted with air conditioning to increase operator comfort in the summer.

Machine weight is 2.3 tonnes and it can be moved from site to site with a suitable 4x4 and trailer enabling less transport costs and making smaller sites more viable.

The first Alstor 840 pro will be arriving in the UK in late March. For more information and to book a demonstration contact Nathan Home at Home Forestry LLP.

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MARSHALL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

MARSHALL offer professional products from various manufacturers all of which give customers different ground clearance options. Wood from neglected woodland, scrub and site clearance has increased significantly in value for the biomass energy market.

Westtech have recently introduced a lightweight and compact design in the CL 190 and CL 260 giving a fast harvest of small trees and bushes up to 32 cm in diameter. When small-diameter material is being processed, accumulator arms can be used. The Westtech cutting heads are offset to the left giving the machine operator a clear line-of-site vision of the tree being removed. An option for the cutting head can be rotated up to 360 degrees. The use of advanced sequenced hydraulics will give fast operating cycle times.

An alternative to the tree shear is the Gierkink felling grapple. This attachment can be used on lighter excavators, tractor or truck cranes or on forwarders, where it allows the operator to cut and load in one operation. Maximum stem diameter is 350 mm. There is no risk of



the chain coming off when cutting scrub as a patented design of guide bar is used on the saw unit. By using sequenced hydraulics no additional hydraulic or electrical connections are required when the Gierkink is being used on a crane. Gierkink have also patented their quick-attach system, which enables quick changing between the grapple saw and other attachments.

The Vahva Jussi compact timber trailer and crane, in combination with ATV, off-road mini tractors or the Lennartsfors IronHorse, form a quick and very agile forwarder. There are three cranes available – the 320, 400 and 420, with many optional accessories such as tipping body, clam shell, tele-radio winch and earth drill.

The Lennartsfors IronHorse is a

complete system for forestry, farming and transportation to use in a variety of terrains. Low ground pressure due to the wide tracks make it an environmentally friendly alternative. The ground pressure with a fully loaded machine is lower than your own weight to the ground.

Vitli Krpan manufacture winches starting from 3.5- up to 9.5-tonne. The smaller models can be fitted to compact tractors. Manual or hydraulic operation is available. The EH range gives you an option of cable power out. Grapple skidders are available starting with the KL 2200 model up to the KL 2500 TG.

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FORS MW FARMA

FARMA offer a perfect mix and match of trailer, loader and forestry equipment to suit owners of small forests through to professional timber harvesting companies and operators. The octagonal, bent, centre profile on Farma's G2 series of timber trailers gives the trailer a new and innovative design. The frame is more impact resistant and its form, with angled surfaces, makes it better able to deflect high stumps and rocks in the forest. The hidden hose runs, as well as integrated rear lights in the chassis, give good protection to vulnerable parts during forestry work. All Farma trailers have the option to move the position of the axles on the trailer frame to get maximum loading length. The trailers can be equipped with extra banks along



the profile of the frame when needed. A steering drawbar is also a standard feature on the trailer range. Three G2 models are available – the T10, T12 and T12 4WD.

Farma G2 cranes are available in 16 different models from 3.8 m to the range-leading 8.5 m model. The cranes can be

used not only with Farma's own trailers but a on wide range of machinery such as chippers, firewood machinery or simply direct to the tractor with Farma's 3-point frame. All cranes are supplied with a wide range of control valve options, from the simple lever valves to proportional radio control valves. Winch mounting is available across the full crane range. The latest offering from Farma is the G3 crane C6.7.

Farma offer two models of felling heads: the BC18 and the BC25. The BC18 is designed for use on crane or mini excavator, with the BC25 designed for use with small and medium-sized excavators.

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CALEDONIAN FORESTRY SERVICES KESLA AND NOVOTNY

CALEDONIAN Forestry Services has been Kesla's dealer in the UK and Ireland for over 25 years. Kesla offers one of the largest selections of timber trailers and has a solution for every user. With 15 models in total ranging from 8- to 12-tonne, Kesla trailers are made to withstand heavy year-round use; they undergo rigorous quality and safety testing. The sturdy single-beam frame, strong articulated tow bar and diverse tyre selection make these trailers agile and easy to control. Load space has been maximised and has good visibility, while the strong telescopic stabiliser legs give extra stability when loading.

Transmission options range depending on the model and the larger trailers can also be fitted with chains or tracks to improve traction and carrying capacity. With the exception of the 82 model, all can be equipped with brakes – drum or hydraulic, depending on the model – increasing safety in traffic and on challenging terrains. Road lights and warning triangle can be easily folded away to protect them from damage in the forest. The 9-tonne offers 530 mm ground clearance and a load area of 1.7m², while the 10-tonne models in the range have a load area of 2.3m².

Novotny forwarders are light and convenient for forest use, as well as being easy to service. With three models available, the smallest in the range is the LVS 511, a low-impact forwarder with a five-tonne loading capacity, designed mainly for thinning. The compact size ensures minimum impact on forest ground. Despite this, the 511 offers a surprisingly spacious cab with revolving driver seat. Powered by a fuel-economic Cummins engine, together with Bosch Rexroth hydraulic components, the 8-wheeled, narrow-chassis 511 is effective in all forest conditions.

Also for thinning, the LVS 520, like the 511, features a sturdy eight-wheeled chassis. Together with 500 mm tyres this provides good traction even in the most difficult terrains. The Cummins engine has a 60-kW output, with Sauer Danfoss hydraulic components, a SCAD control system from Adcis, and a Kesla 300 series crane, all of which combine to make the LVS 520 a powerful low-impact machine.



Latest in the range, the 7.5-tonne 720 model is designed for thinning and clearfell. With excellent manoeuvrability, the 720 is powered by a Cummins 97kw diesel engine and features reinforced NAF axles. A 180-degree swivel cab, air suspension and heated seat, air conditioning and CD radio are all standard. The simple coloured electronic display system enables easy machine operation and various parameters can be programmed for different drivers.

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OAKLEAF FORESTRY SAMPO, VIMEK AND HYPRO

THE low-impact Sampo Rosenlew HR46x thinning harvester is small enough to work SSSI sites whilst still being big enough and powerful enough to get the job done. The large turning angle, compact size and practical design enables the harvester to easily manoeuvre through dense, young forests without damaging the remaining trees and while still preserving the soil. Easy to operate, productive and cost-effective, capital and running costs are low but the machine produce is higher than heavier machines (see page 38 of this issue for details of the recent HR46x demo).

The Sampo FR28 10-tonne forwarder is designed to work together with the HR46x on first thinning operations. The FR28 thrives in young, dense forests due to its small diameter and optimised weight distribution between the front and rear axles. This ensures that the ground and remaining trees are hardly affected by operations. This FR28 offers the operator a unique manoeuvrability with its articulated steering that turns 45°. The cab of the forwarder is extremely spacious with exceptional visibility.

Vimek's range of fuel-efficient machines are easy to operate and, more importantly, easy on the forest due to extremely low ground pressure. The new Vimek 610SE small-scale forwarder with 5,000 kg loading capacity (which is more than the weight of the machine itself), is equipped with the new CAT 2.2CRDI common-rail 68 hp engine, modern hydrostatic transmission from Bosch Rexroth with new drive modes for forest, road and eco, and a new load-sensing hydraulic system for improved crane handling. New standard equipment includes air conditioning, LED lights and Bluetooth radio with options for telescopic crane offering improved reach, tilt grapple, radio-control winch, rear camera system and much more. Like the 606, the new 610 combines economy with agility, allowing you to operate in ecologically sensitive sites, urban forestry, areas where ground damage is a concern and in first and second thinnings where crop spacing would prove restrictive for larger machines.

Thanks to its high ground clearance and low ground pressure, the Vimek 606TTW forestry forwarder offers unique mobility through the forest. Low fuel consumption of only 1.4–2 litres per hour and low investment cost count towards good overall economy. This lightweight, low-impact forwarder can work in places that would not be possible with larger machines and, at only 1.8 m wide, it does not require wide forest roads to be cut in first thinning, which provides the landowner with a bigger, more profitable yield later.

The popular Hypro 755 tractor processor is capable of cutting and delimiting trees from 45 cm in diameter right down to 3 cm.



With its own load-sensing hydraulic system, it is operated with ECH mini joysticks from the comfort of the tractor cab. This machine comes with its own 7.5 m double extension crane and a 50 m radio-controlled winch to recover trees into range for the crane to then load onto the machine bed. It can also be fitted with the optional Hypro FG45 felling grapple to make it an all-round harvesting solution.

Smaller models in the range include the Hypro 300, with 35 m radio control winch that can delimit trees up to 12"/30 cm.
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