

RAPID RESPONSE

The Presteigne-based firm of Camps Ltd operates on a nationwide scale. Its main activity maintaining the grassed areas on the highways. The firm recently bought three hydrostatic drive Rapid Euro two-wheel tractors with 21hp engines, and two attachments: a Rapid TF100 flail mower and a Rapid mini round baler. Camps has used Rapid equipment for almost eight years and these machines were bought to replace older existing models.

“We change the baler every two years and the other items every three to four years and have found the Rapid machines to be very reliable; they’re resale value is also very good,” says Mike Camps. “The machines are very efficient especially on embankments. This time we have changed from diesel to petrol engines, which has eliminated vibration and increased the length of time the units can be used.”

The end of summer sees Camps cutting wild flower areas such as those on the M40, the work being done out of its



Bewdley depot, which is also used for the majority of its Midlands contracts. “The area is cut with the mower and then baled,” Mike Camps explains. “It is essential that nitrogen is not returned to the soil in these areas, the bales are then taken to green waste. We can cut and bale in dry and wet weather, although the conditions do dictate how much material we can get into a bale.”

Other operations the tractors and flail mower are used on are Environment Agency sites where access is limited and

on A-roads doing visibility cutting at junctions. And Mike Camps has plans to exploit the versatility of the tractors and increase their application through the use of other attachments.

“We’re thinking of winter maintenance equipment for the power units for clearing roads, and areas such as industrial sites and car parks,” he says. “As the units are compact, even with the attachment, they are highly manoeuvrable and can be used in situations where self-propelled machines cannot go.” ●