

# Project Case Study

## Heathland Whole Tree Harvesting

|                      |  |                         |  |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Owner:</b>        | <b>Alaska Environmental Contracting Ltd.</b> | <b>LEADER Priority:</b> | <b>2: Support for micro and small business</b> |
| <b>Location:</b>     | <b>Purbeck</b>                               | <b>Outputs:</b>         | <b>1 Job to be created</b>                     |
| <b>Project size:</b> | <b>£199,905.00</b>                           | <b>LEADER Grant:</b>    | <b>£79,962.00</b>                              |
| <b>Start Date:</b>   | <b>November 2016</b>                         | <b>End Date:</b>        | <b>January 2017</b>                            |

This project enabled a contracting business to increase their capacity and the range of work they could undertake by purchasing a specialist lightweight timber extractor. The machinery, armed with a cutting head on the crane allows one person to harvest trees from on heaths, both cost effectively and sensitively.

Many of Dorset's heaths suffer from a lack of management, which has allowed scrub and trees to establish to the detriment of their specialist interest. Tree removal is complicated by the fact that commercial forestry equipment is typically too big and heavy to work on SSSI designated sites, while hand cutting and extraction is too slow and expensive to be widely used. The present lack of suitable equipment to get biomass off site means that most of it is either burnt on site or chipped to waste; this project will allow over a thousand tonnes per annum of biomass to be taken off site and used.



The Malwa Forwarder at work © Will Bond The machine will be used almost exclusively on heathland restoration.