



## ASPECT FORESTRY Great Bradley, Suffolk

The East of England's undermanaged woodlands are helping to create new business opportunities in the region.

Aspect Forestry, originally established by Matthew Biddle in Leicestershire, has relocated to Suffolk to better meet the growing demand for professional woodland management and woodfuel supply.

With 90 % of his work now in the East of England, Matthew's move to Great Bradley, near Haverhill, is making good business sense.

*“Seriously consider bringing your woodlands back into production to provide woodfuel for yourselves or for the general market. There is a real demand and Woodfuel East can help you do it.”*

**Matthew Biddle**  
Aspect Forestry



**Matthew Biddle** is delighted with the relocation of his company HQ to Suffolk. He started work in forestry at 18, before studying for a Countryside Management degree at Aberystwyth University. This gave him the practical, technical and business knowledge which he now applies to his company.

*Matthew said: "When I set up Aspect Forestry in 2004, the market was for more traditional products such as fencing or saw logs. In recent years the market demand for the lower-quality roundwood products such as chipwood has increased dramatically. This has meant previously undermanaged woodlands are being brought back to life by providing woodfuel for now and in the future."*

*"More estates are installing woodfuel boilers, which will use home-grown wood, so the demand for forestry services is growing."*

With help from a Woodfuel East grant, Matthew has recently bought a UK-made Botex 1100 Euro 12-tonne forestry forwarding trailer equipped with a Botex 570 TL crane, in order to increase his capacity to harvest and extract roundwood for woodfuel markets.

In its first year of operation, this higher capacity equipment has helped Matthew increase his annual roundwood production from 1,100 tonnes to 2,888 tonnes.

Aspect Forestry works on sensitive woodlands in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Suffolk, as well as further afield. Many of these woodlands have been out of management since the 1960s and are badly overgrown. The Botex crane and trailer is ideally suited to this type of timber harvesting, with the large crane handling three-metre length material with ease. Its extra reach also facilitates the extraction of hand-felled timber, especially on difficult sites. Specially-fitted extra-wide tyres have also been fitted to the trailer for working on wetter ground conditions.

Matthew's advice to estate owners with woodland is: *"Seriously consider bringing your woodlands back into production to provide Woodfuel for yourselves or for the general market. If you are going to use the woodfuel yourself though, get expert advice on setting up your wood store. Too many are built without enough access space for tractors, trailers and chippers which seriously affects efficiency."*

### Technical information

The Botex Euro range of heavy duty trailers is offered with capacities from 6000-14000 kgs, with floating tandem bogies. Hydraulic brakes are standard on two wheels although four-wheel hydraulic and air braking are options. Heavy ply 400 x 15.5 x 14P are standard fitting, with road tyres also an option. Standard UK spec trailer have four bolsters and eight pins, heavy duty swivel towing eye and headboard.

The Botex 560 TL crane has a reach of six metres, a heavy duty 0.26 grapple and either 4.5 or 6 tonne continuous rotator. The 560 is tested to lift over 2500 kgs at two metres, 1320 kgs at four metres and 700 kgs at six, less the weight of the grapple and rotator.

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