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MULHOLLAND CONTRACTS UPDATES FLEET WITH LATEST PLANT BODY AND STEP FRAME FROM ANDOVER TRAILERS

Civil engineering and groundworks firm, Mulholland Contracts, has taken delivery of a new bespoke-built plant body and step-frame trailer from Andover Trailers, maintaining a near 20-year relationship between the two companies.

After initially specifying two very similar builds from Andover in 2004, these were replaced like-for-like in 2013, before that pair made way for this latest delivery. The new plant body is mounted to a 26-tonne Volvo FM 380 6x2 chassis, and along with the tri-axle, 60-tonne step frame trailer, join a Volvo FM 500 tractor unit and two MAN tippers in the company's commercial vehicle fleet.

Alan Bingham of Mulholland Contracts, says: "As soon as we received our first Andover builds, we could see why they had such a good reputation in the marketplace. The first two, and the pair that subsequently replaced them, never missed a beat, so the decision to return to Andover for our latest truck and trailer order was a simple one.

"The team at Andover has always bent over backwards to accommodate any request we've made when it comes to tweaking the specification of either build – nothing is too much trouble and that's a huge positive from our side."

One of the changes the company has opted for on the latest plant body is a double crank beavertail to provide shallower access to the deck via a pair of 2.5m long cheese wedge ramps, allowing the vehicle to be used as a flat bed when required, whilst also offering reduced drag and deliver impressive fuel savings.

The new body also benefits from Andover Trailers' trademark low-profile deck. The deck features six pairs of lashing points, with further lashing loops under the side

rave to maximise the range of plant it is able to carry, alongside a full working from height safety system.

To further add to this flexibility Mulholland Contracts has also specified a 5-tonne hydraulic winch and Palfinger crane mounted behind the cab, capable of lifting 8.9-tonnes. This allows the company to load building materials and concrete blocks as well as various types of plant.

The new 13.4m step frame trailer is constructed with a durable, four-member design for added strength. The 1m-wide, 4m-long hydraulic flip toe ramps allow for the easy loading and unloading of a range of heavy machinery, including everything from six-tonne dumpers through to 30-tonne excavators.

Specified with 19.5-inch wheels on BPW axles, the trailer also has the ability to lift the rear axle when required. The step frame features a 6-tonne electric winch, 11 pairs of lashing points and multiple safety features like slide-out wide load marker boards, additional reverse safety lamps, LED strobes and working from height system.

Both the plant body and trailer will operate six days a week delivering to building sites across central Scotland. Clocking up to 80,000 miles a year, they are expected to stay in Mulholland Contract's fleet for around six years – no doubt replaced by two similar Andover builds.

Established in 1974, Mulholland Contracts offers a wide range of civil engineering and groundworks services, specialising in the house building sector.

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For information on the heavy haulage and specialist transport solutions provided by Andover Trailers, contact Andover Trailers Ltd, Unit 75, Columbus Way, Walworth Business Park, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 5NP. Tel: 01264 358 944 or e-mail: sales@andovertrailers.co.uk Website: www.andovertrailers.co.uk

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