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## **FM CONWAY BOLSTERS FLEET WITH NEW HEAVY DUTY STEP FRAMES FROM ANDOVER TRAILERS**

Andover Trailers has delivered four new bespoke-built step frame trailers into FM Conway, continuing a relationship between the two businesses that dates back more than two decades.

The new builds feature a similar specification to FM Conway's previous 73-tonne, 15.1m four axle Andover builds, of which four are still in service. However, for this order the business requested that two of the new step frames be 1.2m shorter, allowing for easier access to urban sites and more inaccessible infrastructure projects.

Steve James, Senior Transport Manager at FM Conway, says: "We started with two Andover four-axle step frames around 10 years ago and now we have eight – which is testament to their build quality and longevity.

"What makes Andover stand out is the bespoke nature of the work, they do all they can to accommodate any specific requests. On this occasion, that involved shortening two of the trailers. We still receive the same strength and specs, but with the added bonus of a little more manoeuvrability."

The four new step frames have all been constructed with a durable, four-member design, featuring slide-out side extensions to ensure ultimate load stability. The 1m wide power toe ramps, with sliding width adjustment and knife edge toes, help with the loading and unloading of FM Conway's 40-tonne road planers.

To aid with transporting a full range of plant, including heavy rollers, pavers and excavators, the trailer design also includes hydraulic steady legs at the rear, with

steel underplating on the outer bays of the main deck, the beavertail and ramps. The deck also features 20 pairs of D-ring and eight screw-in lashing points to guarantee load security, as well as in-built chain storage and a powerful six-tonne electric winch.

To ensure safe operation, the trailers include a full working at height system with removable walkway, alongside a suite of LED strobe lights, work lights and additional flashing beacons. The SAF axles – fitted with 285/70 R 19.5 tyres – feature disc brakes and rear-steer capability that can be operated from either the tractor unit or on the trailer itself.

“Eventually these trailers will replace some of the older Andover builds in our fleet – however they are still performing so well they’re staying on the road for now. When it comes to our trailers, we never feel a need to look further than Andover,” adds James.

On the road day and night, Monday to Friday, the step frames will deliver plant to highway and infrastructure projects across southern England, clocking up around 180,000km per year. They join the company’s 800-strong mixed commercial vehicle fleet.

Based in Sevenoaks, Kent, FM Conway has more than 60 years’ experience supplying the services required to keep the UK’s infrastructure and public spaces operating effectively and efficiently.

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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](mailto:sales@andovertrailers.co.uk) Website: [www.andovertrailers.co.uk](http://www.andovertrailers.co.uk)

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