

# EQUIPMENT REVIEW

## Kilworth Valiant tractor

Cannock Chase Council Countryside Service has made a financial commitment to purchase a tractor and implements. The tractor (a Kilworth Valiant 500AR) was principally purchased with increasing the efficiency of hay making in mind.

From our own trials we found that most stable and agile tractor was a BCS Valiant 500 AR tractor imported by Kilworth (Kilworth are the supplier closest to Cannock. There are two other importers, Alpine tractors and Ferrari). It is an articulated tractor so has a tight turning circle and is able to keep all its wheels on the ground as it goes up and over contours.

The machine has proved to be a very wise investment. It increased the efficiency of haymaking by over 50%, compared to using pedestrian machinery. This increase in efficiency will ensure that LAA (Local Area Agreement) targets to create 5Ha of new species rich grasslands in the Cannock Chase District are to be successfully met.

The tractor has also proved useful developing new areas of work: Arable seeding for declining farm birds, scrub clearance, establishing new firebreaks, ground preparation prior to tree planting, pathway creation and badger set construction.