

Demount sprayers prove the best option for Suffolk spray contractor



A Suffolk spraying contractor who replaced a standard self-propelled sprayer with his first Landquip demount model four years ago has since added another, and will take delivery of a third, brand-new machine this spring. **David Williams** reports.

Trading as Rob Cannell Agri Contracts Ltd and based at Holton, near Halesworth Rob Cannell is a former Farm Sprayer Operator of the Year winner and set up his own contract spraying service in 2011. Rob and his wife Sophie run the business, which specialises in root crop and vegetable applications including approximately 800ha of potatoes, plus 1,300ha of conventional cereal crops and sugar beet. Most of his regular customers are in an area from south Norfolk to south east Suffolk, and a lot of the potato and vegetable applications are carried out close to the Suffolk coast. He applies liquid fertilisers across a much larger area for Omex, and offers an Avadex micro-granule application service, too.

Better option

Rob purchased his first Landquip sprayer in 2017. "I used a conventional premium-brand, self-propelled sprayer, but could see the advantages of a Unimog-based demount machine," he explained. "The Unimog is more like a commercial vehicle with a low-revving engine, mechanical gearbox and 60kph top speed, and powerful disc brakes on all four wheels as well as precise rack and pinion steering. Landquip is local to us and its sprayers have an excellent reputation, and I was told of a used machine being sold by a Scottish contractor which was based on a Unimog U400. It was seven years

old but in very good condition. It had a 4,000-litre stainless steel tank and 24m heavy-duty aluminium Contractor booms and was just what I needed."

Successful investment

The sprayer quickly impressed with its performance on and off the road and proved much cheaper to operate – requiring far less maintenance and using only half as much fuel as his existing self-propelled machine. "I got on very well with it," he said. "The Unimog U500 conversion by South Cave Tractors is well proven, and the cab was spacious, quiet and comfortable with good visibility all around."

The Landquip demount sprayer also performed well, so an additional brand new Landquip sprayer on an S-Trac Unimog conversion was purchased a short while later. This had a larger 5,000-litre tank and a wider 36m boom and was chosen for Omex suspension fertiliser applications. A conventional Unimog was also added to the fleet as a bowser to keep the other three machines supplied.

Reliable and practical

"Landquip sprayers are very well designed," added Rob. "The steel tank is easy to clean and almost indestructible. Filling the sprayer is quick and easy, with user-friendly controls and a very efficient induction bowl. The booms are rugged but extremely stable, with excellent suspension



The induction bowl and external filling controls are practical, easy to use and well designed.

and they fold very fast – twice as quick as the booms on our self-propelled sprayer. Many of the fields we work in have trees, telegraph poles or irrigation equipment to negotiate, so being able to fold the booms quickly and just one side at a time makes our job easier and helps maximise work rates. We work the sprayers hard, but our first Landquip has clocked up more than 12,000 hours since it was new in 2011 and the booms are totally original and have never been repaired.

"The S-Trac has been reliable too, and we know we can always rely on the back-up from South Cave Tractors."

Rob kept his original self-propelled sprayer to use as a spare machine and also because the sprayer unit can be removed in the autumn and the Avadex applicator fitted in its place.



Even weight distribution helps reduce compaction and deep wheelings and the proven Landquip Contractor heavy-duty aluminium booms travel well and are ruggedly built.

Rob Cannell S-Trac Landquip sprayer 2021 Based on Unimog U530

ENGINE	300hp, 1,200Nm torque at 1,600–1,700 revs. (Euro 6D)
TRANSMISSION	16 speed, auto/manual with electro-pneumatic shifting Max 60kph
BRAKES	Discs with ABS
HYDRAULIC DRIVE	25 litres/min infinitely variable
GPS AUTO-STEER	Guidance and rate control is through an LH Agro-supplied Topcon X35 terminal
CENTRAL TYRE INFLATION	
TYRES	620/75R30 Michelin AxioBib VF
DEMOUNT SPRAYER	5,000-litre SS cylindrical tank 24m Contractor heavy-duty boom 450 litres/min, hydraulic driven 6-cyl piston diaphragm pump 13 automatically switched GPS-controlled boom sections 500-litre fresh water tank 25-litre hand wash tank

Third Landquip

Growing demand for the specialist spraying service has encouraged Rob to invest in an additional sprayer this year, and he said that a third S-Trac-based Landquip was the obvious choice.

Like his original Landquip, the new machine has a 24m Alu-light aluminium boom, but he has specified a larger 5,000-litre cylindrical tank mounted on a longer 3.6m Unimog chassis, to reduce the frequency of filling and increase productivity. The stainless-steel tank is suitable for suspension fertiliser applications too, ensuring that the new sprayer is capable of a dual role – spraying, and sharing the Omex workload.

Bespoke nozzle arrangement

The boom comes with variable geometry and tilt, a hydraulic boom lock and independent folding of either side. Control is in 13 sections with sequential section switching.

Bespoke nozzle spacing being trialled on the new sprayer will allow Rob to select only those nozzles which apply to the planted area where crops are in beds. "When applying fertiliser with conventional nozzle spacings the wheelings receive as much as the plants, but they can account for up to 30 per cent of the total ground area," he explained. "I have had a lot of interest from customers in a system which will apply fertiliser to the tops of the beds, supplying nutrients only where needed which will save costs, and be better for the plants and the environment."

The new sprayer is equipped with a 450 litres/min 6-cylinder piston diaphragm pump and high flow boom plumbing, plus full Isobus electronics for GPS automatic section control.

Manufacturer advantage

"We know from our existing machines that the S-Trac-based Landquip sprayer is excellent, and offers many advantages over conventional self-propelled sprayers for our situation," Rob continued. "It's great on the road and extremely safe, and the mechanical transmission is an advantage when working on slopes and if ground conditions are tricky. I don't think there is anything to match Landquip sprayers for build quality and reliability and the boom suspension is superb. Richard Abbott and the Landquip team provide excellent back-up and if problems do occur then I know that they will be sorted quickly with downtime kept to a minimum.

"The South Cave S-Trac conversion is very successful, and the cab is spacious and comfortable and the ride quality is excellent. Visibility is good too and it's a real pleasure to drive." **FG**



Rob Cannell says his Unimog-based Landquip sprayers are very comfortable, safe and efficient on the road, and extremely economical.

Landquip view

"We continue to see strong demand for both self-propelled and demount sprayers," stressed Landquip managing director Richard Abbott. "The sprayers themselves have similar features and specification, but each has advantages for different situations. Self-propelled machines are usually lighter and available with extra ground clearance, and include features such as adjustable hydraulic VariTrak axle width, but demount sprayers allow the carrier vehicle to be used for alternative tasks.

"Most of our demount sprayers are for South Cave's S-Trac Unimog conversions, or for mounting on JCB Fastracs. The Fastrac has the advantage that it is a tractor underneath available for all the usual tractor tasks when the demount sprayer is easily and quickly removed. Its shorter load bed can accommodate boom widths up to 36m. The Unimog's longer load bed allows booms up to 44m to be fitted.

"Both the Unimog and JCB Fastrac offer advantages where there is a lot of travel on public roads. The Unimog's mechanical transmission ensures plenty of power for working on slopes, and the S-Trac conversion allows larger wheels to be fitted than standard, ensuring plenty of grip."

Landquip Terra Solutions

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Tooth-drag Harrows
Inter-row Cultivators
Rotary Harrows
Ridgers

Trailed Mounted Demounts

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Landquip Crop Sprayers

The advertisement features a large background image of a red Landquip harrow in a field. An inset image shows a green tractor with a Landquip demount sprayer. Another inset shows a blue tractor with a Landquip sprayer. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with bold headings and clear contact information.