

Tough tools for a tough job

MANAGING vegetation around overhead power lines is a tough job – particularly when you're in a heavily wooded area.

Stuart Wilson, of Wilson Tree Surgery, based in Maidstone, Kent, recently purchased a Seppi MidiForst 225DT from nearby Lamberhurst Engineering to help manage their contract with EDF Energy, on behalf of Brockwells Forestry Limited.

Ryarsh is a picturesque Kent village nestling among the North Downs, within easy reach of many historic places. But it's the power lines across the Ryarsh village that are Stuart's concern.

Trees can cause reliability problems for the power distribution company as the South East is one of the most heavily wooded regions in the UK, and trees and branches near power lines have to be continually managed. It was specifically for this task that Stuart decided to purchase the Seppi mulcher, which has been



designed for fast and efficient brush clearance in forestry plantations, road and rail embankments – in fact, anywhere that requires thick undergrowth to be removed.

Seppi has been manufacturing forestry mowers for almost 40 years, and have the largest range of machines of any manufacturer. The full Seppi range are available exclusively from Lamberhurst.

Machines are available from as small as 35hp right up to 600hp. The heart of the machine must

be the rotor, and it is here that Seppi excel. All of the heavy duty mulchers from the 'Miniforst' to the 'Maxiforst' are offered with either a swinging hammer rotor or a fixed knife rotor. The design and construction of the swinging hammer rotor is unique, and Seppi are the only manufacturers to use forged rotor sections, which bring two major advantages. Firstly, the rotor is approximately 20% heavier than a similar sized fabricated rotor. This gives tremendous

momentum to the rotor and enables the machine to keep going when most others will stall.

Secondly, the forging process allows metal to be placed where it is really needed – in this case, the area where the hammer bar connects to the rotor. There are no welds in the area to break, no bosses to weld in, just very hard wearing metal. In fact, the rotor is also heat-treated to greatly increase the wear resistance. All this means that the machine is designed to handle vegetation up to 30cm in diameter and stones up to 20cm – depending on the type of stone.

"It doesn't matter what material you're mulching, the Seppi always works like a Trojan horse," says Stuart. "The mulcher will enable us to trim back as much as 600 metres of vegetation underneath power lines in a single day that it would normally take two staff working by hand two weeks to complete." *Info: Lamberhurst 01892 890364*