

GDC Group chooses CASE

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The GDC Group, part of global heating products manufacturer Glendimplex, has recently purchased a CASE 521F XT waste configuration wheeled loader.

Supplied by CASE dealer Warwick Ward from the company's Redditch branch, the CASE 521 FXT will be used in GDC Group's recycling process at their brickworks manufacturing plant in Brierley Hill, West Midlands.

The only plant of its type in the UK, it produces 2 million bricks per year for use in the Glendimplex range of electric storage heaters. During production any bricks that are cosmetically damaged, which equates to approximately 3% of production, are then recycled at the site and used in the production of new ones.

The main task of the CASE 521F XT is to load the bricks into the plant's crushers and move the iron ore from the storage area into the plant, so a robust, fuel efficient machine was required.

Part of CASE's renowned F Series range, the 521F XT wheeled loader is ideally suited for material handling duties in this type of challenging environment. Using a powerful-and-efficient 4.5-litre Stage IIIB engine it delivers maximum power for different work modes. It also benefits from SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction). This allows the engine to run at peak performance, which provides faster throttle response while also maintaining lower temperatures and delivering up to 20% better fuel efficiency over other solutions.

Economy is optimised even further with auto-idle and auto-shutdown features. Plus, SCR is simple. No Diesel Particulate Filter regeneration or replacement. No extra downtime and no extreme temperature spikes.

Previously, the GDC Group always leased machines for this task at Brierley Hill, but when their current lease was up they decided to look into purchasing a machine. As part of this process they approached CASE dealer Warwick Ward and other well-known construction equipment manufacturers. After careful evaluation and testing they decided to purchase an F Series 521 FXT wheeled loader.

"After looking at and comparing various machines from several manufacturers we thought the CASE wheeled loader offered the best value for money against similar machines in this class," said Paul

Taylor, operations manager. “We also really liked Warwick Ward and CASE’s proposition, to let us trial the machine on-site before we purchased.

“We originally went to several of the other leading manufactures, and CASE was the only one prepared to let us have the machine on trial. This was a major factor for us, as we had not used CASE machines before. One manufacturer would only let us trial their machine if we agreed to purchase it!

The company was also impressed by the aftersales service and maintenance package offered by Warwick Ward, as well as the extra advice they got regarding buckets and teeth.

“Warwick Ward also advised us to take a Hardox hardened bucket as we are working with and moving such abrasive material – broken bricks and iron ore, so we have decided to go with that option.” adds Paul Taylor.

The 10 tonne class CASE 521F XT is available with XR (Extended Reach) linkage for a greater dump height and versatility and a XT (Tool Carrier/Parallel Linkage) for maximum utility, excellent visibility and parallel lift.

Operator comfort is also catered for with the CASE 521 FXT - offering one of the industry’s quietest and most spacious cabs with class-leading visibility thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows, a low rear hood and an optional rear-view camera. The ergonomic, state-of-the-art joystick steering helps reduce operator fatigue while an ISO-mount cab design, dual air filtration system and optional heated air-ride seat help provide daylong comfort.

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