

Europe's largest fleet of Bell Water Tankers



Leading UK plant hirer, P Flannery Plant Hire (Oval) Ltd, known throughout the industry as Flannery, has grown from a single-machine business in 1972 to a five thousand-machine enterprise in 2022. Operating from a head office in Wembley, the company now services clients from nine depots across the UK with over one thousand six hundred and eighty operators working with key national building and infrastructure clients nationwide.

Over the last 50 years Flannery has partnered with world-leading machinery manufacturers to ensure it maintains the most modern and sophisticated fleet of machines and this includes Bell Equipment with over 50 Bell Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs) in their portfolio. Models include 20t, 30t, and 45t trucks that have proved to be very popular with hirers thanks to their combination of productivity, fuel efficiency, and reliability.

Recently the company invested in Bell Water Tankers to work on multiple groundworks projects nationwide. A delivery of five new Bell B30E Water Tankers brings the number to 10, which makes it the largest fleet in Europe to date.

The new units were delivered to the HS2 construction site in Lichfield to help manage excess water

and keep the site operational throughout winter. They join an existing Bell Water Tanker which has been on site since the start of the works.

According to Liam Hill, Senior Plant Co-ordinator for Flannery, the 27 000-litre Bell Tankers perform a range of vital functions and the ability to help remove excess water has been critical in keeping the site open during poor weather conditions.

This includes redistributing water from a series of purpose-built water lagoons and creating recyclable limestone haul roads. In summer

the bowsers will switch to dust suppression duties and this versatility ensures year-round utilisation.

“Our fleet of Bell Articulated Dump Trucks are in great demand, and they simply never let us down. We were confident the Water Tankers would prove to be equally productive and so far, they have, particularly on sites such as Lichfield where the ground conditions can be challenging.

They are currently working seven days a week without any issues





Liam Hill, Senior Plant Co-ordinator.

at all, and without them, we would struggle to keep the project on track."

Each tanker is fitted with a powerful water pump on the rear

which runs off a hydraulic motor coupled through keyed shafts and direct gear couplers. The pumps operate at a flow rate of 1 800 L/min and a pressure head of 50 m/5 bar enabling the machines to self-fill in just 20 minutes.

A low-level water sensor automatically cuts off the pump when the level is low to prevent the pump from running dry whilst a high-level sensor cuts off the pump once the chassis-mounted tank is full. This fail-safe mechanism is designed for long pump life and performance.

