

Yanmar SV26 unlocks Peterborough's green potential

With green space in abundance, JC Garden Maintenance is thriving in Peterborough. The company recently added a Yanmar SV26 mini excavator to its fleet, which is already transforming founder Jacob Crowson's approach to landscaping and tree surgery.

Peterborough ranks among the UK's greenest cities – with award-winning parks, nature reserves, and a local council vision to become the UK's Environment Capital. It's also where JC Garden Maintenance is making its mark: improving gardens, clearing sites, and managing tree work across both domestic and commercial properties.

"I enjoy being out there, getting stuck in," says Jacob. "It means I stay close to the work, keep standards high, and build real trust with the people I'm working for."

Since launching the business in 2016, Jacob has deliberately kept things local – focusing on a 40-mile radius to improve access, streamline logistics, and grow a strong base of loyal, repeat customers. But with bigger jobs on the rise, it became clear he needed a machine that could keep pace. The solution? A Yanmar SV26 mini excavator, supplied by trusted local dealer Ben Burgess.

Real results on the ground

Since May, the SV26 (Operating Weight 2 600 kg (Canopy) / 2 740 kg (Cabin)) has proved its worth on everything from tree surgery to foundation excavation. One standout project took Jacob to a luxury domestic property, where a new playground and outdoor gym were planned. With the excavator's thumb grab in hand, trunk removal, root clearing and ground prep could be handled single-handedly – saving hours of manual labour.

"We cleared the whole area in about a day and a half," Jacob explains. "What would've needed a small crew before is now a one-man job – with time to spare."

That efficiency is paying off. Larger project scopes are welcomed rather than feared, and Jacob is winning contracts more confidently. "It means I can offer the same personal service, but on a grander scale," he observes. "The machine helps me keep that promise."

Comfort and control in the cab

As a sole trader often working long hours on site, operator comfort was a major consideration, and the SV26 didn't disappoint. "The cabin space was a big plus," says Jacob. "Some of the other machines I looked at felt really cramped, but the SV26 has loads of legroom, a proper suspension seat, and everything is where it should be. You can tell it's been built around the operator."

The spacious, ergonomic cab design offers a commanding view of the jobsite, with smooth, responsive controls that make delicate operations – like root removal or tight-access digging



– much easier. He also highlights the digital interface: a 3.3” display providing real-time updates on fuel, engine temperature, service intervals and diagnostics – all at a glance.

Maintenance made simple

Managing his own business means Jacob is also responsible for keeping his equipment in top condition. Thanks to generous engine compartments, removable floor panels and accessible covers, daily checks are quick and straightforward with the SV26. “Under the bonnet, everything is really easy to get to,” he says. “Filters, belts – all accessible from ground level. It’s built to be serviced, not worked around.”

Looking ahead

With the SV26 now firmly integrated into JC Garden Maintenance, Jacob is already planning the next upgrade. A Yanmar YB351 5-Tine Hydraulic Grab, which rotates 360 degrees, is top of the list – ideal for loading materials and moving waste even more efficiently.

Beyond attachments, he’s ready to take on seasonal commercial contracts and larger domestic schemes – without expanding the team dramatically. “It’s allowed me to scale up without losing that hands-on approach. I can take on more, without sacrificing quality or connection.”

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About Yanmar Compact Equipment EMEA

Yanmar Compact Equipment EMEA is a global player in the design, manufacture and distribution of state-of-the-art worksite machinery, with two production sites in Europe: Crailsheim in Germany and Saint-Dizier in France.

Combining Japanese know-how with European manufacture, Yanmar Compact Equipment delivers a full portfolio of state-of-the-art machines that are specially designed for a wide range of applications; including infrastructure, drainage, landscaping, demolition and civil engineering.

Its philosophy is simple: To understand the challenges customers face, exceed their expectations and deliver excellence in everything it does.

For more details, please visit the official website:
https://www.yanmar.com/gb/construction/about_us/

About Yanmar Compact Equipment



Yanmar Compact Equipment (Yanmar CE) is a global leader in the design, manufacture and support of compact equipment for a range of segments, principally construction and other earthmoving applications.

Its products include extensive ranges of mini and midi excavators, wheel loaders, wheeled excavators, compact track loaders and tracked carriers. These are supported by a wide range of services designed to ensure customer success. A global company with proud Japanese heritage, Yanmar CE has manufacturing facilities in Asia, Europe and North America – and an extensive international dealer network.

Renowned for its innovative approach – it was the first to market with the now-benchmark mini-excavator, and is credited with popularizing the zero-tail swing concept – Yanmar CE remains a trusted brand known for its reliability, performance and commitment to customer satisfaction. These traits are demonstrated through the company's tagline – 'Building with you'.

For more details, please visit the official website.
<https://www.yanmar.com/global/construction/>