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# Top 30 Crane, Access and Telehandler rental companies 2006

Now in its eighth year, the Cranes&Access Top 20 rental companies has expanded yet again and now becomes the Top 30. Here we take a look at the leading crane and access rental companies in the UK and Ireland for 2006.

This year more than 100 companies took part in the final stage of our survey - most returning their forms in full, but as usual, one or two had to be estimated. In these cases we have checked our estimates with suppliers and competitors in an effort to ensure accuracy. Where a respondent appeared to have made a 'poetic error' we have questioned and challenged. On the whole we believe that the vast majority of respondents have treated the survey with respect and been honest and open. We thank all of you who participated at each stage.

## Cranes

The Top crane hire listing has changed very little since last year. The larger companies have slimmed their fleets slightly, choosing to update rather than expand. The biggest change is the loss of Quigley, 20th in 2005, following its failure earlier this year.

### Mobile cranes

There is no significant movement in the top half of the chart, although the two largest companies, Ainscough and Hewden, both reduced their fleets for the second year in succession while investing in new cranes to maintain or reduce their average age.

Companies are positioned in terms of their mobile crane fleet, but for interest we also show crawlers and have added tower cranes this year as more hirers add self erectors to their fleets.

### Crawler cranes

While the market in the UK has improved in the past year or two, mainstream crawler crane hire remains a very specialised business. By adding in minis this year, the top six becomes the Top 10.

### Tower cranes

Arguably the most dynamic sector of the UK/Ireland crane hire market our top tower crane listing has been extended to ten. The biggest news is of course the arrival of Arcomet in the UK rental market.

### TOP 30 MOBILE CRANE HIRERS

Company	Mobile	Crawler	Tower	Total
Ainscough	448	0	7	455
Hewden	228	0	0	228
Quinto	83	0	0	83
Marsh Plant	75	0	0	75
William O'Brien	65	6	5	76
Bronzeshield	63	0	2	65
King Lifting	62	0	2	64
Baldwins	58	6	0	64
Emsley	52	0	0	52
James Jack	52	0	0	52
Terranova	45	0	0	45
Kavanagh	45	0	0	45
GBK	42	0	0	42
Mamoet UK	38	0	0	38
MSD	38	1	0	39
Nationwide	36	0	0	36
McNally	35	2	0	37
Brynn Thomas	34	2	3	39
Sparrows	33	15	18	66
Crane Hire Dublin	32	0	0	32
Abba/APH	31	0	0	31
Winter Lift	30	0	0	30
Southern Cranes	28	0	1	29
Select Plant	25	35	317	377
Bob Francis	24	11	0	35
NMT	25	0	0	25
John Sutch	25	0	0	25
Kier Plant	20	20	40	80
Beck&Poltzer	23	0	0	23
Dewsbury & Proud	20	0	0	20
The National Crane Group	600	150	0	750



### TOP 10 CRAWLER CRANE HIRERS

Company	Full size	Minis	Total Crawlers
Wedex	138	0	138
AGD	65	50	115
NRC	52	16	68
Select	35	0	35
BPH	30	0	30
Kier Plant	20	0	20
Bob Francis	10	1	11
Baldwins	6	0	6
GGR-UNIC	0	42	42
Sparrow	0	15	15

### TOP 10 TOWER CRANE HIRERS

Company	Total Units	Top slewers	Self Erectors
Select	337	337	0
HTC	210	210	0
Arcomet/MidlandAirtek	170	45	125
City Lifting	94	69	25
Kier Plant	90	90	0
Mantis	85	73	12
Ladybird	67	0	67
Falcon*	35	20	15
Irish cranes & Lifting	30	30	0



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### LARGEST CRANES MOBILES

Company	Model	Capacity in tonnes
Sarens	Demag PC9600	2,000
McNallys	Demag TC2800-1	1,000
Ainscough	Liebherr LTM11000DS	1,000
Baldwins	Liebherr LTM11000DS	1,000
Weldex	Liebherr LR1750	800
Nationwide	Liebherr LTM 1500-8.1	500
Port Services	Liebherr LTM 1500	500
Winterlift	Demag AC500-1	500
Brynn Thomas	Grove GMK7450	450
James Jack	Grove GMK7450	450
William O'Brien	Liebherr LTM1400	400
GBK	Liebherr LTM1400	400
Terranova	Demag AC350-1	350
NMT	Demag AC350-1	350
Kavanagh	Demag AC350-1	350
Bronzeshield	Liebherr LTM1300/1	300
Hewden	Demag AC300	300
King Lifting	Demag AC250-1	250
BPH	Kobelco CKE2500	250
John Sutch	Demag AC250	250
NRC	Sumitomo SC1500SL	230
Southern Cranes	Demag AC200	200
Emsley	Liebherr LTM1200/1	200
Abba/APH	Liebherr LTM1200-5.1	200
Quinto	Liebherr LTM1120	120
Marsh Plant	Liebherr LTM1100-5.1	120



### COMPANY DETAILS AND INVESTMENTS

Company	12 Month Investment £	Depots	Employees
Ainscough	38,900,000	22	919
Weldex	9,000,000	4	150
HTC	7,500,000	2	325
Arcomet	7,000,000	4	15
McNally	5,500,000	3	-
GBK	5,200,000	3	58
William O'Brien	4,100,000	4	95
Nationwide	3,750,000	1	63
NMT	3,500,000	1	40
Hewden	3,100,000	22	371
Marsh Plant	3,100,000	7	145
Bob Francis	2,700,000	3	57
King Lifting	2,650,000	8	140
Terranova	2,000,000	2	80
City Lifting	2,000,000	2	65
AGD	2,000,000	1	75
Kavanagh	1,930,000	4	70
Port Services	1,800,000	3	80
Quinto	1,750,000	6	163
Bronzeshield	not disclosed	3	80
Emsley	not disclosed	2	79
Baldwins	not disclosed	6	100
Sparrow	1,600,000	4	58
NRC	1,250,000	2	55
Brynn Thomas	1,000,000	3	67
Winterlift	1,000,000	2	50
BPH	1,000,000	1	-
Southern cranes	not disclosed	2	45
Abba	not disclosed	1	-
John Sutch	not disclosed	2	38
James Jack	not disclosed	6	90

### LARGEST CRANES CRAWLERS

Company	Model	Capacity in tonnes
Weldex	Liebherr LRT1750	800
BPH	Kobelco CKE2500	250
NRC	Sumitomo SC1500SL	230
AGD	IHI CCH1200	120

### LARGEST CRANES TOWERS

Company	Model	Capacity in tonnes
Select	Comedil CTL630	630
HTC	Wolff 600EC	600
Arcomet	Potain MD365	365
City lifting	Comansa LC290	290
Mantis	Potain NDT 178	178

### TOTAL FLEET COMBINED BOOM LENGTHS

Company	Total Boom length in metres
Ainscough	17,620
Hewden	10,710
Weldex	8,950
Nationwide	3,785
Marsh	3,690
William O'Brien	3,600
NRC	3,400
Baldwins	3,300
AGD	3,250
King Lifting	2,950
Bronzeshield	2,900
Emsley	2,600
Quinto	2,500
Mamoet	2,400
Terranova	2,000
Crane Hire Dublin	2,000
Kier Plant	2,000
Kavanagh	1,930
GBK	1,850
Brynn Thomas	1,800
BPH	1,800
McNallys	1,750
James Jack	1,700
Bob Francis	1,300
Winterlift	1,125
Sarens UK	1,100
Sparrow	1,100
Beck&Politzer	1,000
City Lifting	772
Dewsbury&Proud	700



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# Access

It has been a long time since we have seen so much change among the Top 10 access rental companies in the UK and Ireland. Nationwide of course remains firmly on top, with a fleet twice the size of its next competitor. Parent company Lavendon has increased its market leadership with the acquisition of Panther Platform Rentals, AMP and Kestrel giving the Group a UK fleet of around 8,500 units.

The most dramatic activity is occurring in the battle behind Nationwide. Hewden, for many years the main challenger, has slipped out of the top three, leaving The Platform Company and AFI battling it out for second place.

Hewden, however, has certainly not given up on a leading position and its fleet may well reflect the fact that it typically runs at higher utilisation levels than most. A-Plant has also announced a major new investment programme in powered access, while Panther and Access Rentals are both growing very rapidly.

An amazing feature of this year's Top 30 is the number of companies with more than 300 units in their fleet. It was not so long ago that fleets of this size could be counted on one hand.



## TOP 30 ACCESS COMPANIES

Company	Total Units	Booms	Scissors	Special	Truck Mount	Trailer Mount	Van Mount
Nationwide	5,880	2,670	3,032	3	170	5	0
AFI-Upift	3,306	1,191	2,112	1	0	2	0
Platform Company	2,886	1114	1762	0	0	10	0
Hewden	2,670	1,258	1,380	0	0	32	0
Easi-UpLifts	2,047	1,216	683	60	29	39	20
A-Plant	1,986	835	992	117	0	39	0
HSS	1,869	281	887	457	0	244	0
Access Rentals	1,684	571	1,065	48	0	0	0
Panther	1,564	295	1,188	48	22	5	6
Loxam	1,500	600	650	0	100	0	150
Hi-Reach	1,205	424	740	0	0	41	0
GPT	1,110	450	650	0	0	10	0
Wizard Workspace	1,109	230	1,109	0	0	0	0
UK Platforms	1,093	599	494	0	0	0	0
Kimberly Access	867	314	553	0	0	0	0
Charles Wilson	725	300	425	0	0	0	0
Skylift Hire	671	350	300	15	0	6	0
SGB*	650	300	350	0	0	0	0
Higher Access	576	204	356	10	3	3	0
AMP	558	186	339	15	3	10	5
Universal *	550	225	290	15	20	0	0
Aerial Platform Hire	530	210	320	0	0	0	0
EPL	399	97	50	2	110	0	140
Highway Plant*	390	120	230	15	10	15	0
Kestrel	362	96	250	0	1	6	9
GT Access	347	104	222	16	0	5	0
Facelift	344	95	98	16	63	47	25
Manlift	258	115	119	7	11	6	0
AJ Access	213	96	103	11	1	2	0
Venture Access	200	110	90	0	0	0	0

LARGEST MACHINES

Company	Boom	Scissor	Trailer	Truck	Special
UK Platforms	46m JLG 150HAX	16m Haulotte H18SDX	n/a	n/a	
Hi Reach	41m Genie 135/70	32m Liftlux S320	n/a	n/a	
Easi-UpLifts	41m Genie 135/70	20.5m Liftlux SL205-25	26m Denka DL28	50m Bronto 50MDT	
Nationwide	41m Genie 135/70	26m Liftlux SL2605DS	n/a	72m Bronto 72HLA	
Skylift Hire	41m Genie 135/70	21m JLG-Liftlux 210-25	15m Genie TZ50	n/a	30m Omme 3000RBD
Hewden	41m Genie 135/70	26m Liftlux SL2605DS	15m Genie TZ50	n/a	
Platform Co	41m JLG1350	30m Terex TS100	n/a	21m Oil&Steel Snake	
Manlift	41m JLG1350	20.5m Liftlux SL205-25	18m Denka 21	43m Wumag WT450	
A-Plant	41m JLG1350	24m Liftlux 245-25	15m Nifty 170	n/a	10m Nifty Trax12
Higher Platforms	38m Genie S125	20.5m Liftlux SL205-25	10m Nifty 120T	18m CTE Z20	
Charles Wilson	41m Genie 135/70	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Access Rentals	39m Grove AMZ131	25m Holland Lift M-250 DL27	n/a	n/a	
Wizard Worksapce	38m Genie S125	20.5m Liftlux SL205-25	n/a	n/a	
Kimberly Access	38m Genie S125	31.5m Holland Lift G300	n/a	n/a	
GPT	38m Genie S125	15m Genie GS5390	n/a	n/a	
Loxam	36m JLG 120HX	20.5m Liftlux SL205-25	n/a	72m Bronto 72HLA	
AFI-UpLift	26m JLG860SJ	24m Liftlux 245-25	n/a	n/a	
EPL	26m Genie S85	12m JLG 40RTS	n/a	43m Wumag WT450	28mTeupen Leo 30
GT Access	25m Terex TB85	15m Liftux SL153-12	15m Nifty 170	n/a	
AJ Access	25m Genie S85	15m Skyjack 9250	10m Nifty 120T	18m GSR 2092	
Panther	21m Haulotte HATPX	16m Haulotte H18SDX	n/a	42m Oil&Steel Eagle	
Rapid Platforms	19m Nifty HR21	15m UpRight LX50	19m Dino 210	62m Bronto 62MDT	27m Falck Smidt FS290
Facelift	18m Haulotte HA20PX	10m Haulotte C12	29m Omme 29	n/a	
HSS	Nifty Lift HR12	10m Genie GS3246	11.5m UpRight TL38	n/a	

TOTAL PLATFORM HEIGHT	
Company	Platform Height in metres
Nationwide	64,750
Hewden	33,300
Easi-UpLifts	31,700
AFI-UpLift	26,000
The Platform Company	25,750
A-Plant	21,850
Access Rentals	19,208
Loxam	19,200
Hi Reach	18,100
UK Platforms	17,100
Panther	16,500
HSS	14,500
GPT	13,200
Wizard	11,000
Kimberly	8,900
Skylift Hire	8,500
SGB	7,800
Universal	6,600
Aerial Platform Hire	6,500
EPL	6,000
AMP	5,750
Facelift	5,600
Higher Platforms	5,430
Manlift	5,100
Highway	5,000
Charles Wilson	5,000
GT Access	3,350
AJ Access	2,950
Kestrel	2,900
Venture Access	2,800

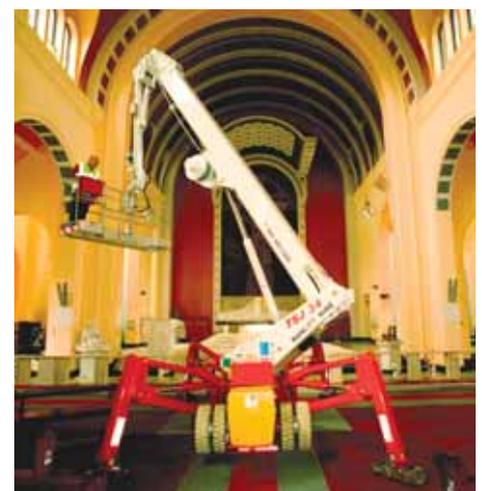


COMPANY DETAILS & INVESTMENT

Company	Investment £	Depots	Employees
The Platform Company	10,500,000	10	200
Access Rentals	10,200,000	10	72
Easi UpLifts	Not Disclosed	5	135
Hewden	8,000,000	18	200
A-Plant	8,000,000	12	97
Nationwide	7,500,000	48	587
AFI	Not Disclosed	15	170
Panther	6,000,000	6	90
UK Platforms	6,000,000	6	52
Kimberly	5,500,000	4	38
Hi-Reach	4,600,000	7	51
Higher Platforms	3,400,000	4	30
Charles Wilson	3,000,000	11	205
Skylift Hire	2,700,000	3	30
Loxam	Not Disclosed	17	140
Facelift	2,250,000	5	132
AMP	2,250,000	5	60
Manlift	2,000,000	4	16
HSS	1,700,000	515	2,359
AJ Access	1,600,000	2	25
GPT	Not Disclosed	10	150
UpLift	1,000,000	2	36
GT Access	1,000,000	2	19
EPL	800,000	8	119
Kestrel	560,000	1	28
Wizard	Not Disclosed	8	65
Rapid Platforms	500,000	1	32
Universal	Not Disclosed	3	n/a

TOP 6 VEHICLE MOUNTED FLEETS

Company	Truck Mount	Van Mount
EPL	110	140
Loxam	100	150
Nationwide-Skylift	170	0
Rise Hire	0	148
Facelift	63	25
Panther	22	6



# Telehandlers

This is the third year that we have included Telehandlers in our look at the major rental companies. At the top Hewden has widened its lead, expanding its fleet to just under 2,000 units, while Fork Rent moved smartly from seventh to fifth place as it ordered over 1,000 units from JCB, over a two year period.

The majority of the telehandler rental market remains in the hands of general plant hire companies, with a few specialists, such as UK Forks and Fork Rent and an increasing number of powered access companies now expanding their telehandler fleets. We touched upon the number of aerial lift rental companies entering the market last year. The biggest news since then is The Platform Company's order for over 70 more JCB telehandlers, taking its fleet up to 120 units. At the same time Fork Rent came from the other direction, adding 25 Manitou ManiAccess Rough Terrain boom lifts to its fleet.



## TOP 10 TELEHANDLER FLEETS

Company	Total Units	Largest Fixed	Largest 360	Main Brand	Depots	Employees
Hewden	1994	17m	0	CAT	360	3,600
UK Forks	1170	17m	25m	JCB	6	100
GE Capital	750	17m	21m	JCB	26	300
A-Plant	652	17M	0	JCB	193	2,068
Hessle	540	17m	25m	Manitou	3	50
Fork Rent	505	17m	0	JCB	1	20
GPT	500	17m	21m	Manitou	10	150
Charles Wilson	285	17m	21m	Manitou	11	205
Easi-UpLifts	264	17m	21m	Manitou	5	135
Hawk Plant	250	17m	18m	Terex	4	400



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