

R A B Y

Job Description

Job Title:	Livestock Manager
Reports to:	Raby Home Farm Management Consultant
Department:	Raby Home Farm
Hours:	Full Time, Permanent
Location:	Raby Home Farm, Staindrop, Co. Durham
Job Ref:	VA242-2026

About Raby Estates

Raby Estates is a progressive family-owned business with a heritage spanning almost 400 years. Operating across County Durham and Shropshire, the Estate combines commercial farming, property, leisure and tourism, all underpinned by a commitment to heritage, environmental stewardship and sustainable growth.

Situated close to Raby Castle, Raby Home Farm plays a central role in both the farming operation and the visitor experience. The Estate is investing significantly in the future of its farming businesses, with ambitious plans for livestock expansion, regenerative farming and the continued development of its Farm to Fork proposition.

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced Livestock Manager to lead and develop a growing livestock enterprise while helping to shape the future direction of both the farming and the visitor experience at Raby.

The Opportunity

Reporting directly to Raby's Farm Management Consultant, the Livestock Manager will lead the day-to-day operation and strategic development of the Estate's beef and sheep enterprises. The role combines practical livestock management with commercial planning, people leadership and the development of Raby's Farm to Fork offering led by the Leisure & Tourism team based at Raby Castle.

The successful candidate will be responsible for growing and improving the performance of the Longhorn herd and sheep flock, embedding regenerative farming principles across the livestock operation, and helping to strengthen the connection between farming, food production and the visitor experience.

Working closely with the Leisure and Tourism team, the Livestock Manager will contribute to the development of visitor experiences, home-produced food products and initiatives that showcase the farming business as a key part of the wider Estate.

This role offers considerable scope to influence future direction and would suit an ambitious individual who combines strong livestock expertise with commercial awareness, strong interpersonal skills and a passion for innovation.

Key Responsibilities

Livestock Enterprise Development

- Lead the management and development of the Longhorn herd and sheep flock.
- Deliver improvements in livestock quality, productivity and technical performance.

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- Ensure consistently high standards of animal health, welfare, feeding, grazing and husbandry.
- Develop breeding and marketing opportunities for pedigree Longhorn cattle.
- Manage statutory livestock records, assurance requirements and compliance obligations.
- Work with veterinary and professional advisers to support herd and flock performance.

Regenerative Farming

- Develop and implement regenerative grazing and grassland management systems.
- Introduce practices that improve soil health, biodiversity and long-term farm resilience.
- Work collaboratively with the wider farming team to support the Estate's regenerative farming objectives.

Farm to Fork and Visitor Engagement

- Support the development and delivery of the Estate's Farm to Fork strategy.
- Help maximise the value of livestock products sold through the Raby brand.
- Work with colleagues to create engaging visitor experiences linked to farming, food production and land stewardship.
- Contribute ideas for new products, experiences and commercial opportunities that strengthen the relationship between the farm and the wider Estate.
- Act as an ambassador for farming at Raby through direct engagement with visitors and stakeholders.

Leadership and Business Management

- Lead and develop the livestock team, fostering a positive and professional working culture.
- Manage day-to-day operations, labour, contractors and resources effectively.
- Contribute to budgeting, procurement, business planning and performance reporting.
- Maintain strong communication with senior management and other Estate departments.
- Work collaboratively across the Estate to support shared objectives and operational requirements.

Health, Safety and Compliance

- Promote a strong health and safety culture across the farming operation.
- Ensure compliance with relevant agricultural, environmental and assurance standards.

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- Maintain accurate records and support inspections, audits and reporting requirements.
- Work with advisers to deliver environmental and stewardship objectives.

Candidate Profile

We are seeking an experienced livestock professional with a proven track record of managing successful beef and/or sheep enterprises. The successful candidate will combine strong practical farming skills with the ability to think strategically and commercially.

You will be an effective leader and communicator, capable of interacting with visitors, building relationships and working collaboratively across a diverse estate business. A sound understanding of livestock production, regenerative farming, compliance requirements and financial management is essential.

You will also be comfortable operating in a public-facing environment and able to communicate confidently about farming, food production and the wider role of agriculture within the Estate.

Most importantly, you will share Raby's ambition to develop a progressive, sustainable and commercially successful farming business while respecting the heritage and values that make the Estate unique.

Working Pattern and Package

This is a hands-on role requiring flexibility throughout the farming year, particularly during peak periods such as lambing and calving. Estate accommodation and a vehicle will be available as part of the remuneration package.