**Job and Person Specification**

**Job Title:** Forestry and Estates Maintenance Supervisor

**Reports to:** HeadForester

**Location:** Raby Estates Office with frequent time spent in other Raby locations.

**Hours:** As per contract

**Job Ref:** VA24-2021

**Purpose of Job**

**The Raby Estate** comprises substantial landholdings and trading operations inCo Durham and Shropshire that are owned by Lord Barnard.

Raby Castle near Staindrop has been the home of the Vane family for generations and is open to visitors. Lord and Lady Barnard seek to develop the Castle and grounds so that it becomes one of the foremost visitor attractions in the North.

Agriculture is also an important source of income for the Estate. As well as the Estate’s own Home Farm in Raby Park, there are many tenanted farms and a large number of houses and cottages in villages around Teesdale, many are whitewashed farmsteads and houses where families have been tenants for several generations.

Raby Estate business operations include in-house farms, let farms and residential property, forestry, visitor attractions and sporting enterprises across 3 Estates in Co Durham and Shropshire.

The Forestry and Estates Maintenance Supervisor will be based in Co Durham and as a key member of the department’s team will have an important role in supporting the development of the forestry and woodland management business.

The Forestry and Estates Maintenance Supervisor will lead a small, established team, undertaking maintenance of the Estates’ forestry, infrastructure, parkland and land holding, in keeping with the Raby Business Plan and in support of other departments associated with the day to day running of the Estate.

**Key Tasks and Responsibilities:**

* Supervision of the Forestry and Estates Maintenance Team to ensure standards of Health and Safety, workmanship and productivity are consistently met;
* Undertaking risk assessments for the tasks in hand and recording that safety requirements are fulfilled;
* Working with the Head Forester to plan and implement a schedule of maintenance tasks required for the plantations and wider Estate;
* Recording works undertaken & completion of timesheets;
* Monitoring materials stocks, and recording items received and used;
* Equipment inspection and periodic maintenance;
* The role may occasionally involve some contractor supervision.

This is a hands-on position that will involve manual work on a daily basis across a range of disciplines including:

* Forestry planting and maintenance
* Pesticide application and weed control
* Fencing
* Stone walling (dry stone and cement bound walls)
* Maintenance of Estate infrastructure including paths, tracks, drains and individual trees
* Tree felling and scrub cutting
* Christmas tree maintenance and production
* Tractor, ATV and machine operation
* Activities to support other departments and effective running of the Estate

This list is not exhaustive, and you will be required to carry out any other reasonable tasks arising from time to time.

**Skills Required:**

* Flexible approach to duties undertaken
* Ability to work within a team or on own initiative as required
* Effective communication and organisational skills
* Honesty and a high level of integrity
* Enthusiasm and capacity for hard work
* Attention to detail
* Systematic and cheerful approach with a ‘can do’ attitude

**Knowledge/Experience:**

The candidate will possess the following skills/experience:

* A qualification in forestry or land-based discipline and a good understanding of rural works
* At least 2 years experience in forestry, rural estate maintenance or similar role
* A safe and considered approach to all tasks and working practices
* Basic IT Literacy & familiarity with Microsoft Office

Candidates should preferably hold certificates in:

* Chainsaw operation (felling, snedding and cross cutting)
* Pesticide application PA1/PA6
* FISA site safety (or similar) training
* ATV Operation
* Emergency First aid at Work
* Full UK Driving Licence with trailer entitlement up to 3500kg