



R A B Y

Spring 2022

Development | Property | Farming | Forestry | Land Management | Leisure

An aerial photograph of a large, multi-level wooden adventure playground built into a dense forest. The central feature is a wooden tower with a conical, shingled roof and a silver slide. A complex network of wooden walkways, bridges, and platforms winds through the trees. In the upper right, a larger wooden building with a balcony is visible. Several children and adults are seen walking on the paths and playing on the structures.

RABY
CASTLE

The Plotters' Forest

As construction work continues on the Rising development, the first phase of our brand new adventure playground, The Plotters' Forest is now complete.



Opening for Easter 2022, The Plotters' Forest draws subtle inspiration from the castle's history, including The Rising of the North in 1569, when Catholic rebels unsuccessfully plotted to overthrow Queen Elizabeth I, which is said to have been planned at Raby Castle.

"It seemed very fitting that the playground, which has been designed and built for real adventurers to unleash their inner playfulness and mischief, should be named after Raby's plotters of the past," said Project Director and Head of Leisure and Tourism Claire Jones.

Young visitors will see special features throughout the site, which represent Raby Castle's architectural history – including its entrance which has been built to honour the famous Nevill Gateway, and Plotters' Spire, a three-story tower with a top-floor slide and unusual pentagon shapes which have been used across the playground.

Lord and Lady Barnard, said:

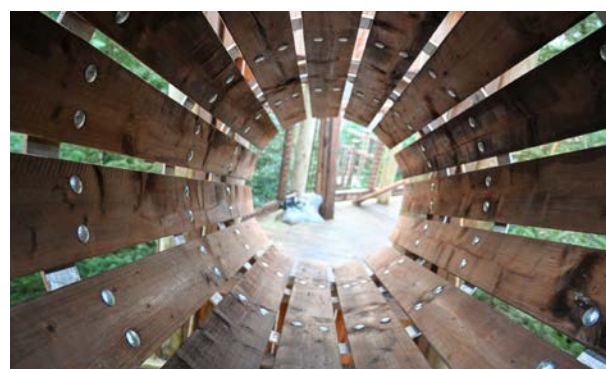
"When our own children were growing up, we enjoyed many happy times with them at adventure playgrounds close to where we lived in Shropshire.

"Children always remember with great fondness, the playgrounds where they had fun when they were younger, and this is the vision we had for Raby. Whilst Raby Castle remains a cultural and educational attraction in the north-east, we also want young families to enjoy adventures at Raby and The Plotters' Forest, at the heart of our new development, delivers just that."

The Plotters' Forest is part of a wider development, known as The Rising, that promises to attract new visitors to the area and create outstanding recreation for the local community. With its name also rooted in a chapter of Raby Castle's history, the project will include the significant restoration and renovation of several historic buildings on the estate, the creation of a new café and events space, as well as a new visitor hub and landscaped areas.

Lord Barnard continued:

"The Plotters' Forest is the beginning of a transformation at Raby. Whilst the castle is extremely popular with locals and tourists, the new playground and the wider offering at Raby will cement our reputation as a key attraction in north-east England."



"Tickets to the playground will also give access to the wider park filled with wildlife and in time, the walled gardens. It will be the perfect place to spend the day."

The new adventure playground will be open for Easter 2022, along with its takeaway food and drinks kiosk, The Plotters' Pantry. The wooden boardwalk through the playground is accessible by wheelchair and pushchair, creating a fun and inclusive space for all of Raby's visitors.

OPENS ON FRIDAY 15TH APRIL

To book tickets please visit www.raby.co.uk/raby-castle/play

The Rising Across the Wider Development



Alistair Baldwin (landscape architect),
Lady Barnard and Charlotte Pennell
(landscape designer)

Beyond our fantastic new play area, we are seeing plenty of other exciting changes taking place across the site as part of The Rising development.

Acclaimed Landscape Architect Alistair Baldwin has been brought in to redesign our outdoor areas, within which several historic buildings will be sympathetically restored to their former glory and made available to the community and the wider public. The Richmond based specialist has been retained by Lord and Lady Barnard, to recapture the sociable community feel of Old Raby Village, which existed beyond the castle walls.

The extensive redevelopment of the buildings that will comprise The Rising will be tied together with thoughtfully designed landscaped areas. The Duchess' Walk will have a corridor of statuesque trees and soft planting to connect the restored buildings to the new visitor arrival hub The Round House, and lead to the rest of the castle, park, and gardens. A central terraced garden, which will be surrounded by buildings including the new Round House and Vinery Restaurant, will have views of the spectacular 700-year-old castle beyond, drawing visitors in through a new entrance and bringing a village centre to the scheme.



Lady Barnard and Luciano Giubbilei (garden designer)

World-class Italian Garden Designer Luciano Giubbilei has also been selected to lead the extensive remodelling of the historically important Walled Garden at Raby Castle. The garden was originally designed to supply the castle with fresh produce, but was later developed more formally into a pleasure garden for the family. The plans will redesign and develop the ornamental gardens to provide a magical outdoor space where visitors can move through exquisite planting or attend performances and events.

Historic Restorations

There are many restoration projects happening all across the Estate. Here are the latest updates.

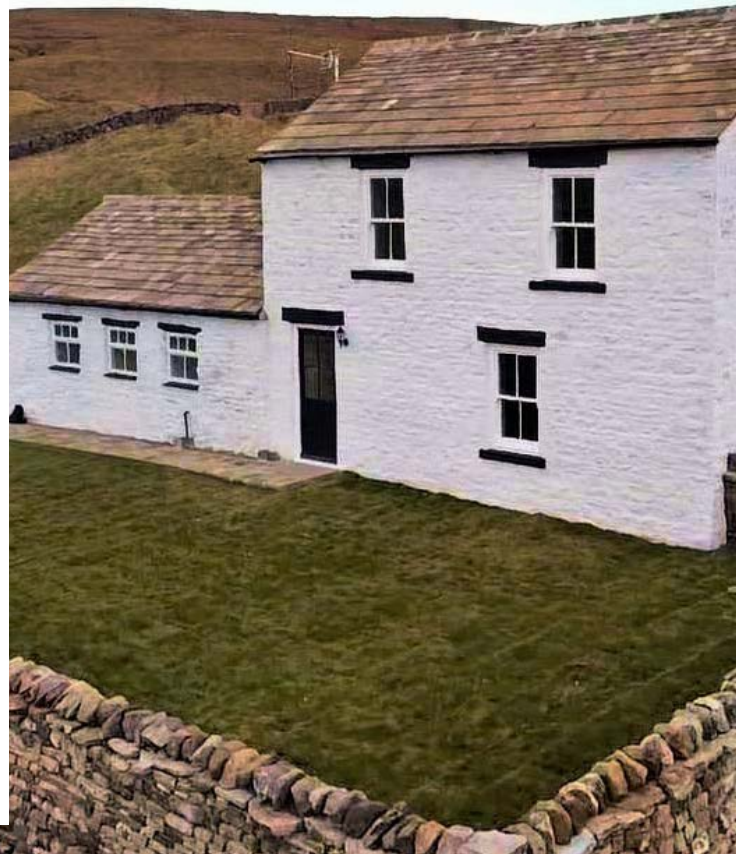


RABY
CO. DURHAM

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Unthank

Unthank is now approaching its final push to completion following a year long refurbishment. The house is now fully watertight and the newly installed central heating has been commissioned, making the house a lovely place to work in the final months. It has been challenging throughout the refurbishment due to the structural integrity of the building; new foundations have been poured when needed so it has truly been re-built from the ground up. The techniques we have used are in keeping with traditional methods, but making sure the house will last the test of time. The property has been white washed as part of its final works, which will make it stand out in Upper Teesdale and is in keeping with the rest of the Raby Estates portfolio. We have brought some inventive ideas to Unthank including under floor heating throughout the ground floor making it economical to heat and maintain its heat. The large open plan kitchen and dining room has views looking down the Dale from its Bi-Folding doors and southern facing windows.



Birch Rigg

Birch Rigg is another long term empty property which has undergone a full refurbishment. It is located in Ettersgill with spectacular views of the Dale. Birch Rigg has seen alterations to convert the old coach house into a newly formed kitchen and the addition of a utility and bathroom on the ground floor rear. This project has seen delays due to Storm Arwen and is awaiting the power supply to be installed later this spring. This house has undergone the full Raby Estate refurbishment and will be a warm and comfortable home with the addition of new double glazed windows and doors, a new central heating system and wall isolation throughout to modern standards. Birch Rigg is expected to be completed mid-April and then handed over to the property team for letting.



Hilton Hall

Hilton Hall's refurbishment is ongoing with the works to make the property watertight and structurally sound. The careful restoration of the ceiling mouldings are now complete with attention turning to the fireplaces and porch. The hall will be completed with new central heating, bathrooms and a focal point will be made of the kitchen. Raby's team of skilled trades will work sympathetically with the building to ensure we can restore the hall back to its former glory. We are working closely with the conservation officer to keep as many of the historic features as possible. Hilton Hall is expected to be completed later this year.

Karl Hankey, Project Manager

Langdon Beck

Langdon Beck is an iconic country hotel situated in Upper Teesdale within the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. After an extensive refurbishment by the Raby team, we are now inviting expressions of interest from prospective tenants as it is launched onto the rental market this spring.

The hotel now has six fresh, new en-suite guest rooms at first floor level. The dining room, bar and snug as well as two function rooms have been decorated throughout, whilst the historic elements of the character building have been retained – from its traditional wood beams to its authentic fireplaces.

The recent refurbishment of Langdon Beck is part of a regeneration programme that will breathe new life into several historic buildings across Teesdale, including the multiple heritage structures within the grounds of Raby Castle.

Will Witchell, Rural Surveyor

Prospective tenants can contact us for further details, on **01833 660888** or by email at [**reception@raby.co.uk**](mailto:reception@raby.co.uk)



Gainford Hall

The Raby team have now completed the first phase of restoration works which will see this incredible Grade I Listed Building being taken off the buildings at risk register.

The works have included installation of steel ties to the main walls and roof timbers, a complete re-roof, rebuild and repair of the chimneys, repointing the entire building and installation of new leaded windows.

In addition to the hall itself, we have also restored the Dovecote to its former glory, securing the future of both for generations to come.

We used no less than 5 ton of hydraulic lime, 25 ton of sand and 2 ton of timber, which was milled from seasoned oak grown on the Raby Estate.

Further plans are now being considered to move onto phase 2, which will see the refurbishment of the interior of the hall to provide modern accommodation and restoration of the farm buildings.

Philip Dent, Buildings Manager



RABY
CO. DURHAM

Farming

A spring update from the team at Raby Home Farm.

Updates

Raby Home Farm



It has been a busy time for the team at Raby Home Farm so far this year with routine maintenance and livestock duties.

As part of Raby's drive to create a sustainable farming system, the Longhorn young stock that are currently housed in Sun Yard and the bull pits have been enjoying a diet of mainly locally produced feeds. Judging by the impressive weight gain the feed is being very well received!

The first calf arrived in early March, he was instantly a hit on social media. Once again, we are looking for inspiration for calf names, the prefix letter this year is W. Lambing season is now well underway, we hope this favourable spring weather will continue.

The autumn sown crops are looking very well as they come out of winter. Last week the first fertilizer was applied to the oil seed rape and winter barley.



One winter wheat field received a biological treatment to try to reduce the disease pressure, 100 sheep! The idea being the old diseased leaves are eaten by the sheep. There is nothing new with this approach as I recall my grandad talking about this practice in his youth. The performance of this field will be carefully monitored throughout the year - 50% of the crops canopy disappearing does worry me! Again, this is all part of trials to support our sustainable farming approach.



Livestock manures will be applied to the growing crops for the first time in a long time at Raby, which will massively help to reduce our carbon footprint.

We will be planting the spring crops very soon. This year we will be trialling a small area of pea and barley mix (grown in the same field). The direct drill with twin seed hopper will be used to sow this. We also aim to plant a small area of lupins. The intended aim is to create a high protein cattle feed, mitigating the need to ship soya halfway around the globe.

Philip Vickers, Farm Manager

RABY
SHROPSHIRE

A warm
Welcome



Spotlight

Raby Welcomes new Shropshire Land Agent

As you may be aware, Shropshire Land Agent, Tom Birtles left Raby in March to take up a new role in North Wales. Tom has left with our good wishes and thanks for all he has achieved in Shropshire over the last few years.

Following a search that began in the New Year, we are pleased to announce that Charlotte Marrison has joined Raby Estates as the new Shropshire Land Agent.

Charlotte has a wealth of estate management experience having previously worked in a Resident Agent capacity in the Midlands and more recently run her own estate management consultancy business based in Shropshire. Charlotte is also a fully qualified member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a Fellow of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers. She is passionate about the role landed estates can play in contributing to the growth of the rural economy and will lead the Raby Shropshire Estate through a period of transition and investment over the next few years. I am sure you will join us in welcoming Charlotte to Raby.

Duncan Peake, CEO



“I am really looking forward to starting work on the Raby Estate during this time of transition and to meeting all the staff, tenants and contractors in due course.

Working as a team, my aim is to take the business forward over the next 5 years by realising the many different business development opportunities that the Raby Estate has to offer, to ensure that the estate continues to thrive well into the future. I am also looking forward to meeting the wider Raby Estate staff in County Durham in due course and getting to know everyone”.

Charlotte Marrison, Shropshire Land Agent

A photograph of two forestry workers in orange safety gear and helmets working in a forest. One worker in the foreground is using a chainsaw to cut a large log lying on the ground. Another worker is visible in the background. The forest floor is covered with fallen leaves and green ferns. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Forestry

RABY



Spotlight

Spring Planting and Regeneration

Winter and early spring provides the season for tree planting, and in addition to the thousands of saplings which are replanted across the estates' woodlands and biodiversity schemes, this year will see an increase in new trees on the parkland at Raby.

After the devastation of three successive storms this winter, sadly we have seen widespread damage and lost several mature trees from the parkland, some of which date back to the early phases of planting, over 180 years ago. The forestry and estates maintenance team have risen to the challenge and have worked to clear the initial damage and make the park safe for visitors.

The sheer size and age of the trees involved has itself added to the task, requiring both skill and care to undertake safely. Specialist contractors, Dryad Arb were engaged to reduce some of the large trees on the approach to Raby Castle which stood at over 30m in height. As part of this work, split and damaged timber was removed from the upper branches of the trees, which would be out of reach for most traditional arboricultural equipment. Crown reduction, a process by which the weight and surface area of the branches and upper limbs of the trees are reduced, was then undertaken to improve the long-term resilience of the trees and improve their potential to withstand future storms.



A significant task is still in hand to deal with the remaining windblown stems, and where possible, some of the timber will be cut and re-purposed for use in the exciting developments and wider parkland.



In a plan to keep a continuity of trees on the Parkland, several oaks and limes will be planted this season to provide a growing resource that will in time, develop into towering, mature specimens for future generations to enjoy the park as we do today.

Geoff Turnbull, Head Forester

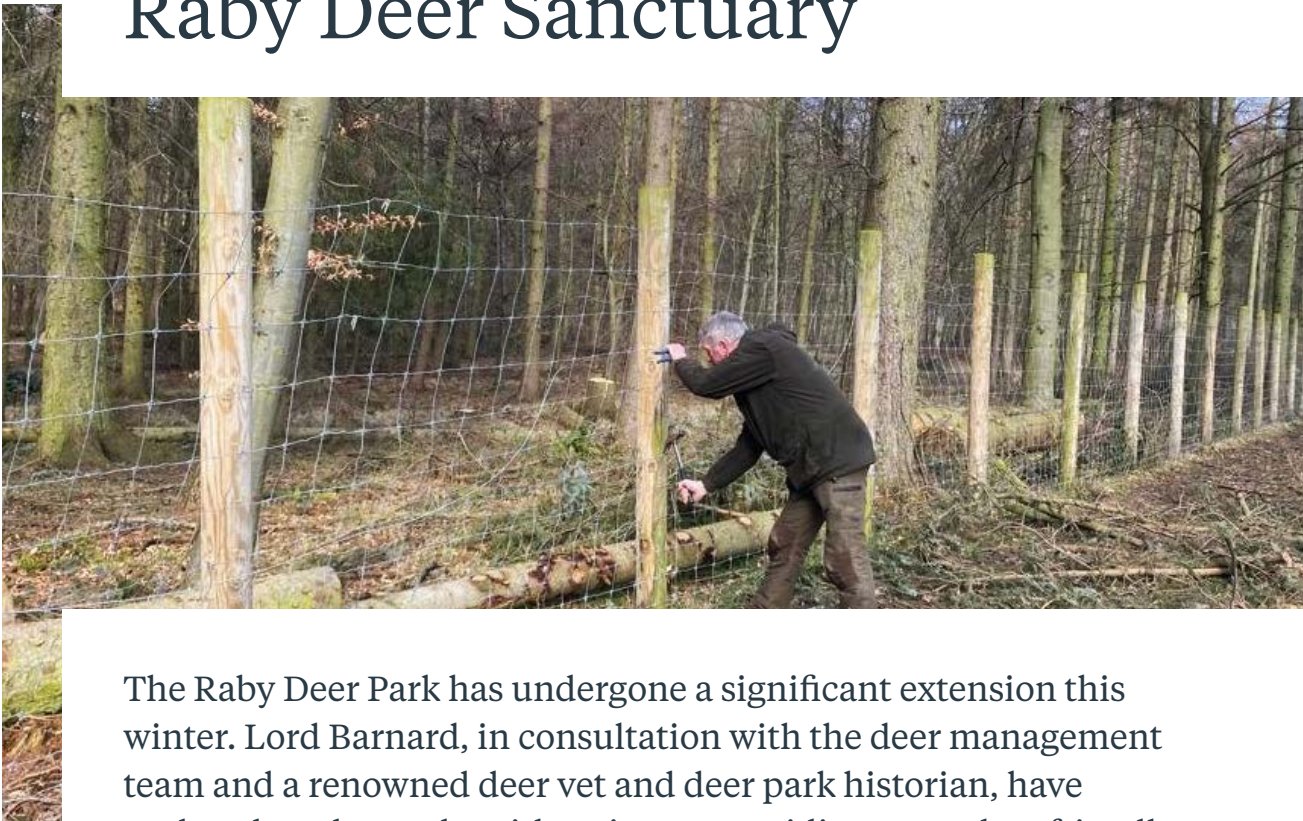
R A B Y



Wildlife

Spotlight

Raby Deer Sanctuary



The Raby Deer Park has undergone a significant extension this winter. Lord Barnard, in consultation with the deer management team and a renowned deer vet and deer park historian, have undertaken the works with a view to providing more deer friendly habitats within the Park. We have incorporated an area to the south-west of the main park encompassing the corner of Bath Wood and a small proportion of previously arable fields to the west.

This latest extension incorporates areas of the historic deer park which was once much larger than the area we know today. Crucially this area includes a parcel of mature woodland (conifer and broadleaves), a water course with areas of low-lying wet ground and two areas of newly sown, deer specific grassland.

The main reasons for the extension are to create a sanctuary area for the deer. This offers multiple benefits:

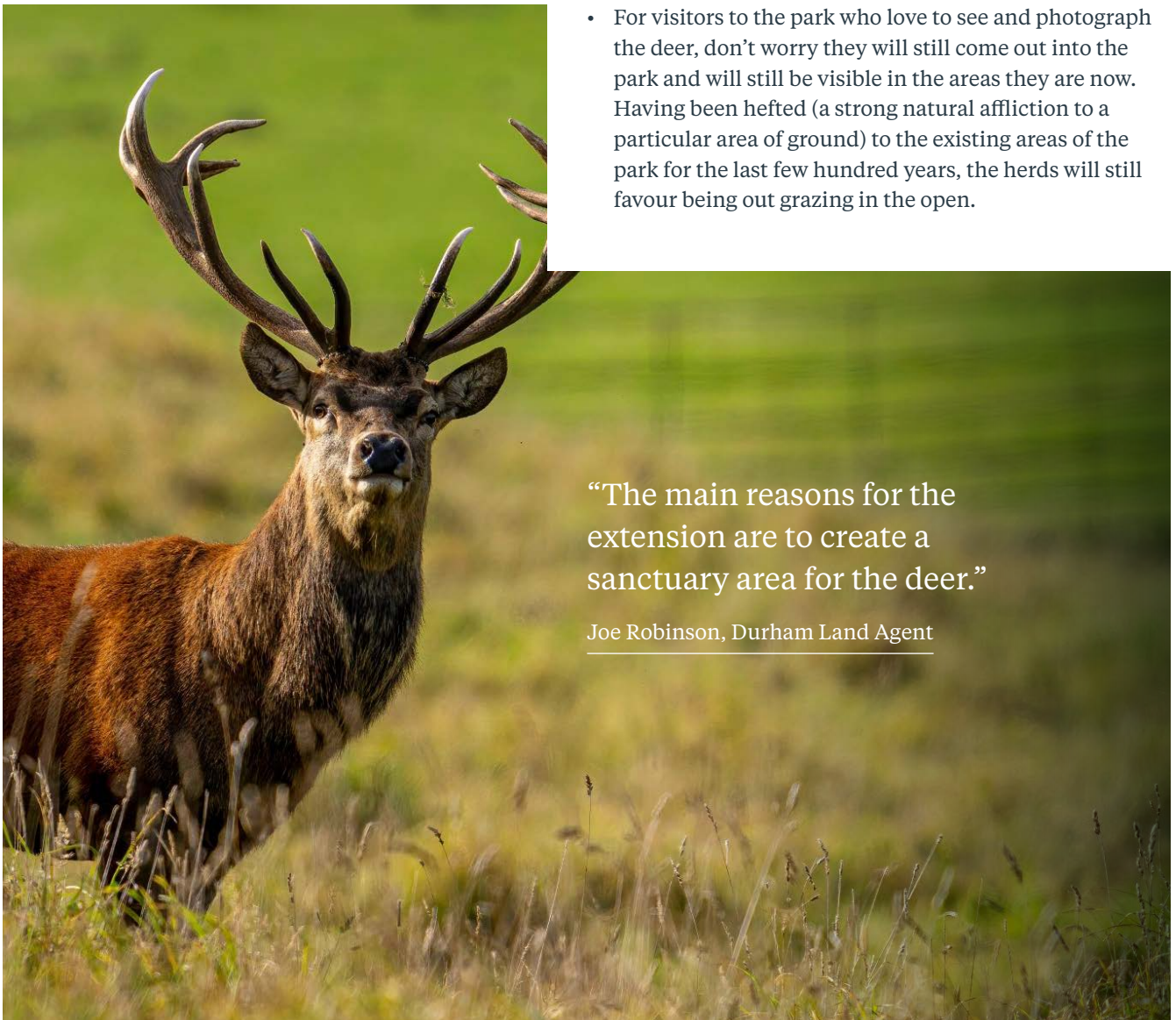
- Provides an area where deer can be kept safe when large events are held in the park.
- Provides a sanctuary during calving time for the deer to go into and give birth without having to contend with the pressures of the busy park.
- Provides year-round protection from the weather – shade from the summer sun and protection from the harsh winter winds.
- Both the fallow and the red deer really do love this type of wood pasture habitat and the wet wooded areas.
- There is an added benefit in that any escaped deer can hopefully be pushed back into the park via the extension – they like running from woodland to woodland. They don't like running from woodland through a small gate back into the park.





For the deer management team, the extension will bring additional benefits including:

- Reducing stress on the herds.
- Increase calving percentages and the performance of the herds.
- Maintain body weights and condition of the deer particularly during prolonged harsh weather and the winter.
- Provide an enriched environment for the deer to have access to.
- Offer visitors a different perspective of the herd in a different environment. In time it is intended that the deer can be viewed in a more relaxed and settled atmosphere. Whilst the public won't be allowed access into the sanctuary and wooded area, they may get a great glimpse from a distance – so bring your binoculars next time you visit!
- For visitors to the park who love to see and photograph the deer, don't worry they will still come out into the park and will still be visible in the areas they are now. Having been hefted (a strong natural affliction to a particular area of ground) to the existing areas of the park for the last few hundred years, the herds will still favour being out grazing in the open.



“The main reasons for the extension are to create a sanctuary area for the deer.”

Joe Robinson, Durham Land Agent

RABY
CASTLE

Conservation





Raby Castle

Passing Time at Raby

Eagle eyed visitors to Raby Castle in the early months of 2022 will have noticed that The Keep tower has been clad in scaffolding. Thanks to a grant from Historic England and Historic House Foundation, we have been able to carry out some much-needed roof repairs. The funding also allowed us to carry out conservation work on The Keep's distinctive clock and sundial faces.

The work provided a perfect opportunity for us to delve into the history of these important time-pieces. In the days before mechanical clocks, fixed and portable sundials were the commonest means of telling the time. The earliest surviving sundial that the castle team were aware of was the metal dial fixed to The Keep wall... or so we thought. When the metal sundial was removed to travel to specialist conservators Smith of Derby, a second dial was revealed, painted directly onto the castle wall. Paint analysis and research is currently being carried out on this surprising discovery.



The earliest surviving sundial that the castle team were aware of was the metal dial fixed to The Keep wall... or so we thought.



The two dials of the castle clock have also been sent for conservation and re-gilding. Paintings dating from the late 18th century show the clock facing out from Bulmer's Tower, only really visible from the Park. The clock was probably moved to The Keep tower in the 1840s where it could be seen more easily by the family, their guests and staff.





This move would have coincided with the standardisation of British time as a result of the growth of the railways, where ‘local time’ measured on sundials by the position of the sun in the sky, was too unreliable for tight railway timetables. It has remained there ever since as the lovely watercolour from Raby Castle’s 1903 visitors book shows above.

Our research on the clock and sundials continues and we will share our discoveries in a special Raby Castle blog later on in the year when these important time-pieces are back in situ.

Julie Biddlecombe-Brown, Castle Curator

The Yurt Café

While our exciting Rising developments are underway, our Stables Cafe has moved to a new home. Visitors can now experience our light and airy Yurt Café on their way into the Deer Park. Offering a delicious menu of savoury dishes and sweet treats, this unique venue is the perfect place to refuel during adventures at Raby. Our Stables Shop has also moved to the Hunting Stables and is full of quality gifts and homeware.



Raby Estates Wins Visitor Economy Award

We are thrilled to have received the 2021 Visitor Economy Award as part of The Northern Echo County Durham Together Awards, in partnership with Durham County Council.

This award recognises our role in helping to promote County Durham as a safe and rewarding place to visit, our support of the hospitality and tourism sector and help in sustaining the visitor economy.

To subscribe to the Raby Newsletter visit www.raby.co.uk

R A B Y

A warm Welcome

We are delighted to introduce some new members to the team at Raby.

R A B Y



What v

Leisure & Tourism

Visit Raby Castle and the County Durham, and the Stay at the High Force Ho and the Summer House in

Property

Residential, agricultural a

Land Management

Stewardship, conservation

Farming

Arable and livestock - cat

Sporting

Shooting and fishing

Forestry

Commercial and amenity woodland, Estate manage



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Raby Estates

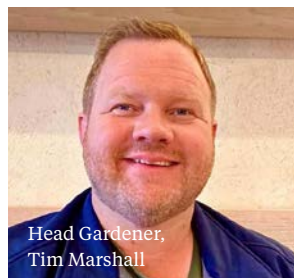
New Faces and Fond Farewells

As the Rising development begins to gather pace at Raby Castle, we are undertaking a significant recruitment drive to find new team members to join us on this exciting journey.

We'd like to welcome new Assistant Site Manager, Damien Jones and Traffic Marshall, Aidan Armstrong to the construction team, along with Joiners, Mark Jeremiah, Victoria Mills and Labourer, Daniel Dickson. Joining the buildings project team we welcome Skilled Tradesperson, Jon Rogers, Labourer, Aidan Braithwaite and Ian Hutchinson as our new Decorating Supervisor.

The castle team will see the introduction of our new Head Gardener, Tim Marshall who will be leading on our re-development of the Walled Gardens, alongside World-class Italian Garden Designer Luciano Giubbilei and Landscape Architect, Alistair W Baldwin Associates. The curatorial and archives team have also got a new addition of Interpretation and Engagement Assistant, Lauren Foster, who will be helping to engage the public in Raby's story.

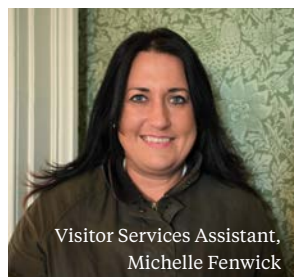
Congratulations to long-serving admissions team member, Jackie Deeming who is taking up a full time position with us at the castle. Paul Green has moved from the gardens team to his new role as Grounds Maintenance Assistant, Lindsay De Martino is moving to a new Retail Assistant role and Emma Dodgson is moving to a permanent General Assistant position. It is fantastic to see so many existing employees developing their careers within Raby.



Head Gardener,
Tim Marshall



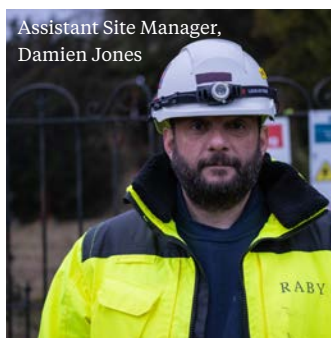
Joiner,
Victoria Mills



Visitor Services Assistant,
Michelle Fenwick



HR & Recruitment Assistant,
Stephanie Bell



Assistant Site Manager,
Damien Jones



Traffic Marshall,
Aidan Armstrong



Admissions Team Member,
Jackie Deeming



Grounds Maintenance Assistant,
Paul Green

Our new Visitor Services Assistant, Michelle Fenwick will provide a friendly face as the first point of contact for visitors. We'd also like to welcome a host of new General Assistants across our hospitality areas, to provide the public with a wonderful experience, Tyler Macauley-Lockett, Eden Woodland, Emily Barker, Lydia Newberry, Rosie Bell, Susan Newcombe, Maisy Newberry, Keira Chippendale, Morag Meldrum and at High Force Hotel, Jessica Wearmouth. Charlie Butler will be joining the High Force team as Catering Assistant as well as Amanda Falshaw our new Duty Manager.

Across the wider estate, we'd like to say a big hello to our new Land Agent Charlotte Marrison who has recently started with us. Last, but not least, in our Staindrop Office in Durham, we'd like to welcome Stephanie Bell, our new HR and Recruitment Assistant, who will be helping us to attract even more people to the team. This year we sadly bid farewell to Bertie Bainbridge, Gardener at Selaby Hall, Ben Hall, our Finance Project Manager, Sue Matthews, Manager at Langdon Beck and Tom Birtles, our Shropshire Land Agent who are moving on to pastures new. Thank you to Bertie, Ben, Sue and Tom for all of their support at Raby and we wish them all well in future endeavours.

Raby is growing!

To find out more about upcoming vacancies please visit our Careers page
www.raby.co.uk/careers

A young girl with blonde pigtails is running towards the camera on a gravel path. She is wearing a white puffer jacket with a black leopard print, orange leggings, and pink boots with a floral pattern. She is holding a small grey hat in her right hand. In the background, there is a large stone castle with multiple windows and a blue sky.

R A B Y

Spring

is in the air

As we head high-speed towards another spring and summer season at Raby, we've got an extra special offering this year with new spaces for visitors to enjoy.

Leisure & Tourism

Upcoming Events



Easter at Raby Castle

Saturday 9th – Sunday 24th April

This Easter families can head out on an exploration of the Deer Park to follow our activity trail.



High Force Easter Trail

Saturday 9th – Sunday 24th April

This Easter we are inviting children to take part in our art competition and help us design our new activity trail. The top 10 designs will be displayed throughout the woodlands at High Force.



Brightwoods Forest School Book Walk: Whose Odd Eggs?

Raby Castle Deer Park – Tuesday 12th April

Join Brightwood Forest School for a special Easter book walk.



May Walking Break

High Force Hotel & Waterfall
Friday 13th – Saturday 14th May

Escape to the country this May and enjoy a wonderful weekend of walking, good food and company with one of our walking weekend breaks.



Brightwoods Forest School Book Walk: How Hungry is a Caterpillar?

Raby Castle Deer Park – Monday 30th May

Join Brightwoods for a session of interactive activities and sensory experiences.



Jubilee Celebrations

Raby Castle
Saturday 28th May – Sunday 5th June

Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with our street party themed trail, picnics in the park and special castle exhibits.

Leisure & Tourism

Upcoming Events



Open Farm Sunday

Raby Home Farm
Sunday 12th June

On Sunday 12th June, farms up and down the country will be giving people a chance to experience everyday farm life first hand and learn more about how the food on our plates is produced.



World Nature Conservation Day

High Force Waterfall
Thursday 28th July

To celebrate World Nature Conservation Day we will be running a special guided tour to High Force Waterfall. Join Andy our Estate Ranger on a scenic walk around our woodland trail.



Auto Italia

Raby Castle – Saturday 9th July

Auto Italia returns to Raby this year, featuring Italian cars of all eras displayed against the magnificent backdrop of the castle.



For further details
and to book tickets visit

www.raby.co.uk/whats-on

Further details can be found
across our Social Media pages.





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