



Ranston Graduate Scheme

Preferred start date: June 2025

Company overview

Situated in the spectacular North Dorset escarpment on the edge of the Cranborne Chase AONB, Ranston Estate is a family-run estate committed to modern and sustainable land management.

Our land consists of primarily arable land, complimented by downland and parkland grass, and managed forestry. We actively participate in Environmental Land Management Schemes and have recently established a local farmer cluster. Alongside in-house farm management, we provide extensive contract farming services, overseeing a significant area for neighbouring landowners.

Diversification is at the core of our approach. We are committed to renewable energy, operating a woodchip and biomass boiler business alongside multiple solar energy projects. A long-established commercial and residential property portfolio provides further diversification. The estate is also home to a highly regarded shooting enterprise, offering an exceptional sporting experience underpinned by responsible land and wildlife management.

In addition, Ranston has a sister company, Wessex Internet, an independent ISP and fibre network provider dedicated to improving rural connectivity. Wessex Internet operates as a tenant on the estate, delivering fast, reliable broadband to communities across the region.

The estate remains focused on long-term sustainability, economic resilience, and innovation across all areas of operation.

Role Overview

Ranston Estate is introducing the Ranston Graduate Scheme, designed for graduates who are interested in farm management, estate management, or related agricultural industries.

This six-month hybrid role offers a combination of practical farm experience on machinery and farm management support providing a well-rounded introduction to estate operations.

The farm operates a modern fleet of Fendt, Valtra, and Claas machinery, and the successful candidate will work alongside the farm team, assisting in field operations.

The Farm is actively involved in environmental stewardship schemes. The successful candidate will play a key role in ensuring these schemes are effectively managed and will be responsible for applying for new schemes and capital grants when appropriate.

The farm has recently transitioned to a more comprehensive contract farming management agreement, taking responsibility for their environmental land management as well as the farm management. The graduate will assist in overseeing these agreements, ensuring

compliance and identifying opportunities for further environmental and economic improvements.

Additionally, the farm has recently adopted Omnia digital farming software, and the graduate will support the Farm Manager in leveraging its full potential for yield mapping, gross margin analysis, and other farm management tools.

As a shooting estate, you will also get the opportunity to be involved in shoot related activities.

Key Responsibilities

On-Farm Duties:

- Assist with tractor operations, particularly during peak seasons.
- Support grain store management, including drying and loading.
- Participate in estate management tasks as needed.

Farm Management Support:

- Responsible for ensuring compliance and management of ELMS for both Ranston Estate and contract farms.
- Lead the application process for new environmental schemes and capital grant opportunities.
- Support the management and potential expansion of contract farming agreements.
- Provide administrative support to the Estate Manager and wider estate team.
- Coordinate Estate development projects.
- Support the Farm Manager in utilising Omnia to maximise efficiency.

Tailored Development Opportunities

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to develop experience in an area of their choosing. This includes any of the below:

- Exposure to agronomy, finance, and diversification projects based on candidate interests
- Opportunity to spend time on the shoot alongside the Head Keeper
- Personal development plan at the onset of the schemes, with clear targets, priorities, and KPIs
- Ongoing mentoring and guidance from experienced estate professionals

Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tractor driving and machinery handling experience (Telehandler licence preferred but not essential). • Project management and problem-solving skills. • Strong attention to detail and commercial awareness. • Excellent time management and organisational abilities. • Ability to work independently and collaboratively within a team.
Package
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive package with possible accommodation provided on site.

To apply:

Please email CV and covering letter to nicola@ranston.co.uk