



Job Description

Job Title:	Beat Keeper
Location:	Cranborne Estate, Dorset
Contract:	Permanent
Hours:	Full Time
Reporting to:	Head Keeper, Viscount Cranborne and his Agent
Start date:	ASAP

Place of Work

Cranborne is the Dorset home of Viscount Cranborne. The Estate comprises a mixture of farming, forestry and property interests and is run in-hand from the Estate Office.

The shoot has significantly changed emphasis in the last few years. A decision was taken in 2014 to focus entirely on the creation and management of the optimum conditions for grey partridge to thrive. From a pair count of 25 in spring 2015, we achieved an increase to 179 pairs in spring 2021. We have an exciting opportunity to be part of our enthusiastic team to aid the continuation of the grey partridge project.

There is an in-hand farm of approx. 2,500 acres, the larger part of which forms the base of the main partridge beat. The owner, his agent and farm manager, takes an active interest in the shoot.

Summary of the Role

To lead and strive to improve an existing beat covering a tenant farm and part of the Home farm with the wider aim being to produce a first-class wild partridge beat.

Main Responsibilities / Duties

- To be responsible for the sustainable management and conservation of grey partridges and other wildlife on the beat.
- Control of all legal vermin.
- Managing grey partridge habitat and conservation measures.
- Looking after vehicles and equipment.
- Close liaison with other keepers, and also the farm tenants, Farm Manager, Forest Manager and Rural Estate Manager.
- Helping on shoots, walked-up days and duck flights.
- Deer management
- Any other relevant or related duties

Skills and Attributes

- A good manner with people including staff, colleagues, guests (and those that may not be welcome) is essential.
- Good knowledge and experience in managing wild game birds and their habitats.
- Competence certificates in spraying, chainsaw and other equipment use is desirable although training will be provided.
- Full driving licence.
- Well organised and confident, with initiative and enthusiasm
- A naturally practical person who leads by example
- The ability to work independently
- Ability to quickly establish and maintain good working relationships with colleagues and others.
- Forward thinking.

How to Apply

Please send your CV and a covering letter, either by email to:

The Head Keeper, Estate Office, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PS
recruitment@cranborne.co.uk www.cranborne.co.uk

Closing date: 2nd May 2022

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