

# EMPLOYEE

## *Spotlight*

### Daniel Grant

#### What Inspired Your Career Choice?

I've always had a keen interest in property and rural affairs, so rural surveying felt like the perfect way to bring those two passions together. While studying Geography at Aberdeen University, I realised I wanted a career that combined my interests and allowed me to be out and about, visiting new places and engaging with a wide range of individuals. What's kept it exciting is the variety; no two days are quite the same.

#### From University to Estates

My journey with Aberdeen & Northern Estates started when I was lucky enough to land a summer placement in 2023. That experience really sparked my interest, and I continued working with the team while studying for a Master of Land Economy – generously supported by ANM Group. The genuine interest in my development really stood out to me! Since completing my degree, I've joined the Estates team full-time. It's been a great environment to grow in, with plenty of support, hands-on learning, and opportunities to keep developing my skills.

#### Day in a Life: No Two Days the Same

Every day brings something a little different, which keeps things interesting. Most of my work focuses on agency and valuations – helping prepare reports, researching comparable evidence, and supporting with marketing proposals. I also get involved in sales and land-related claims, so there's always plenty going on. I really enjoy the mix of desk work and time out on inspections – especially when the sun's shining! The variety of projects we handle at AN Estates means I'm constantly learning and developing in the role.



## Balancing Study and Work

My graduate experience was a fantastic stepping stone into the world of rural surveying. Being able to work part-time with the Estates team while studying gave me a real head start – not just in applying what I was learning, but in understanding how the industry works day to day. What really made a difference was the chance to shadow experienced colleagues. Whether it was valuations, inspections, or client meetings, I was constantly learning from a knowledgeable and supportive team. That hands-on exposure helped build my confidence and gave me a solid foundation for stepping into a full-time role.

## Learning and Growing with the Team

Since joining full time, the support from the Estates team has been incredible. I'm surrounded by people who are not only experts in their field but genuinely invested in helping me grow. Whether it's answering questions, offering guidance, or simply sharing their experience, the team is always approachable and encouraging. We've also put regular support in place for my APC (Assessment of Professional Competence), with monthly meetings to help me stay on track.

Being part of a team that leads the way in rural property sales across the North East means I'm constantly learning from the best, and that's been invaluable for developing both my knowledge and confidence in the role.

## Taking the Lead on Exciting Projects

I recently led my first property sale as the agent in charge – which is a big milestone and something I'm really proud of. Until now, I've been supporting others on their sales, so stepping into the lead role feels like a real moment of progress. It's exciting to take that next step and see how far I've come with the support of my team.

## Advice for Aspiring Surveyors

My advice to an aspiring rural surveyor is to stay curious and open to learning – don't be afraid to ask questions if you're unsure about something. I've been fortunate to have a supportive team to lean on throughout my journey from university to full-time work. Learning directly from experienced colleagues has helped me grow in my role, and I'd encourage anyone starting out to treat every moment as a learning opportunity.

## Beyond the Office

Something my colleagues may not know about me...I lived in Switzerland for six months in 2021 as part of a university exchange, so I think that's pretty exciting.