

Tombreck Market Garden

Newsletter #1 February 2023

Hello, and welcome to the first of (hopefully) many newsletters reporting back on our progress in setting up a market garden here at Tombreck! We are Rachel & Ian, two growers who are new to the area but have just under 20 years' experience between us in organic veg growing on various farms all around the country. This will be our first attempt at running our own business, thanks to the generosity of Sue & Tober in offering us the use of the land here. Arriving in February from our previous farm in Worcestershire it was pretty daunting to be starting from scratch with an empty field, but exciting to imagine the possibilities and satisfying to make the first steps towards bringing them into being.

So far, apart from the more mundane tasks of registering the business, setting up bank accounts, utilities, tax etc, our main practical work has been to mark out our planned growing spaces and to begin to prepare them for cultivation. We dug out probably over 1,000 docks, put them into a big pile for burning, and scattered the ash over the first growing area. We did our best to remove the larger rocks and boulders, sometimes resorting to rather 'creative' methods:



Finally we built some compost bays and filled them with a layered mix of bracken, hauled up the hill from an orchard area, horse manure, woodchip and sawdust. As it's very carbon-heavy we expect it will take longer to decompose than if it had more green materials, but it should eventually provide us with a valuable compost to add to (if not replace) the stuff we will have to buy in.



Otherwise, We are looking forward to Spring and sowing our first seeds! It will be a while before our first crops are ready, but the plan for this year is to sell our produce in the Tombreck farm shop, and via the Neighbourfood scheme in Killin and Aberfeldy. Longer term we intend to set up a veg box scheme and to explore options for community involvement in the project, inspired by the CSA model (see: <https://communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk/>). In the meantime feel free to get in touch via marketgarden@tombreck.co.uk We are gladly accepting donations of gardening tools, plant pots and other DIY or farming-related materials in reasonably good condition!