

A NOTE FROM NORTH DEVON

The farm is coming back to life

Our mission to "Restore the land and Re-story the Farm" has moved from ideas and hopeful expectation to progress on the ground — and in the ground.

Blinsham is beginning to take shape as a place for food, community and hospitality. This first field note describes a summer of soil tests, tree planting, new arrivals and discoveries.



THE PINETUM

Working with the UK Conifer Society we have revealed one of the UK's most important collection of conifers

AND ON THE FARM



The hard work begins



Looking after our pasture



While enjoying some views

REGENERATION IN PRACTICE

Growth, from the ground up

300

fruit, nut and indigenous trees

planted across the estate



Young orchard · timber-framed cattle barn



SOUTH DEVONS

Our herd has arrived, complete with calves. Conan, our eighteen-month-old bull, joined them a few weeks later, with seven more calves due in February.

SOIL FIRST

Samples now benchmark the living biology of our soils as we move towards organic, regenerative farming.



THREE BEE HIVES



SEVEN POLYTUNNELS

Four polytunnels have been rebuilt or refurbished, with three more in progress. The new cattle barn uses recycled tyres, crushed site hardcore and lime — practical materials chosen for livestock health and a lighter footprint.



RIVER TORRIDGE · A RARE WATER MEADOW

CASTLE HILL

A deeper story

Archaeologists now believe Castle Hill, part of Blinsham Farm, is the most likely site of the Battle of Cynwit in 878 — a victory that changed the course of English history.

Ubbe, son of Ragnar, came with around 1,200 Vikings. At dawn, King Alfred's remaining Devon army charged against the odds. Ubbe was killed; Wessex found the momentum to push back. The story is told in the newly published The Sons of Ragnar.



LOOKING AHEAD

Opening next summer

We will be producing food, focussed on community and led by hospitality. More plans will come to fruition in the months ahead.

The main house is being restored, plans progress for the stone barns, and work with Devon Wildlife Trust continues.

> *"To swim upstream takes more than muscle; it takes a stubborn love.*
>
> — A MYSTERY POET

With gratitude to Clair and Simon.

KEEP IN TOUCH
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