Pertwood Organic Farm

Lower Pertwood Organic Farm Ltd
Hindon Nr. Salisbury Wiltshire SP3 6TA
T. 01747 820930 or 01747 820499
www.pertwood.co.uk

A Short History of Pertwood Farm

Pertwood was an ancient settlement and former parish, near Warminster in the county of Wiltshire. Its land and houses now lie in the parishes of East Knoyle, Sutton Veny and Chicklade. The settlements are close together at Upper Pertwood (also called Higher Pertwood) and Lower Pertwood. Higher Pertwood is now Pertwood Manor Farm, while Lower Pertwood is Pertwood Organic Farm.

Pertwood's history is documented as far back as 600 AD as part of the manor of Brixton Deverill. At the Domesday survey of 1086, it was held by Geoffrey de Mowbray, Bishop of Coutances.

It later became the home of the Earls of Gloucester, which it remained until the early 15th century. To the north of Pertwood Organic Farm, the Romans, known for building straight roads, unusually diverted their road around an ancient tumulus instead of building through it. By 1829, the Roman road near Pertwood was described as "still remarkably perfect."

The organic farming model was introduced by previous owner Mark Houghton Brown, largely to conserve the thin soil, and was continued by him until 2005 and thereafter by new owners. The core farm has been organically managed for years and so the base sustainable practices were already in place.

The new owners' approach was to embed these more deeply, and to collect far more data about the biodiversity on the farm, which helps them to identify every possible opportunity to enhance it and allow more wildlife to coexist alongside a profitable commercial business.

Harvesting oats, barley and other cereal crops, the soil is organically fertilised by the farm's beef cattle and a flock of some 1,800 sheep. A successful range of Organic Cereals completes this picture of Pertwood.

The second oldest and one of the leading organic farms in the UK, Pertwood's over 30-year tradition of organic farming has resulted in a wealth of wildlife residing in the unspoiled, chemical-free environment. The RSPB is keenly involved in monitoring the incredible variety of wildlife species that make this location their home. Lower Pertwood Farm, represented by Mr. Wilfred Mole, was one of four finalists for the British Farming Awards, Sustainable Farmer of the Year for 2022.

© Lower Pertwood Organic Farm Ltd.