

# Resilience through diversity: 30 years of agroforestry at Wakelyns (UK)



Will Simonson<sup>1</sup>, Janie Caldbeck<sup>1</sup>, David Wolfe<sup>2</sup>  
 Organic Research Centre Will.s@ and Janie.c@organicresearchcentre.com  
 Wakelyns, <https://wakelyns.co.uk/>



Wakelyns was established by the late Plant Pathologist Prof. Martin Wolfe 30 years ago, integrating trees into an organic crop rotation for timber, energy and fruit production. Surrounded by a sea of large-scale conventional agriculture, the ecosystem service benefits of this diversification are also plain to see. The pioneering work of Wakelyns has important demonstration value at a time of increased farmer interest and policy support for agroforestry in England, UK and Europe.



Hazel short rotation coppice (Field 4): Planted in February 1995 with 1200 hazel (*Corylus avellana*) bushes, each individual genetically distinct; alternate rows coppiced every five years for woodchip production.



A new edition of *Wakelyns Agroforestry: Resilience through diversity* was published in May 2024 to mark 30 years since agroforestry systems began to be established at Wakelyns. The report summarises the research and demonstration work undertaken at Wakelyns since. It also describes how current managers David and Amanda Wolfe are building a sustainable future for Wakelyns through an enterprise stacking model that includes accommodation for groups, families and individuals, a bakery and food business, community supported agriculture, and hemp and willow crafting businesses.



Willow short rotation coppice (Field 5): Planted in March 1998 with a mixture of five fast-growing willow (*Salix viminalis*) varieties; each row coppiced every two years for woodchip production.



A fruit and nut tree system (Fields 3 & 7): Planted February 2001. Home Field (3) tree rows partially planted to fruit and nut trees (plum, cherry, apple, pear, quince, apricot, peach, hazel), each of multiple varieties. North Field (7) 20 walnut trees and in January 2002 interspersed with varieties of plum and walnuts. Grapevines were planted in the tree lines in 2023.

Wakelyns Agroforestry: Resilience through diversity



A free copy of the publication can be downloaded using the QR code below. Please leave your details if you are happy to be contacted in the future to see how the model of Wakelyns has inspired you and ask about the progress you have made on your agroforestry journey.

