

Farming Naturally



Client Profile

Alan's family has been tending the same small dairy farm for generations. Resting on the banks of the River Ilen (from which we have taken our name), Glenilen Farm is an idyllic location for dairy farming. The lush hills of Drimoleague, County Cork offer our cows a rich and plentiful supply of nutritious grass. And they in turn supply us with the rich tasty milk, which has become the core ingredient in all our delicious products. As you can imagine, this makes our cows very important to us. We treat them kindly, allowing them to roam, keeping them warm in winter and never, ever over-milking them. After all, it all starts with our milk

Glenilen Farm is situated among the lush hills of Drimoleague on the banks of the River Ilen. The Kingston family has been tending this small dairy farm for generations and with their traditional farming roots and love of the West Cork countryside, their partnership with Wild Work was a natural one.

In 1997 Valerie Kingston began to make homemade cheesecakes for the local country market leading to the development of the Glenilen range of natural food products. They are now one of Ireland's largest independent yoghurt producers, emphasising wholesome, natural food created by the best ingredients and locally sourced milk.



The River Ilen

The high quality product produced by Glenilen relies on a healthy environment, and the Kingstons are committed to sustainability and good stewardship of their land. "I love the beauty of the diversity of our West Cork countryside", says Val. "I now realise I can't take for granted that it will always stay like this - farming is changing and species of insects and plants are starting to disappear from more intensive farming areas."

About Wild Work

Wild Work is a unique initiative with biodiversity at its heart. We support everyone committed to helping nature and our particular focus is to connect business, biodiversity and local communities.

We also support the work of both local and national organisations involved in the conservation and protection of our natural environment.

With our practical expertise, we create and care for meadows, woodlands, beaches, rivers and other natural habitats, both in urban and rural settings.

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To help address these issues Wild Work, in consultation with the Kingstons, have developed a Biodiversity Action Plan for Glenilen Farm, providing a list of actions that will be taken to enhance biodiversity. Helping out our pollinators is a big focus of the plan which includes actions like planting wildflower beds and extending and recreating the pollinator habitats that that traditional farming practices once provided.

Not only are the Kingstons making these changes on their own farm, they are also acting as ambassadors for nature, and Wild Work principles, to visitors and surrounding farmers. As Val explains, “We have a window of opportunity on our farm, as we welcome groups to see our dairy business, to also highlight the importance of conserving the precious resource we have, especially in pollination and maintaining a healthy balance of nature”

Farmers like the Kingstons are vital in protecting and enhancing our natural heritage. About 64% of the land in Ireland is under agriculture and as such, farmers have a huge role to play in the environment. Wild Work is committed to helping everyone, including farmers, help nature. “I love the back to basics approach of Wild Work” says Val. “They relate very well to us as conventional farmers. Despite their name they’re not as radical and wild as they sound and are great to work with, we’ve learnt a lot already!

