



Knocklofty

FARM & ESTATE

Introduction

At Knocklofty Farm & Estate, we believe in **land with a legacy and a future**, where **people** and our **natural ecosystems** intertwine.

Nestled beside **Kilmanahan Castle**, the estate on **221 hectares** (548.4 acres) brings together centuries of place-based knowledge with new ways of **growing, living** and **learning**.



A Brief History

- **Medieval castle** erected by the Fitzgerald's
- Acquired by **Sir Edward Fitton in 1586** with 11,500 acres
- Purchased at the beginning of the last century by the **Earl of Donoughmore**
- Purchased by the **Kearney family in 1983**



Main Objective

To nurture land, people and ideas through **regenerative and organic farming, meaningful experiences and shared knowledge** — all rooted in the land and legacy of Knocklofty.

Through **our three pillars** we're building a future rooted in sustainability & connection:

- **Produce**
- **Tourism**
- **Education**





→ Produce

Kilmanahan Castle Organics + Knocklofty Regenerative Farm

Regenerative Tillage Crops

- **Wheat, Barley & Oats**
- **Spring Beans**
- **Oil seed rape**
- **Seasonal crop rotation**

Organic Tillage Crops

- **Organic Oats**
- **Organic Red Clover Silage**
- **Seasonal organic crop rotation**

Organic Horticulture

- **Potatoes**
- **Carrots**
- **Tomatoes**
- **Seasonal organic fruit & veg**



→ Tourism

Experiences, cottages, river trails and immersive estate stays. Visitors reconnect with **nature**, experience **seasonal rhythms** and discover **a slower way of living.**

- **Team Building**
- **Art Retreats**
- **Kayaking**
- **Fishing**
- **Wellness Events**



→ Education

A **living laboratory** for **teaching, research** and **community engagement** around **food security, biodiversity** and **climate change**.

Cultivating understanding of **soil health, biodiversity** and **circular thinking** in agriculture through:

- **Workshops**
- **Farm walks**
- **Training programmes**
- **Farm Internship**

Our Regenerative Story

Year 1



Organic and Regenerative Farming

Why we converted to Organic and Regenerative Farming?

43 acres **certified organic** since 2018 with 420 acres converted to **Regenerative Tillage** in September 2024.

- **Sustainable** method of farming
- Sympathetic to **Biodiversity** & the soil
- **Consistent livelihood** for farmer's family
- Working with **Nature**
- **Less prescription** farming
- Lower Input Costs

Tom Tierney our Co-Farmer

We partnered with Tom because of his **passion, knowledge, experience** and **success** in **Regenerative Farming**.

- Stopped ploughing in 2014
- Joined **Base Ireland** in 2017
- Went **No-Till** in 2018
- 2018 started **saving seed** & mixing **varieties**
- **Removed insecticides** in 2018
- **Fungicides reduced** 66% since 2018

Mitigating Climate Change

By adopting Regenerative tillage methods, we aim to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Methods we have implemented:

- **Min Till / reduced ploughing**
- **Sowing Cover Crops**
- **Organic manures & Fertilisers**
- **Increasing Riparian buffer zones**
(protected strips of land where no fertilisers, sprays, or soil cultivation are allowed)



Environment & Biodiversity

Management strategies on the farm:

- **Albreacht Soil testing**
- **Liquid Fertilisers**
- **Eliminated Insecticides.**
- **Rainwater harvesting**
- **Planting trees & restoring native hedgerows**
- **Mowing silage from the centre of fields**
- **Zoning areas for Biodiversity**



Collaborating With Others

To create a **circular economy**, we work with:

- **Local fish shop** for fish waste to make fish hydrolysis
- **Local Equine farms** supply us with organic manure
- Apple Sludge from **Bulmers Cider**
- **Local Dairy farms** supply us with slurry
- **Local landscape companies** supply us with garden waste

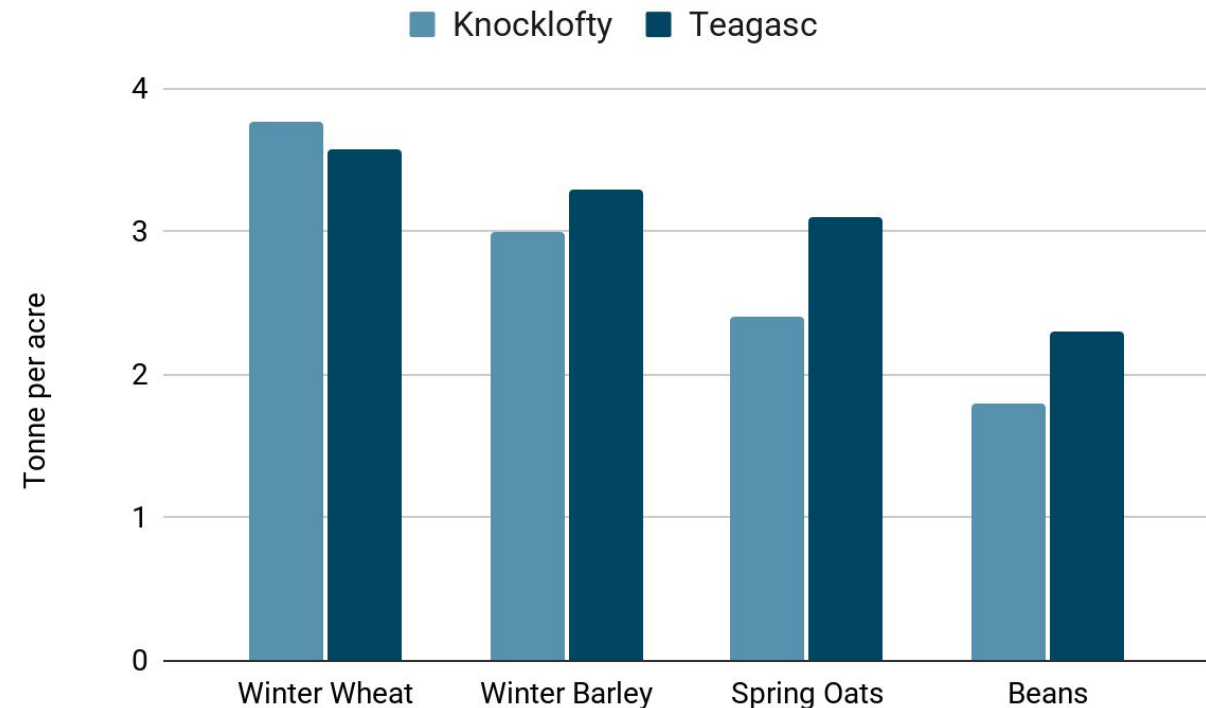


Year 1 Outcomes

- ✓ **No use of insecticides**
- ✓ **40% reduction of Fungicides**
- ✓ **No ploughing on any Regenerative land**
- ✓ **50% of straw chopped**
- ➔ While the yields are slightly lower, **we expect our margin per acre to be higher** than if we farmed **“conventionally”**.

Yields

Knocklofty Yield vs Teagasc Harvest Report 2024



Next Steps

- **33%** of the farm to be planted with **beans** or **oilseed rape**.
- **80%** of the **seed sowing in 2026** will be **home saved**.
- **Cover crops** to be sown where possible, so **no soil is left bare**.



Thank you for
your attention.



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