

## Achray Farm Gate – Autumn 2017

Welcome to Achray Farm on the route of The Great Trossachs Path. Please walk or ride through with care.

All we ask is that you respect the farm and our privacy around the house. Keep dogs on a lead or at close quarters; we have a variety of free roaming animals.

### History

There has been a farm, smallholding or settlement on this site for as long as there have been maps of Scotland. The Brig o' Michael formed part of the route from Callander to Aberfoyle and the area was popular with the 19<sup>th</sup> Century romantic poets and artists. The "Highland Funeral" painting by Guthrie is believed to have been painted here. The earliest photographs of the site date to the late 1800's.



There are information board around the village exploring many of these themes.



Census and local history can trace the residents too. At one time there were upwards of 20 people in a cluster of buildings, occupied as farmers, gamekeepers and with the water board. The farm has been presided over by Shanklands, McCabes and most recently the Maxwells who remain close by.

Crispin and Nicola moved to Achray in December 2016 with the plan to create a modern sustainable smallholding, supporting ourselves and promoting local food in the area.

### Our Plans

We are working to develop Achray Farm as a modern smallholding, growing to suit the conditions and following permaculture principles to meet and raise local food issues and awareness.

We obviously have some considerable buildings to renovate into usable space (some working, some husbandry and some to provide accommodation) as we grow.

### Updates – Autumn 2017

The small polytunnel behind the house was established to bring-on seedlings. 5-tonnes of compost and 12 rotten hay bales have been manhandled to create the vegetable beds. Flower salad bags have been sold locally and in Callander.

Oxford Sandy & Black pigs (an ancient breed) arrived early and we currently have three boars who are very mischievous and roam much like a gang of youths looking for trouble. One is an escape artist and too-often in the track – please let us know! We have 25 (fox permitting) hens who provide eggs daily to us and the local community, mostly by bicycle delivery. Most recently two goats arrived (Pan and Ria), you may see them in their stable or being walked out to the loch. They are milked twice a day (by hand) and deliver fresh, creamy (not at all 'goaty' milk) that we use for cream separation, cheese making, baking, drinking and have exciting plans for in 2018.

### Contact

To keep up with what we are doing, please follow our blog from [www.AchrayFarm.co.uk](http://www.AchrayFarm.co.uk), or find us on Facebook or Instagram under AchrayFarm.