

## Achray Farm Gate – Spring 2018

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

### Updates – Spring 2018

After the **snow** that seems to have lasted from November to March we are at last starting to see a change in the seasons. The sun has been over Creag Dhubh (the hill to the SW of the farm) since mid February and the fencers took the opportunity of a clear few weeks to erect the new **deer fencing**.

This has allowed for over **1000 native hedging plants** and **60 new native trees** to be planted and protected along the **riparian edge** and into the old field boundaries, increasing our biodiversity for flora and fauna.

Our 13-week intensive **small-farm course** on regenerative agriculture has delivered design for silvopasture and tree lanes. Fruit trees and bushes have been arriving weekly for subsoiled and harrowed patterns.



Perhaps most visibly recently has been the moving of the stables and **portacabin** to reopen the southern aspect. The new building is our **biomass** store and heating system, still to be clad and roofed in sympathy with the overall design. A small solar array helps us on our road to low-carbon inputs and outputs here.

The gas tank is also gone – we survived the **beasts from the East** on a single wood burning stove!

Finally, the pigs have also gone for now (try the menu at The Byre) but the **ducks, goats** and **hens** have all done well over the cold spells and if we have produce available it will be out at the blue table for sale.

### History

There has been a farm, smallholding or settlement on this site for as long as there have been maps of Scotland. The census shows a population of shepherds, gamekeepers and water workers. The area was also popular with the 19<sup>th</sup> Century romantic poets and artists such as Walter Scott; the "Highland Funeral" by Guthrie was painted here. Information boards around the village explore many of these themes.

### Our Plans

We are working to develop Achray Farm as a modern productive regenerative enterprise, 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. We maintain an "Open Farm Gate" policy.

Follow our blog on [www.AchrayFarm.co.uk](http://www.AchrayFarm.co.uk) or find us on Facebook or Instagram under AchrayFarm