

# Lochore Castle

Lochore (formerly Inchgall) is situated on a mound at the East end of what was formerly Loch Ore or Inchgall Loch drained at the end of the 18th century .



Lochore Castle is of confused heritage, being recorded as 'Inchgall Castle' in charters dating from 1384, 1393, 1407, 1410 and 1547 when during the Heriford's invasion of Scotland, Inchgall Castle heads a list of 'The four strongest Castles in Fife' .

An older Lochore Castle was built near this site (at nearby Chapel Farm).

Adam de Vallance who was descended from an Anglo-Norman family married the elder daughter and heiress of Sir David Lochore, some time prior to 1296 and may have lived for a short time in Lochore Castle which by then was becoming obsolete. He built a tower-house on the island of Inchgall shortly afterwards which was occupied about the year 1308 when it became known as the Castle of Inchgall. Present appearances suggest that Adam's castle had been of the motte-and-bailey type and that the motte-hill was reduced in height before the present tower of stone was built. The base of the mound had been enclosed by a barmkin.

The walls of Adam's Lochore Castle can be discerned as being rubble-built up to 10 feet in height and still traceable all round. At the North-Eastern, North-Western and South-Eastern corners there were been small rounded towers, which seem to have been added

in the 16th century and are now almost demolished. The entrance to the barmkin enclosure was through an arched doorway. To the North and West of the tower lie the foundations of later outbuildings. Lochore Castle was apparently approached along a causeway'

The ownership of Inchgall moved through the hands of the Wardlaws, The Edgars and the Malcolm family came into possession of the barony of Inchgall, purchasing from John Edgar in 1656. They set about changing and swapping the names of several long established features to that of 'Lochore' and 'Inchgall'. The Malcolms were in their ascendancy. John Malcolm of Balbedie, Lochore and Innerneil, became Chamberlain of Fife. His son John became a Nova Scotia Baronet in 1665. Another son, Alexander, became a judge with the title Lord Lochore, and yet another son, James, fought with Viscount Dundee at the Battle of Killiekrankie in 1680. Sir John Malcolm of Burnfoot (1769-83), born near Langholm, was three times British Ambassador to Persia and in 1827 became Governor of Bombay. His brother, Admiral Sir Pultney Malcolm, was the Naval Commander at St Helena during the imprisonment there of the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. Lochore was already abandoned by the time of the Malcolms who built the mansion, Lochore House on adjacent land.

## Visiting

Lochore is open to the public. It is in a ruined state and care must be taken when exploring it.