

# Inch House to Craigmillar Castle

## Inch House

The oldest date on the house is 1617 although it was almost certainly built on the site of an earlier building. The Gilmour family lived in Craigmillar Castle until the late 1770s when they moved to Inch House staying until 1844. Following extensive additions and alterations in the early 1890s, the Gilmours once more took up residence before selling the estate to Edinburgh Council in 1947, for the building of Inch Estate.



## Craigmillar Castle

An enormous baronial structure famously associated with Mary Queen of Scots, was built in the 15th century by Sir John Preston. It passed from the Prestons to Sir John Gilmour (a distant relative) in 1660 and remained with that family until 1946 when it passed to the state and then onto Historic Scotland who manage it today.



## Then and now

As you enjoy your walk round Craigmillar Castle park, imagine what was it like here before the houses of Inch estate were built. Perhaps you can follow some of Lady Susan's walk, described overleaf (what is left is marked as the 'Historic walk' on the map). Lady Susan certainly would have seen some of the wildlife that you'll see if you take your time and look.



# About Craigmillar Castle Park

Craigmillar Castle Park is a natural heritage park with areas of mature and young woodland, grassland and old quarries. In 1997, over 40,000 trees were planted as part of the millennium forest for Scotland project. This park provides an excellent place to walk, cycle or jog on many different paths to explore the different habitats.



## Craigmillar Castle Park

Greater Liberton Heritage Project

Email us at [GLHP@southedinburgh.net](mailto:GLHP@southedinburgh.net)

Photos by Graham Checkley, Andrew Jeske, and Lothian Health Board.

### Enjoying Scotland's outdoors responsibly

When you visit Craigmillar Castle Park, please remember to respect other users:

- Take personal responsibility for your own actions and act safely
- Respect people's privacy and peace of mind
- Care for your environment and take your litter home
- Keep your dog under proper control and bag and bin its waste

Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)



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# A bird's eye view

The young woodlands at the north of the park are made up of many different native species: alder, birch, oak, ash and hawthorn are just some. These trees are excellent places to see and hear the many small birds that live in the park, such as bullfinch.



bullfinch

buzzard

Watch for the buzzards soaring over the grasslands in the park. They make a mewling cry as they call to each other. The range of grasslands and woodlands means there are plenty of rabbits and voles for them to eat.



# Paths in the park



# Lady Susan's walk

Lady Susan's Walk, was the name given to a path used by Lady Susan Gilmour to walk from her home in Inch House to Craigmillar Castle. A surviving part of this walk makes up the new woodland path through Craigmillar Castle Park from Old Dalkeith Road towards the Castle.

Lady Susan Lygon was born in London in 1870, a daughter of the 6th Earl of Beauchamp. She married Sir Robert Gordon Gilmour in 1889 becoming Lady Susan Lygon Gilmour. Their estates included Craigmillar Castle and nearby Inch House. The latter became their home in 1891 after extensive renovations of both the house and grounds.

Maps before 1850 show no formal walks within the grounds of Inch House, however extensive changes were made to the grounds in 1852 and 1891. The 1893 map shows a path around the edge of Inch House named as Lady Susan's Walk. Today most of this lies beneath the houses of the Inch Estate.

Local memories recall Lady Susan regularly walking with her maid through the grounds of Inch House until she reached a small gate near the East Lodge House. Her walk continued along a secluded path, parallel to the Old Dalkeith Road, and shielded from public view by large hedges as well as the roadside wall.

Lady Susan crossed the road to what was then a locked gate in the wall and is now the new entrance to Craigmillar Castle Park. The maid unlocked the gate and they walked up to the Castle through an avenue of trees probably resting at the top to admire the surrounding views of the Castle. That avenue was also known locally as the 'Lilac Walk' although no such trees remain today.

