

# Points of interest and notes

## St Margaret

The map shows that there are many features close to the walk bearing the name Margaret e.g. Margery Lane, St. Margaret's Well, St. Margaret's Grove and the remains of St. Margaret's Chapel. Nearby St. Briavel's castle was built by Milo earl of Hereford in 1131 and his eldest daughter Margaret (d. 1197) although not a saint was a great benefactor in later life so some of these features may have been named after her.

## Lindors Country House Hotel

Down the drive (J) is this fine Victorian house built in Tudor style in the 1840's. It has an iron fireplace frame from an earlier house dated 1600. The Mork brook here has proved a friend as Lindors was a very early adopter of hydro-electric power. The brook was also once a foe, seriously flooding the house. Today you can visit for tea or coffee if you wish.

## Slade Brook

The Slade Brook (L-R) has been an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) since 2003. It is a braided stream that originates from springs further up this valley and contains a long series of small waterfalls known as Tufa Dams.

## Tufa

Tufa or Travertine is a coating of calcium carbonate formed in a similar way to stalactites and stalagmites. The water here (R) contains so much dissolved calcium carbonate that it comes out of solution and clings to the material it flows over, such as rocks, pebbles and even vegetation.

## Springs

The springs here (S) are the source of the brook and the source of the tufa. Water emerging here has flowed through limestone rock dissolving part of the rock as it does so.

## Flints

Man has been in this area at least since Mesolithic times as more than 3,000 flints have been recovered from the woodland near here (W).

## Stowe Quarry

On the other side of the hedge (Y) is a large quarry extracting limestone. It provides aggregates for road building and ready mixed concrete.

## St Briavelstow Castle

The earthworks you see to the left (Y) are the remains of a circular rampart of a Norman castle. This pre-dates nearby St Briavel's castle.

Produced for the Tudor Farmhouse by the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Tour Guides:  
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## Slade Brook Walk

**Distance:** 6.9 Km (4.3 miles) - allow 1½ - 2½ hours.

The walk uses quiet lanes, minor roads, recognised public footpaths across farmland and woodland tracks. It can be combined with the **Stowe Walk** to give 15 Km (9.5 miles of walking). In this case section (A - B) will be repeated.

**Difficulty and hazards:** Despite encompassing a 160m height difference, the route uses moderate gradients. The paths used cross several stiles and surfaces will be uneven and will be very muddy in wet weather. The fields may contain livestock. Please be alert for vehicles.

**Equipment:** Boots or strong shoes are recommended. Nettles, brambles and thistles may be encountered, a stick can be useful to control them.

**Other Notes:** Mobile phone coverage will be "patchy". There is a tea-room at Lindors Country House Hotel (near L) but no other toilets on the walk. Carry water and take a hat if hot weather is likely and waterproofs if rain is probable.

**Navigation:** The main changes of direction and stiles are marked on the map by a letter. In the Directions, the distance from the previous letter is given e.g. (C-610m) means that (C) is 610m from the last point mentioned- in this case (B).

If you find that the footpath you need is obstructed by crops, walk around the edge of the crops until you reach the next stile.



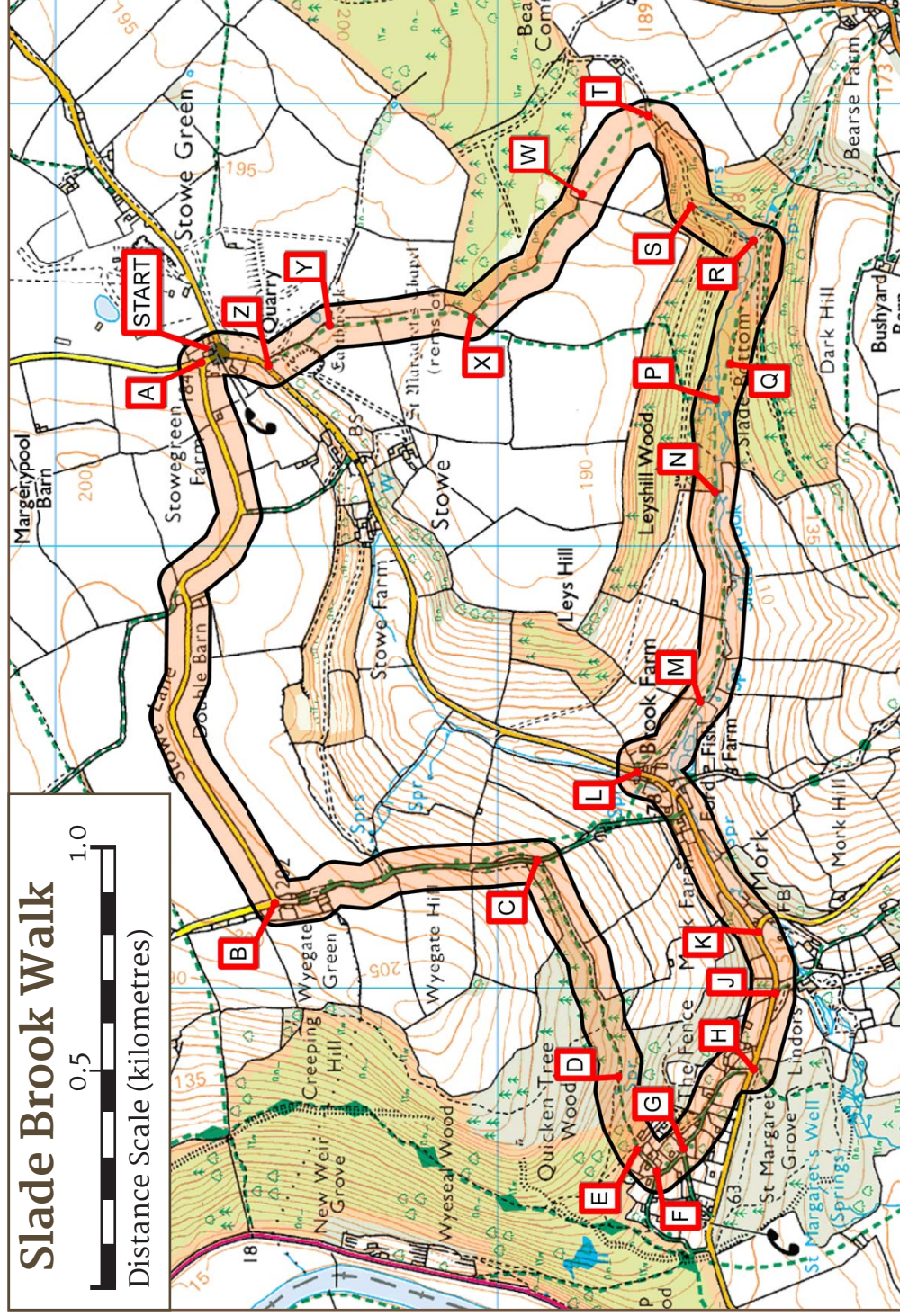
*Tufa Dams on the Slade Brook*

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# Slade Brook Walk



Distance Scale (kilometres)



This map extract was produced under Ordnance Survey licence number 100057427. The routes were added using Tracklogs: [www.tracklogs.co.uk](http://www.tracklogs.co.uk)

## START

The walk starts at Stowe Green 1.3 miles by road from the Tudor Farmhouse. To get there by car, turn right out of the Tudor Farmhouse then turn left at the village Cross. Take the next right at the staggered crossroads. Continue until you see a large mural of a howling dog on a house on the right. Park your car well into the side of the road. Do not park in the entrances to the quarries.

## DIRECTIONS

From the mural walk 30m to the grass triangle. Turn right along Margery Lane then left onto Stowe Lane (not signed) (A).

Walk the length of Stowe Lane and turn left at the T-junction (B 1.4Km).

Continue down the bridleway which becomes a steep, rutted, stony track as far as a path that forks off to the right (C 610m). At the start of this path is a wooden barrier and metal hand rail.

Walk along the path enjoying the views across the valley to St. Briavels. Leave this path in the woodland at a left fork downhill, keeping the wire fence to your left (D 530m).

Continue to the end of the woodland (E 177m).

Stay on the footpath, downhill over some stone steps and turn left onto the road (F 80m).

Go down the road past a turning (G 70m) and turn left at the T-junction (H 260m). There could be traffic on this road.

Stay on this road past Lindors (J 170m) and Mork

Corner (K 150m) to a gate on the right after Green Gables (L 280m). Walk through the gate.

Take the path crossing a stile (M 230m).

Continue up the valley of the Slade Brook crossing some more stiles and enter the wood at another stile (N 500m).

Walk up the path to a bridge over the stream (P 210m). This is a great place to take a photo.

Cross the bridge then turn left uphill at the path junction (Q 80m).

Continue to a large clearing with a major forest track (R 300m).

Turn left and walk up the track looking for the springs on the right (S 150m).

Walk further up the path until you reach an open field at the end of the woodland (T 260m).

The footpath here crosses the field to more woodland (W 230m). In the case of crops in the field, turn left follow the hedges around the edge until you reach the wood (W 420m).

Turn left and follow the edge of the field. Cross the stile (X 390m) and walk to the right.

Continue by following the hedge and cross a stile into a field near some metal farm gates (Y 320m).

Walk to your left along the right hand side of the field. On your left are the ramparts of St Briavelstow castle.

Turn right when you reach the road ( 170m).

Walk uphill back to your starting point back at the grass triangle (110m).