

Points of interest and notes

Margery Lane

The walk uses Margery Lane, probably named after 11c. St Margaret's Chapel at Stowe (S1). Now in ruins, it was established as a Chantry here by Grace Dieu Abbey, Monmouthshire. The remains are on private land.

Stowe Earthworks

Near to the chapel (S2) are the remains of a Norman castle. Today just the tree covered ramparts remain. This castle pre-dates St Briavels castle and can be viewed from the adjacent footpath- just a short detour from point (C).

St Briavels

The view of St Briavels from (D) does not show how St Briavels Castle once dominated the area. The 90ft keep would have been visible for many miles but fell down many years ago.

River Wye

The view to your left from (E) to (K) looks out over Monmouth on the Wye and into Herefordshire. Further left, you can look back over the Wye into Wales. Although hidden from sight, at point (E) we have walked within 1 Km of the river Wye at Whitebrook - where paper mills once made paper for the Bank of England.

Staunton, The Buckstone and the Kymin

The views, again to the left, from (L) to (M) look over the village of Newland towards the hills hiding the Forest of Dean village of Staunton, The Buckstone near Staunton is well worth a visit as is the nearby Kymin, They are both great viewpoints and the massive Buckstone actually rocked until it was dislodged in the 1800s. The Kymin was once home to a dining club of the well-to-do residents of Monmouth.

Clearwell Castle

As you walk from (N) to (Q) you'll see views over Clearwell to the left. The wall on the right encloses the grounds of Clearwell Castle. You'll get a great view of the castle as you descend into Clearwell. The castle is now a top wedding venue but has had many changes of fortune in its long history. A notable resident was Caroline Dowager Countess of Dunraven. Caroline was born here as Caroline Wyndham and returned here in later life. She was a great benefactor to Clearwell, building the church of St Peter, a cottage hospital, the Mortuary Chapel and the vicarage (now 'The Hollies'). She also restored the village well and the cross. There is no memorial to Caroline in Clearwell but she is commemorated by Caroline Street in Bridgend, Wales.



Stowe Walk

Distance: 7 Km (4.4 miles) - allow 1½ - 2½ hours.

The walk uses quite country lanes and recognised public footpaths across farmland. The lanes are walked first (4Km) then the paths (3Km). There are some fine views on the return journey.

Difficulty and hazards: The walk has a 500m ascent up a country lane. The descents on the return journey are more gentle. The paths used cross several stiles and surfaces will be uneven and will be muddy in wet weather. The fields may contain livestock. Please be alert for the occasional vehicle that uses the lanes.

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 are no shops or toilets on the walk. Carry water and take a hat if hot weather is likely and waterproofs if rain is probable. Ask at Reception for the weather forecast.

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. (B-500m) means that B is 500m from the last point mentioned - in this case (A)

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.

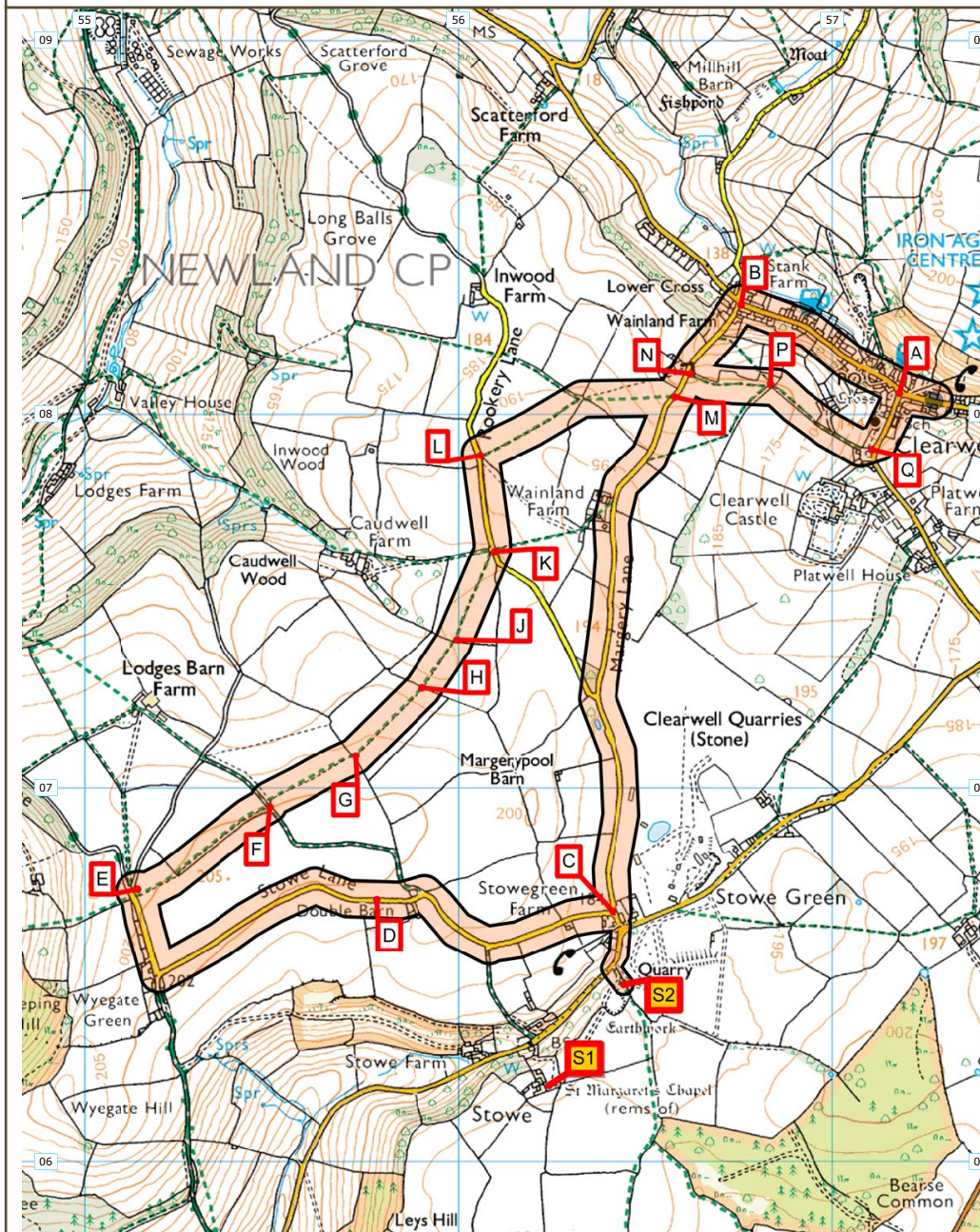
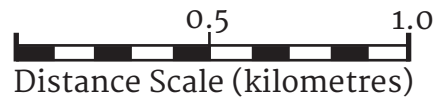


St Peter's church built by Caroline Dunraven



Dowager Countess of Dunraven

Stowe Walk



This map extract was produced under Ordnance Survey licence number 100057427.
The routes were added using Tracklogs: www.tracklogs.co.uk

DIRECTIONS

From the Tudor Farmhouse walk to the right passing the village cross (A-100m).

Turn left at Lower Cross and walk up Margery Lane (B-500m).

Walk almost the whole of Margery Lane then turn right along the small road just after the stone building at the roadside on the left (C-1.7Km). *If desired, at C take the detour to visit Stowe castle ramparts (S2-200m) then retrace your steps back to here.*

After passing a building (Double Barn) on the left, look over the metal double gates in the hedgerow (D-700m) for a splendid view of St Briavels in the far distance. St Mary's church tower is easy to spot, the castle is behind it.

Continue on this road. Turn right when you reach the houses and stop when you reach a Footpath sign on the right. (E-900m) If the stile on the right is impassable, continue a few metres ahead and enter the field on the right via the gateway.

Keep to the right hand edge of the field and cross the stile at (F-400m). The footpath continues straight ahead to the next stile at (G-300m). Cross the stile then follow the cut footpaths, crossing stiles at (H) and (J) and the stile onto the road at (K-700m).

Walk left along the road and cross the stile on the right into the field at (L-300m).

Follow the path diagonally across the field and cross the stile in the corner into the next field. Walk down the path and cross the stile at (M-500m) onto the road.

Walk left down the road to the stile at (N-100m) on the right. This stile is quite challenging, if you wish to avoid it, enter the next field via the gate (please close it securely behind you).

In either case, walk away from the road along the side of the hedge/fence until you reach a stone wall. Keeping the wall to your right walk to the stile (P-200m) at the corner of the wall.

Cross the stile and walk along the side of the wall down to the castle entrance at (Q-300m). Look out for the view of the castle to your right as you walk.

It is now a short walk downhill past St Peter's church and the village school back to the cross at (A). Turn right to return to the Tudor Farmhouse.