

Meet at Smiths Arms, Brecon Hill, Castle Dene, Chester-Le-Street, DH3 4HE. End at Smiths Arms for a beer!
 The 5½ mile anti-clockwise **GREEN** route includes a 15-20 mins reduction option at the end should it be getting too dark.



Lumley Castle rises across the River Wear from Chester-Le-Street. A solid looking edifice, the castle was founded in the 14th Century. It stands on the brow of a low hill and is almost entirely encircled by rivers forming a natural moat. The Weardale Way follows these rivers, looping round the castle. Although Lumley Castle dates from the 14th century, it was largely re-worked in 1712. Sir Ralph Lumley founded the castle but lost it after joining a conspiracy to supplant Henry IV with Richard II. However, the castle later reverted to the family who remained closely associated with it and the town of Chester-Le-Street. The former estate associated with the castle has been broken up and the ground in front of the castle is now a golf course. The castle is not a hotel with splendid furnishings specialising in weddings and banquets. Chester-Le-Street, as the names suggests, was a Roman foundation, and the site of the old Roman fort is partially exposed alongside the Salvation Army Building. The main roads that ran through the fort are thought to lie beneath the Church of St. Mary and St. Cuthbert. The church was founded in 883 by monks fleeing Lindisfarne and was one of the many resting places of the body of St. Cuthbert. A Saxon cathedral stood on the site and several phases of development can be seen around the building. An interesting annexe called the Anker's House - an anchorite's cell from 1383 to 1547 - is now a small museum.

