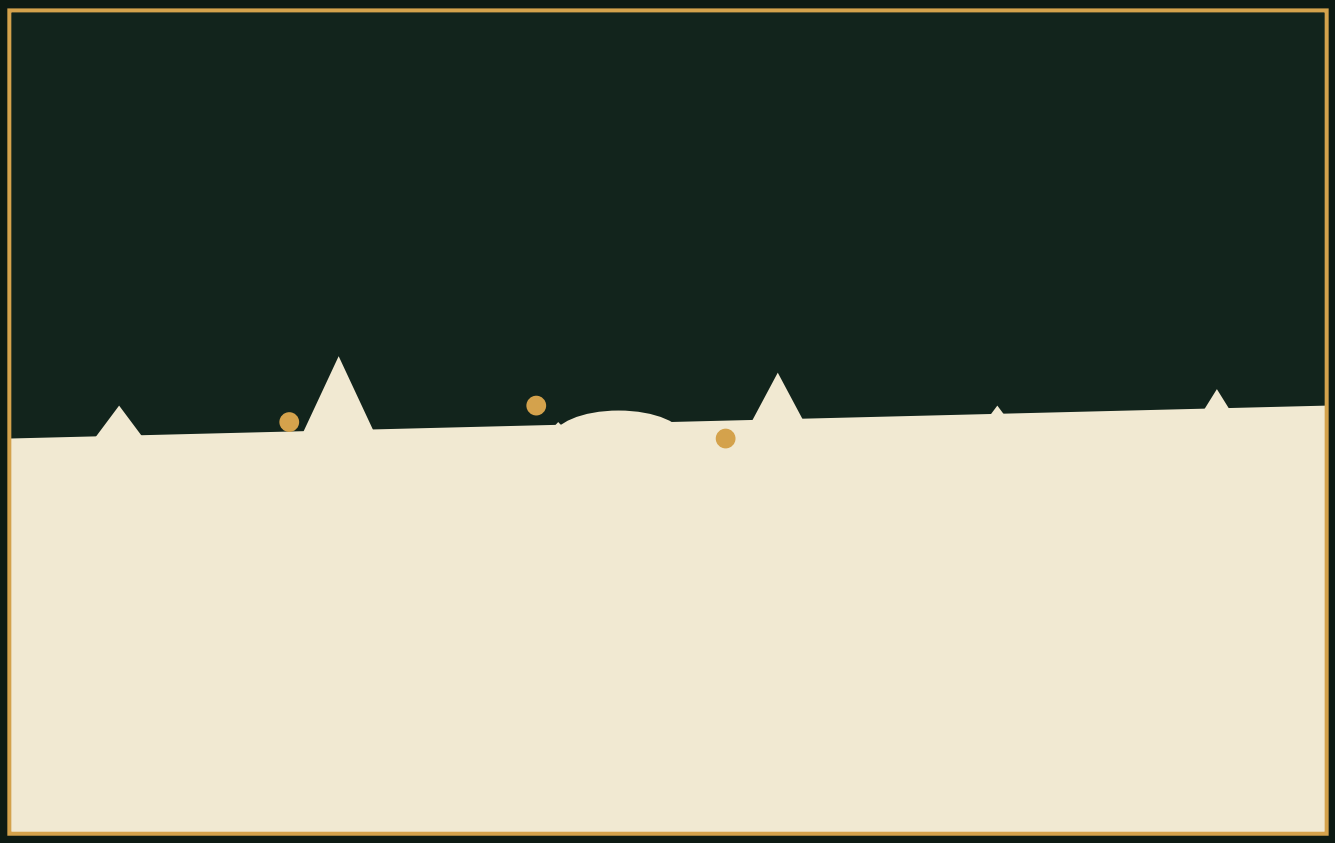
The Stakes That Wandered

The Whistling Fen



Someone has been moving the painted stakes in the Whistling Fen at night, and the ferry folk are all blaming each other.

Talewick Quests — original content, free to print and play.

Read this to your players to start

Brindle Quay's chart of the Whistling Fen no longer matches the painted stakes you can see from the Boardwalk. Somebody has been moving them at night. Find out who, and which of the two maps is telling the truth.

Who's in this adventure

Still, the Fen Heron

Heart Points 3 · Guard 10

None. Still stands. Still has never once hurt anybody.

Reed-Vole

Heart Points 1 · Guard 12

None. A tug on a paint-rag, and a very determined dive (0 Heart Points).

Channel-Eel

Heart Points 2 · Guard 11

None. A cold slip past the ankle, and gone (0 Heart Points).

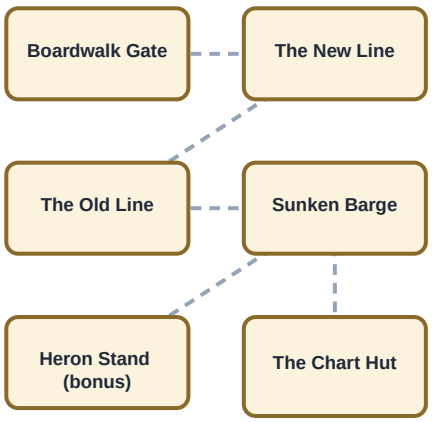
Tips for running this one

• Nothing in this adventure fights, and that is on purpose. If a player reaches for a sword, do not stop them: simply have nobody on the other side reach back, and let the scene stay a walk and a talk.

• Make the two lines of stakes things the players can hold. Put a chart on the table. Let them point. The scene goes flat the moment the GM explains what the two lines add up to.

• The question is never "who is the baddie", because there is none. It is "which map do we trust, and who gets to draw it again?" Ask it in those words if the table gets stuck at the hut.

Map



The trail starts at the Boardwalk Gate, where the first stake you can see is already in the wrong place. It follows the bright new line of stakes, crosses to the faded old line in the reeds, and reaches the Sunken Barge that the chart now runs straight over. At the Epic length it visits Heron Stand. It ends in the Chart Hut, where somebody has to say which map the fen should trust.

SHOW YOUR PLAYERS THIS

The Chart and the Tide-Table

A scrap of Brindle's chart, with a tide-table pinned to the corner. The day of the big spring tide has two circles round it. On the back, in small, newer writing: "RED means deep water. WHITE means turn here. Do not follow the faded ones. THE BARGE MOVED." At the bottom, half crossed out: "I will tell her when she is ready to listen."