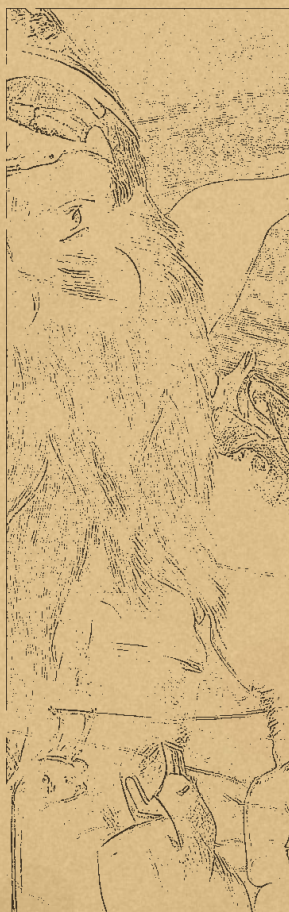




CASE FILE 38

THE ROWBRIDGE GNOME GUARDIANS



MYTHICAL CLASSIFICATION: VERDANT EARTH GUARDIANS

FILE REFERENCE: FOLLIES-RB-GNOME-38

LOCATION: ROWBRIDGE, ISLE OF WIGHT

RESTRICTED - PASS HOLDERS ONLY!

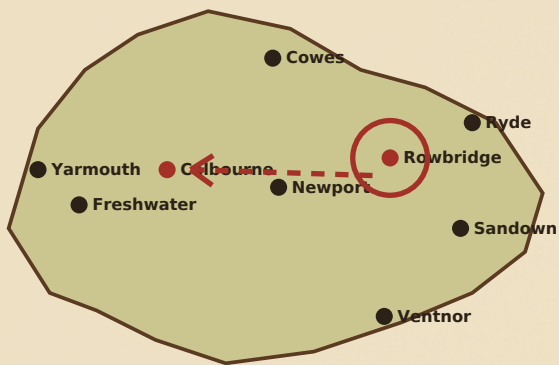


Scale clue: approximately one garden spade tall

LOCATION BOARD

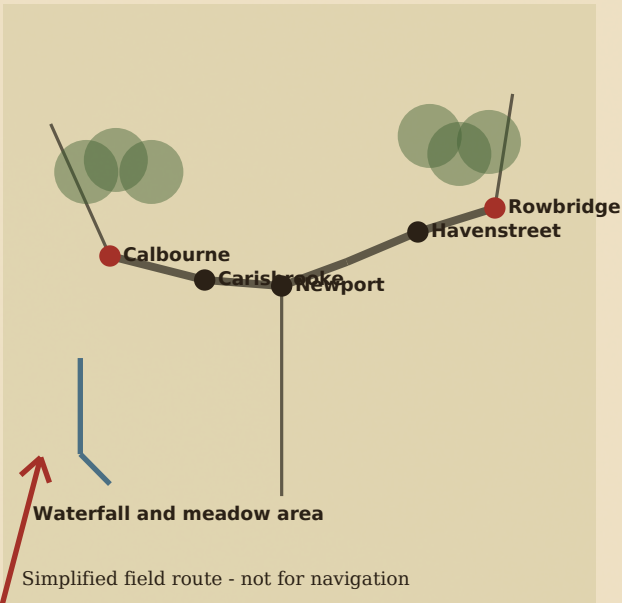
WHERE DO THE GNOMES LIVE?

ISLE OF WIGHT OVERVIEW



Rowbridge lies inland between Ryde and Newport, close to lanes, gardens, farmland and old woodland. The case file also records an expedition westwards to Calbourne.

ROWBRIDGE TO CALBOURNE



Simplified field route - not for navigation

PINNED LOCATION NOTES

Known habitat: roots of old oaks, garden borders, hedgerows and quiet corners near the village green. Field signs include tiny bootprints, perfectly arranged acorns and vegetables that appear to have grown overnight.



Begin with the Elder Oak



CREATURE PROFILE

SMALL IN SIZE, LARGE IN WISDOM



Elder Bramble - senior guardian of Rowbridge

ESTIMATED FEATURES

- HEIGHT** About 60 to 85 centimetres
- HABITAT** Burrows beneath old roots and garden walls
- CLOTHING** Pointed hats, sturdy boots, belts and tool pouches
- SKILLS** Plant care, soil reading, woodland lore and small-scale magic
- SOUNDS** Soft boots, rustling leaves and quiet muttering
- DIET** Berries, roots, oatcakes and festival treats

FIELD CLASSIFICATION

Verdant earth guardian. Usually helpful, occasionally mischievous and extremely protective of roses.

CAUTION

Never mistake “small” for “easy to catch”. Gnomes know every shortcut.



ADULT



GNOME

Scale remains approximate. Thistle stood on a pumpkin during measuring.

FIELD STORY 01

GUARDIANS OF THE LAND

THE DAWN SHIFT

Before most people wake, the gnomes climb from burrows beneath the roots of old oaks. They loosen the soil, check the roses and whisper small instructions to seeds that appear to be sleeping in.

Elder Bramble carries the wisdom of centuries. Thistle brings enthusiasm, speed and a remarkable ability to get mud on his hat.

Their work keeps Rowbridge green and abundant. Flowers bloom brighter, vegetables grow sturdier and trees seem to stand a little taller after a gnome has passed.



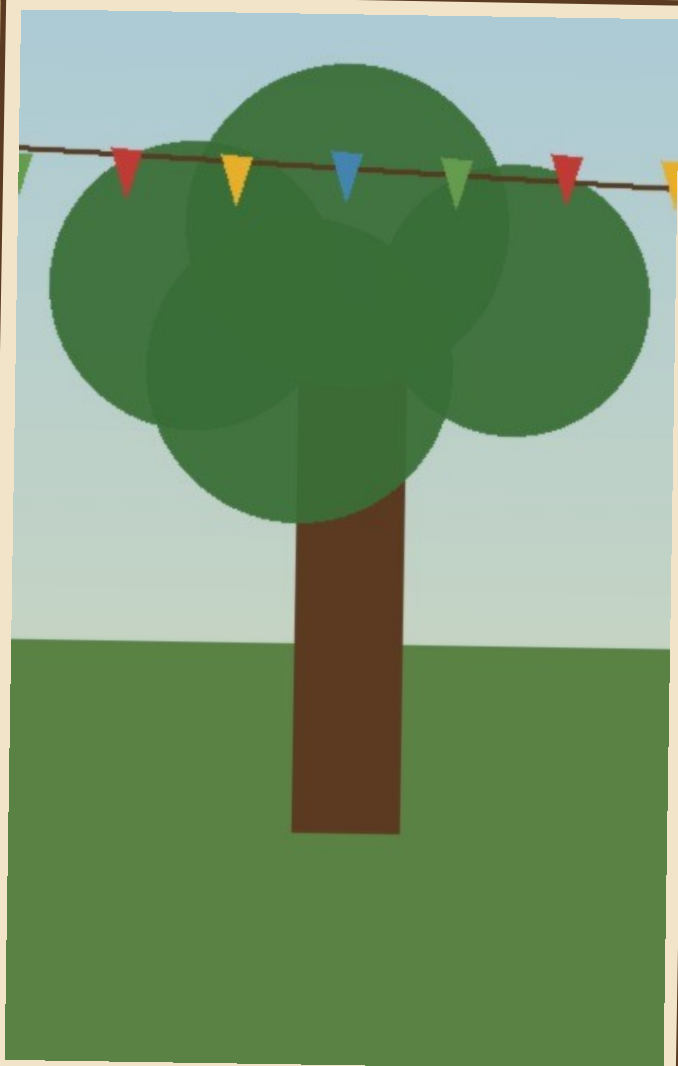
MORNING OBSERVATION RECORD

05:12 - tiny boots heard near rose beds
05:18 - watering can moved without assistance
05:26 - three wilted daisies suddenly upright
05:31 - Thistle blamed the breeze

Thistle, youngest recorded member of the guardian team



PREPARING THE HARVEST FESTIVAL



The Elder Oak watches over the village green

ROSES, PUMPKINS AND PATIENCE

The annual Harvest Festival is Rowbridge at its brightest. Stalls fill the green, fiddles and flutes begin to play, and the gnomes are treated as honoured guests.

Thistle worries that the roses are not colourful enough. Bramble reminds him that nature cannot be hurried, although a quiet spell and a great deal of compost may help.

By festival morning the roses are glowing, the pumpkins are enormous and nobody can explain why the scarecrow is wearing Bramble's spare hat.

VITAL FACT

Gnome magic works best when mixed with care, patience and people willing to help.

FESTIVAL READY

EXPEDITION RECORD

THE JOURNEY TO CALBOURNE

WHY LEAVE ROWBRIDGE?

Even dedicated guardians become curious. Tales of waterfalls, wildflower meadows and ancient woodland drew Bramble, Thistle and a small team towards Calbourne.

They followed winding paths across the Island, stopping often to inspect unusual moss, argue over directions and share oatcakes.

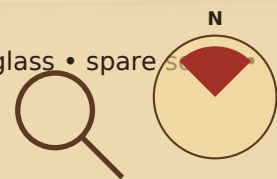
Thistle carried the field notebook. Bramble carried the compass. The compass was useful. Thistle's notes mostly described snacks.



Elder Bramble loads the westward expedition

EXPEDITION KIT

Compass • notebook • tiny rope • specimen jars • oatcakes • magnifying glass • spare seeds • one emergency mushroom

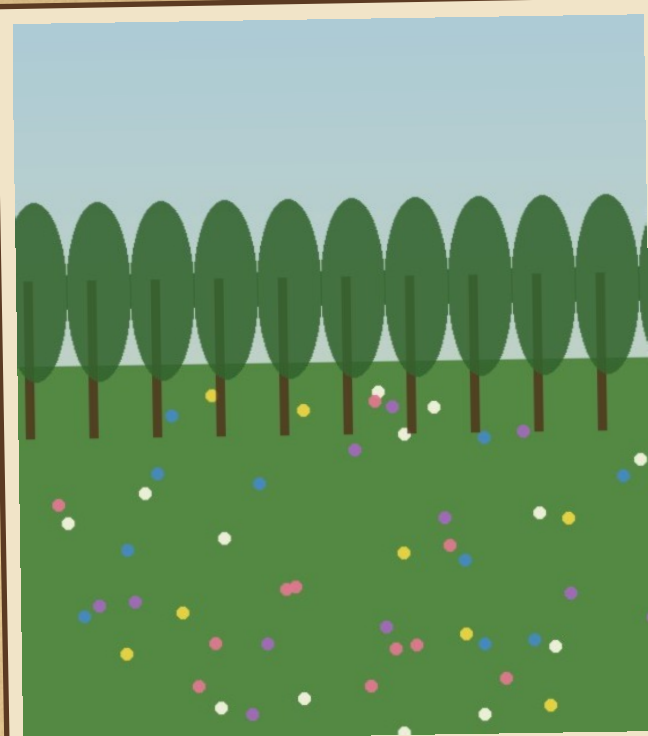


EVIDENCE BOARD

WATERFALLS, MEADOWS AND OLD TREES



Evidence image A: waterfall beyond Calbourne



Evidence image B: wildflower meadow

WHAT THE GNOMES RECORDED

The waterfall sounded like a curtain of silk. The meadow glittered with flowers in dozens of colours. In the old woodland, Thistle said the trees felt alive with history. Bramble agreed that the trees held the memories of the land.

FIELD FINDINGS

No treasure found. No monsters seen. One excellent pebble collected. Respect for nature increased considerably.



CASE CONCLUSION

HOME AGAIN IN ROWBRIDGE



Elder Bramble returns to the village green

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

The gnomes returned with new ideas and a deeper appreciation for their own home. Soon the village green was alive with music, food, dancing and laughter beneath the Elder Oak.

Bramble admired the roses. Thistle admired the enormous pumpkins. The villagers admired both, while politely pretending not to notice the faint green sparkles around the flower beds.

The gnomes understood that their magic was not only about spells. It was about connection, responsibility and the love shared between people and the land.

OFFICIAL FINDING

Rowbridge remains under active gnome guardianship. Gardens are expected to thrive.

CASE STATUS: FLOURISHING

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



- ? 1. Why do you think the gnomes protect Rowbridge instead of living somewhere completely hidden?
- ? 2. Which piece of evidence best suggests the gnomes are real?
- ? 3. Would you follow Bramble to Calbourne, or stay behind to guard the pumpkins?
- ? 4. What do you think a tree would remember after standing in one place for hundreds of years?
- ? 5. What should Thistle write in a proper field notebook instead of reviewing oatcakes?
- ? 6. How large would a sandwich need to be for an entire gnome expedition team?

YOUR FIELD NOTES

Design a new tool for a gnome gardener. Label every part, including any magical controls.



F.O.L.L.I.E.S

**Federation of Legendary Lore Investigation
and Evidence Specialists**

CASE FILE: ROWBRIDGE GNOME GUARDIANS

FOLLIES-RB-GNOME-38

FINAL INVESTIGATION NOTE

The gnomes remain unconfirmed, industrious and highly suspicious of neglected flower beds. Explore kindly. Respect the land. Never mock a small person carrying a full-sized spade.

RESTRICTED FILE - PASS HOLDERS ONLY

STAY CURIOUS. GROW SOMETHING. SHARE THE OATCAKES.



Official Isle of Wight Follies investigation record

