INTRODUCTION

The village of Saxham has been struck by a terrible curse! Or perhaps it’s being terrorized by demons, ghosts, and the undead? Or... was there a terrible storm? Maybe?

No one seems to know exactly what happened here. But the villagers are terrified, bizarre monsters roam the forest, and strange lights strike the woods every night at midnight...

DESIGN NOTES

This adventure is intended for characters levels 1 to 3. It includes a small village, several wilderness areas, and a simple network of tunnels to explore. Each area contains various encounters and unique magical items.

There are many opportunities for combat, but it is possible for players to explore every area and complete every interaction without any combat at all, depending on their choices.

The DM’s read-aloud text looks like this. Items that are explained in their own section have [brackets] around them.

OBVIOUS NOTE IS OBVIOUS

The names and settings used in this adventure are drawn from the world of Dungeon Age. Obviously, you can and should change whatever you want to fit in your campaign setting.

The creatures in this adventure range in challenge rating from easy (1/8) to challenging (4). Obviously, you can and should adjust the stats and numbers of creatures to meet the skills of your players.

But you already knew that, right?
OPEN GAME LICENSE Version 1.0a

The following text is the property of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. and is Copyright 2000 Wizards of the Coast, Inc. (“Wizards”). All Rights Reserved.

Definitions: (a) “Contributors” means the copyright and/or trademark owners who have contributed Open Game Content; (b) “Derivative Material” means copyrighted material including derivative works and translations (including into other computer languages), potation, modification, correction, addition, extension, upgrade, improvement, compilation, abridgment or other form in which an existing work may be recast, transformed or adapted; (c) “Distribute” means to reproduce, license, rent, lease, sell, broadcast, publicly display, transmit or otherwise distribute; (d) “Open Game Content” means the game mechanics and includes the methods, procedures, processes and routines to the extent such content does not embody the Product Identity and is an enhancement over the prior art and any additional content clearly identified as Open Game Content by the Contributor, and means any work covered by this License, including translations and derivative works under copyright law, but specifically excludes Product Identity; (e) “Product Identity” means product and product line names, logos and identifying marks including trade dress; artifacts; creatures characters; stories, storylines, plots, thematic elements, dialogue, plots, storylines, locations, environments, creatures, equipment, magical or supernatural abilities or effects, logos, symbols, or graphic designs; and any other trademark or registered trademark clearly identified as Product Identity by the owner of Product Identity and is an enhancement over the prior art; (f) “Trademark” means the logos, names, mark, sign, motto, designs that are used by a Contributor to identify itself or its products or the associated products contributed to the Open Game License by the Contributor (g) “Use”, “Used” or “Using” means to use, Distribute, copy, edit, format, modify, translate and otherwise create Derivative Material of Open Game Content. (h) “You” or “Your” means the licensee in terms of this agreement.

1. Definitions: (a) “Contributors” means the copyright and/or trademark owners who have contributed Open Game Content; (b) “Derivative Material” means copyrighted material including derivative works and translations (including into other computer languages), potation, modification, correction, addition, extension, upgrade, improvement, compilation, abridgment or other form in which an existing work may be recast, transformed or adapted; (c) “Distribute” means to reproduce, license, rent, lease, sell, broadcast, publicly display, transmit or otherwise distribute; (d) “Open Game Content” means the game mechanic and includes the methods, procedures, processes and routines to the extent such content does not embody the Product Identity and is an enhancement over the prior art and any additional content clearly identified as Open Game Content by the Contributor, and means any work covered by this License, including translations and derivative works under copyright law, but specifically excludes Product Identity; (e) “Product Identity” means product and product line names, logos and identifying marks including trade dress; artifacts; creatures characters; stories, storylines, plots, thematic elements, dialogue, incidents, language, artwork, symbols, designs, depictions, likenesses, formats, poses, concepts, themes and graphic, photographic and other visual or audio representations; names and descriptions of characters, spells, enchantments, personalities, teams, personas, likenesses and special abilities; places, locations, environments, creatures, equipment, magical or supernatural abilities or effects, logos, symbols, or graphic designs; and any other trademark or registered trademark clearly identified as Product Identity by the owner of Product Identity, and which specifically excludes the Open Game Content; (f) “Trademark” means the logos, names, mark, sign, motto, designs that are used by a Contributor to identify itself or its products or the associated products contributed to the Open Game License by the Contributor (g) “Use”, “Used” or “Using” means to use, Distribute, copy, edit, format, modify, translate and otherwise create Derivative Material of Open Game Content. (h) “You” or “Your” means the licensee in terms of this agreement.

2. The License: This License applies to any Open Game Content that contains a notice indicating that the Open Game Content may only be Used under and in terms of this License. You must affix such a notice to any Open Game Content that you Use. No terms may be added to or subtracted from this License except as described by the License itself. No other terms or conditions may be applied to any Open Game Content distributed using this License.

3. Offer and Acceptance: By Using the Open Game Content You indicate Your acceptance of the terms of this License.

4. Grant and Consideration: In consideration for agreeing to use this License, the Contributors grant You a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive license with the exact terms of this License to Use, the Open Game Content.

5. Representation of Authority to Contribute: If You are contributing original material as Open Game Content, You represent that Your Contributions are Your original creation and/or You have sufficient rights to grant the rights conveyed by this License.

6. Notice of License Copyright: You must update the COPYRIGHT NOTICE portion of this License to include the exact text of the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any Open Game Content You are copying, modifying or distributing, and You must add the title, the copyright date, and the copyright holder’s name to the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any original Open Game Content you Distribute.

7. Use of Product Identity: You agree not to use any Product Identity, including as an indication as to compatibility, except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of each element of that Product Identity. You agree not to indicate compatibility or co-adaptability with any Trademark or Registered Trademark in conjunction with a work containing Open Game Content except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of such Trademark or Registered Trademark. The use of any Product Identity in Open Game Content does not constitute a challenge to the ownership of that Product Identity. The owner of any Product Identity used in Open Game Content shall retain all rights, title and interest in and to that Product Identity.

8. Identification: If you distribute Open Game Content You must clearly indicate which portions of the work that you are distributing are Open Game Content.

9. Updating the License: Wizards or its designated Agents may publish updated versions of this License. You may use any authorized version of this License to copy, modify and distribute any Open Game Content originally distributed under any version of this License.

10. Copy of this License: You MUST include a copy of this License with every copy of the Open Game Content You Distribute.

11. Use of Contributor Credits: You may not market or advertise the Open Game Content using the name of any Contributor unless You have written permission from the Contributor to do so.

12. Inability to Comply: If it is impossible for You to comply with any of the terms of this License with respect to some or all of the Open Game Content due to statute, judicial order, or governmental regulation then You may not use any Open Game Material so affected.

13. Termination: This License will terminate automatically if You fail to comply with all terms herein and fail to cure such breach within 30 days of becoming aware of the breach. All sublicenses shall survive the termination of this License.

14. Reformation: If any provision of this License is held to be unenforceable, such provision shall be reformed only to the extent necessary to make it enforceable.

15. COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Open Game License v 1.0a Copyright 2000, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.


END OF LICENSE
MAP OF SAXHAM AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

1. Grist Mill
2. Weasel Mound
3. Saxham Square
4. Sax Estate
5. Chapel
6. Campfire
7. White Tree
8. Cemetery
9. Tents
**BACKGROUND**

The wealthy Sax family established the small farming village of Saxham to produce grain to be ground at the family’s grist mill. The village stands at the border of an elven forest, and near an abandoned elven holy grove that the village uses as its cemetery.

Thirty years ago, a barrel of fruit was delivered to the Sax Estate containing plague rats. The plague killed all 317 people in the village in just a few weeks. Most victims were hastily buried in the cemetery. Most...

Five months ago, the ghost of the village cleric Sister Anna rose from her tomb with a desire to save the people of Saxham. She cannot leave the cemetery, so she has captured several creatures and uses them to dig tunnels outward from the cemetery into the surrounding forest. The ghost uses the tunnels to reach the roots of the living trees.

Every night at midnight, the ghost steals the life-energy from the trees and uses that energy to resurrect one villager. The blighted trees turn black and ooze a reeking black oil. The villager climbs out of their grave as a Clayskin (earth zombie with glowing green eyes).

After three days of shambling and moaning, they shed a layer of grave soil and become a Woodwalker (bark zombie with green berry eyes). After three more days of staggering through the woods, they shed a layer of bark and become a normal human villager. They then each make their way back to the village, naked and confused, with no memory of their death or bizarre resurrection.

**TODAY**

There are now **138 villagers** in Saxham. They have no idea that they were dead, or that 30 years have passed.

They don’t know where the rest of the villagers are, and are gripped by grief and fear. They are baffled by the decayed and overgrown state of the village and fields. They are terrified of the creatures wandering the blighted forest.

Their only solace is that every day or so, one of their lost loved ones stumbles out of the forest and returns to them.

**THE CATCH**

The “catch” to this adventure is that if the party does nothing at all, then the ghost cleric will continue to resurrect the villagers until Saxham is mostly restored. Then the ghost will be at peace and there will be no more “undead”, and the forest will recover from the blight naturally. Probably. Hopefully...

But then, there would still be the three factions of goblins, sprites, and elves in the forest to deal with.

However, if the party stops the ghost or its tunneling creatures, then the resurrections will stop and the village will struggle to survive with its current number of residents.

What to do? What to do...
**STORY HOOKS**

Here are a few ideas to get your players engaged.

- **On the road**, the party finds an old grist mill by a river, where two old men tell tales of the village of Saxham. [*The Grist Mill*]

- In the wilderness, the party finds a boy fleeing from a Woodwalker. He describes Saxham as a village cursed and threatened by monsters. [*Isaac Dale*]

- In the wilderness, the party sees a flash of green light every night at midnight, and choose to investigate. This allows the DM to have the party enter the area from any direction the DM wants.

- A traveling merchant mentions to the party that he’s seen smoke coming from Saxham, which is strange since it’s been abandoned for 30 years...

**ISAAC DALE**

A painfully thin boy of thirteen staggers forward, shaggy hair pasted to his sweaty face. He collapses in front of you, gasping for breath, begging for water, and babbling about a strange creature in the woods.

- “I was gathering sticks for the fire when one of the Woodwalkers lunged at me, and I ran. It kept following, so I kept running...”

- “I’m from Saxham, just back that way. I live with my ma and pa (Dathan), but ma’s missing. Lots of folks are missing.”

- “Everyone says the village is cursed. Our house was all falling down. There’re weeds all over the fields, and the goats are gone!”

- “There’re monsters in the woods. Dead things with green eyes. No one goes into the woods anymore, it’s too dangerous.”

**THE GRIST MILL**

The cracked and mossy stone walls of the grist mill lean precariously over the river. Its water wheel has rusted solid and half its paddles have rotted away, as the stream continues to pull relentlessly at the decaying structure.

A tattered cloth hangs across the doorway and fragments of glass cling to the window frames.

- By day, two old men sit by the stream with fishing rods. By night, firelight flickers inside.

The leathery-skinned, squinty-eyed old men are **Horace** (with prodigious muttonchops) and **Jasper** (with drooping mustache).

- They have lived here as fishermen for the last two years.

- **Horace** remembers coming to the mill as a little boy with his father (a baker) to buy flour, but that was decades ago. He has no idea why the mill stopped running.

- **Jasper** remembers making trips to Saxham with his father (a tinker) to sell forks and spoons. He recalls the wealthy Sax family having a large home full of art in gold frames, musical instruments, and fancy jewelry. It’s probably all still up there.

- **Both men** have seen flashes of green light late at night coming from Saxham for the last few months. But nothing has ever come to the mill, and the old men have never gone to investigate.
ROAD TO SAXHAM

Two dusty wheel ruts run north from the Sax Grist Mill through grassy hills toward a line of massive dark trees. The seedy grasses and blue wildflowers shiver and rustle endlessly as vermin explore the fields. The occasional rat scurries across the road.

- **Dead couple.** The party walks over a jumble of sun-bleached bones tangled up in the weeds in the center of the road. Human. One man, one woman. Many years old. The bones have been gnawed by small teeth.

- **Bone heap.** Just 30 feet off the road, the party sees a bare dirt mound 5 feet high and 10 feet across. Two giant weasels sit on the mound, watching the party. The sides of the mound are littered with tiny white and brown bones. The weasels will defend their nest if provoked.

GIAN'T WEASEL 25XP

9HP • 13AC • 40ft • +5 ATT • 1d4+3 piercing

OVERGROWN FIELDS

Wide open fields sweep across the hills into the distance to the east and west of the village. The crop rows are merely green grooves, covered now in thick grass and weeds.

Far away, dozens of men and women kneel in the fields, tearing out weeds by hand. Women guide small plows down the rows, hauled by brawny shirtless men. Only one small patch of one field is freshly tilled and planted.

The skeletal frames of small shacks and barns dot the hills. Dead pear trees stand in crooked lines at the southern edge of the village.

ENTERING SAXHAM

Weeds stand tall in the middle of the dirt roads. Black rats dart boldly in the open, and fat striped cats trot slowly after them.

Rotting beams and thatching lay heaped against cracked stone walls, but cleared paths weave around the debris from house to house. Half the homes are ruined and half are repaired.

**Ruined houses:** The thatched roofs have collapsed, the doors have fallen off, and the windows are empty. Flies and gnats buzz over stagnant puddles. Pigeons squawk from nests in the chimneys. Spider webs sag, full of brown leaves and dead flies.

- **Note:** There is a 1-in-20 chance of finding a human skeleton inside a ruined house.

**Repaired houses:** There are freshly thatched roofs, newly stained doors, and tightly sealed shutters. Knocking at the closed doors produces no response.

**Inside:** The doors are unlocked. The floors are swept clean and dry mattresses sit on wooden frames smelling of fresh oil staining and sawdust. Pots, spoons, and knives are neatly hung by the hearth. No one is at home.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A lone two-story house with two brick chimneys stands on the west side. [Sax Estate, p7]

- A broad wooden dome stands on the north side of town. [Chapel of Saint Helena, p8]
Voices and sounds of wood chopping and sawing echo through the streets from the village square. Seven men are working at a pile of fresh lumber to repair yet another identical house. The men are all thin and bearded. Six of them wear patched linen shirts and trousers, but the seventh wears a frayed blue suit.

- Amos the carpenter
- Barnabas the thatcher
- Dathan Dale the farmer (father of Isaac)
- Felix the farmer
- Jesse the cooper
- And...

A gruff burly fellow. The last man to venture into the woods, three days ago. He found no signs of any game animals. While near the cemetery:

- He heard chanting to the north.
- He saw a strange white tree to the west.
- He smelled a foul smoke to the east.

A foppish brat of 27, he is the last scion of the wealthy millers who founded Saxham. He wears a faded blue suit, waxes his mustache, and sits apart from the others, lazily sanding the edges of a small board, sighing and rolling his eyes.

- He is angry that the village isn’t focused on repairing his estate, the large house on the west side of town. [Sax Estate, p7]
- He complains loudly about his father Martin wasting money on rare trinkets and lavish funerals instead of things like better security.
SAVING SAXHAM

SAVING SAXHAM

SAX ESTATE

This two-story mansion looms over the nearby cottages. The collapsed roof and upper floor have buried the interior. Splintered debris fills the front doorway and windows. A flagstone path leads through an overgrown rose garden to the back yard. No debris blocks the back door, which stands square in its frame.

- **Back door.** Unlocked. Rats scurry out. The kitchen lies buried in fallen debris (including a huge gold harp, value 350gp, weight 200lbs) on the left side, but not on the right. In the right corner is a closed trap door.
- **Trap door.** Unlocked. A creaky wooden stair leads to a dank cellar. There are five barrels, two trunks, and a sleeping goblin.

TOSK THE GOBLIN  50XP

7HP • 15AC • 30ft • +4 ATT • 1d6+2 slashing

This scrawny goblin wears yellow war paint and tattered leather armor, and stinks of urine. A saw-toothed scimitar lies beside him.

- Tosk wants (1) to survive and (2) to steal his brother Besk’s diamond ring.
- He fears the monsters in the woods.
- If attacked, he tries desperately to escape.
- He is looking for his grave-robbing brothers Besk and Nikt. They have been missing for a week. Tosk rewards good news about his family, but attacks if given bad news.
- He has 9gp.

TOSK’S RAT-GUTTER

This serrated scimitar deals +3 slashing damage to all Tiny creatures. The handle is sticky with blood. At least, you hope it’s just blood.

CELLAR STUFF

- **Barrels (5).** Contain a black mush that reeks of rat droppings, but with a hint of cherries.
- **Trunk #1.** Unlocked. Contains: Two moth-eaten wool blankets, very itchy. Fine leather boots, value 10gp. Silver ring, Sax four-point star signet, value 50gp.
- **Trunk #2.** Locked. DC 10 to open. Poison dart trap. Dex ST 15 to avoid, 1d6 poison damage. Contains a shiny black box.
- **Black box.** Locked. DC 15 to open. This polished ebony box has a red velvet interior, and contains twenty-three broken wand shards and one intact black ring.

MARTIN’S RING OF PRIVACY

A gleaming black ring set with a tiny ruby.

When worn and activated, this ring emits a dim red light up to 10 feet and has the effect of the Silence spell within that radius. The ring remains active for one hour or until deactivated. The ring can only be activated once per sunrise.

The ring smells faintly of patchouli. Always.

Value: 450gp.
**Chapel of Saint Helena**

This circular building’s high domed roof is mossy but intact. Inside, four cracked and yellowed windows dimly light the chamber. A dozen stone benches form two curving rows around a bubbling fountain in the center of the space. Opposite the entrance is a short red altar. Behind the altar is an iron-bound door.

**Fountain of Saint Helena**

Carved from white marble to resemble a single life-sized rose, clear cold water spouts up from the fountain, and spills down into a rusty grate in the floor.

- **Note:** Drinking the fountain water restores 1d6 HP and the drinker is unable to tell a lie for one hour. A creature can only gain this benefit/effect once per sunrise.

**Altar of Saint Helena**

This low dusty altar of red stone veined in golden flecks glitters in the half-light.

On the back is an open shelf containing:

- Three fragile scrolls that all disintegrate when touched.
- One moldy Book of Saint Helena bound in blue leather, written in Old Common. Hidden between the pages is a folded letter.

**Folded Letter**

Sister Lydia writes to Sister Anna that a plague in the Kingdom of Kalahar may be spreading toward Saxham. Victims are covered in painful weeping sores, and then go blind before dying. The disease spreads easily and kills quickly. Some clerics believe the plague is spread by rats. The letter is dated exactly 30 years ago.

**Iron-bound Door**

This unlocked door leads to a small bedchamber lit by a single narrow window. To the left are the mildewed remains of a cot. To the right is a small wooden trunk bound in rusty iron bands.

- Cot. Underneath is a small brown leather bundle covered in dust and spider webs. Inside the bundle are several faded letters.

**Faded Letters**

These six letters are too faded and tear-stained to read, but they are all addressed to “My dearest Anna” and are all signed “Love, Abel”. The letters are all dated 32 to 35 years ago.

- Trunk. Unlocked. Inside are decaying clerical vestments of white and red silk bearing the rose emblem of Saint Helena, and a golden reliquary necklace.

**Reliquary of Saint Helena**

**Attunement.** This glass vial contains a single human finger bone. When worn, the wearer is resistant to poison damage and immune to the Poisoned condition.

As an action, the wearer can cure one creature of the Poisoned condition by feeding them three drops of the wearer’s blood. This feature can be used once per long rest.

Value: 250gp.


**Into the Woods**

A dense forest looms over the village to the north. Ancient yews tower over alders and rowans, deep greens slashed by pale brown and silver trunks. Three faint footpaths lead to the north-west, the north-east, and due north.

**Encounters**

For every hour spent in the woods, there is a 1-in-4 chance of an encounter with a wandering creature. Roll a d6 to select a creature below:

1) **A confused villager**, naked and filthy. They have no memory of how they got out into the forest, and beg for help getting home.

2) **A Clayskin**. These clay-skinned zombies have glowing green eyes. They cannot speak, wear no clothes, and carry no weapons. They attack anyone they see within 30 feet.

3) **A Woodwalker**. These bark-skinned zombies have green berries for eyes. They moan but cannot speak, wear no clothing, but carry rocks and sticks as weapons. They attack anyone they see within 60 feet.

4) **A swarm of ants devouring a dead animal**. The body is dry and partly skeletonized. Thousands of black ants swarm over the remains. The ants attack anyone who touches the corpse.

5) **A starving bear**. The beast’s ribs press out clearly against its hide, and it limps on one crooked leg. Still it roars and charges the party on sight. When it dies, a poisonous fume erupts from its belly. 1d6 poison, 5ft.

6) **A rabid wolf**. The mad beast’s red eyes never blink, and the foam around its maw is pink with blood. It attacks on sight.

**Observations**

- If the party stealthily observes a Clayskin for one day (or captures it for study), they will see it shed a layer of clay to become a Woodwalker.

- If the party stealthily observes a Woodwalker for one day (or captures it for study), they will see it shed a layer of bark to become a naked and confused villager.

**Clayskin**

- 50 XP
- 15 HP
- 12 AC
- 20 ft
- +3 ATT
- 1d6 bludg.

**Woodwalker**

- 75 XP
- 20 HP
- 10 AC
- 20 ft
- +3 ATT
- 1d6+2 bludg.

**Swarm of Ants**

- 100 XP
- 30 HP
- 12 AC
- 20 ft
- +3 ATT
- 3d4 piercing

**Starving Bear**

- 25 XP
- 10 HP
- 10 AC
- 20 ft
- +3 ATT
- 2d4 slashing

**Rabid Wolf**

- 50 XP
- 20 HP
- 12 AC
- 40 ft
- +4 ATT
- 2d4+2 slashing
The Easterly Path

The old hunting trail winds up into the hills among verdant alders and rowans. Ferns cover the ground, hiding the forest floor. Locusts chirp incessantly. A falcon cries out. After an hour of walking, the trail fades away.

The scent of smoke wafts from the north, smelling of burnt meat. Another hour’s walk north brings you to a circle of gray boulders. A campfire burns inside the ring.

A goblin sits by the fire, roasting two rats on a spit.

Grazler the Goblin

100xp

18HP • 16AC • 30ft • +5 ATT • 1d6+3 slashing

This cruel-eyed goblin elder wears yellow war paint and has a bronze helmet covering some of his wild white hair. His scarred arms bulge with corded muscle. A rusty scimitar stands thrust into the ground beside him.

- Grazler wants (1) respect and (2) food.
- He fears losing his three sons, who provide both respect and food.
- If attacked, he fights to the death.
- If offered food or trinkets, he reveals he is waiting for his three sons to return. Besk and Nikt went to the cemetery, but never returned. Then Tosk went to find the others, but also has not returned.
- If the party gives him bad news about his sons, he attacks. If the party gives him good news about his sons, he flips them a gold coin in thanks.
- He has 22gp.

Grazler’s Helm

This dented, rusty bronze helmet can only be worn by Small creatures. The wearer has advantage against being Stunned.

Value: 50gp.
The Westerly Path

The old woodcutter’s path strikes a nearly straight line up the hillside through massive pine trees and granite boulders. After an hour, you reach the edge of the Blight-wood.

A ragged line of ash divides the healthy forest from the dead zone. The soil is black and dry. Fir trees stand bare of needles or bark, the trunks all black and cracked like scorched skeletons.

There is no sound of life. Black oily residue drips from the knots in the dead trees, reeking of rotten vegetation and copper.

- If anyone comes within 5 feet of the oil, tiny black tendrils reach out from the slime several inches and paw at the air, trying to touch the creature.
- If anyone touches the oil, tiny black tendrils quickly slither over its body to suffocate and digest it. [Dolorous Ichor, p15]

After another hour on the trail, the party can see a lone white tree standing perfectly straight about 300 feet to the west.

At 60 feet from the tree, the party sees thirteen sprites emerge from the far side of the white tree, led by an armed warrior.

Twiglet the Sprite 50xp

4HP • 15AC • 40ft • +6 ATT • 1d4 piercing

A fierce young sprite with a bright green Mohawk flies toward you, carrying a tiny bow with poisoned arrows. She bares her teeth in a terrible grimace of rage.

- She wants to save the forest from the blight.
- She fears that the forest and sprites will die.
- She reports that the blight began about half a year ago. Shortly thereafter, she discovered two elves camped out to the north of the cemetery. They believe that the elves are causing the blight because they want their holy grove back from the humans.
- If attacked, the sprites all vanish into the trees. They fly directly to the elves’ camp to attack, and all die in the attempt.
- If the party is friendly, then Twiglet will offer to lead them to the elves’ camp to get rid of the elves by any means necessary.
- If the party leaves without making any arrangement with Twiglet, then the sprites proceed to the elves’ camp to attack, and all die in the attempt.
THE NORTHERLY PATH

Rough flagstones covered in moss draw a ragged little road along the gully floor between the eastern and western hills. Towering yews shade the grassy ground. Squirrels chatter from above.

An hour's walk brings the party to the cemetery. [Cemetery Grove, p13]

The area inside the cemetery's low stone wall is green. Tall grasses and flowers threaten to engulf the grave markers. But outside the stone wall to the west and north, the soil is black and dry without any undergrowth. Trees stand bare of leaves or bark, their trunks all black and cracked like scorched skeletons.

The flagstone path circles around the cemetery and continues on due north. Another two hours of walking brings the party to the campsite of two elves. [Elf Camp]

ELF CAMP

Two circular tents made of silk stand in a small cluster of dead rowan trees. The silk is dyed to blend in with the greens and browns of the forest, but here they are easily spotted against the blacks and grays of the Blight-wood.

DM NOTE: If the party did not make a deal with Twiglet, then there are thirteen freshly killed sprites arranged on a stone between the tents.

Two kelenkens stand guard outside the tents. These nine-foot-tall war birds have small wings, but powerful legs and massive beaks. Their saddles rest on nearby rocks. They shriek and kick up dust when they see you approach.

An elf emerges from each tent when they hear the birds, or the party calls out to them. They wear forest-green robes and carry quarterstaffs.

KELENKEN

18HP • 11AC • 50ft • +4 ATT • 1d8+2 slashing

HYACINTH (ELF DRUID) 450xp

27HP • 14AC • 30ft • +4 ATT • 1d8+2 bludging.

An ageless woman with proud eyes and frowning mouth glares at you, but stays close to her kelenken.

HAWTHORN (ELF DRUID) 450xp

27HP • 14AC • 30ft • +4 ATT • 1d8+2 bludging.

The woman's twin often raises an eyebrow and smirks, as though amused or disbelieving what is happening.

• They want to heal the blighted forest.
• She suspects the human villagers have somehow opened a portal to the demonic World Below, which is causing the blight.
• He suspects that some supernatural force in the cemetery is responsible for the blight.
• They are forbidden from physically entering the holy grove because they are druids and not holy elven priests.
• If attacked, both elves and kelenkens will fight back.
• They know the blight began when the villagers returned, so they are considering burning down Saxham to end the blight.
• They have 157gp.

ELVISH CANTEENS (x2)

These silver flasks, decorated in leafy etchings and damascene patterns, produce an endless trickle of clean, cool drinking water. Value: 250gp each.
Cemetery Grove

Once an elven holy grove, this 300-foot wide circle in the forest is surrounded by a knee-high wall of white stone and a ring of slender elm trees. In the center of the circle stands a perfectly cylindrical white stone pillar 20 feet tall with a stone likeness of an owl atop it.

South and East

On the southern and eastern sides of the circle, there are hundreds of graves marked by small crooked gray stones, with dates going back over 100 years. Ivy and weeds reach up to smother the stones.

In the southern area there is a simple gray stone mausoleum. [Humble Tomb, p14]

In the eastern area there is an elaborate marble crypt. [Sax Family Crypt, p14]

North and West

In the northwestern area, there are hundreds of graves marked only by simple wooden posts. Many posts are broken, pecked by birds, chewed by insects, or consumed by lichen. Only a few are intact enough to read the names. All are dated 30 years ago.

There are nearly 300 graves in this area. Dozens of them are disturbed, the dirt freshly churned and rent with deep clawing humanoid prints.

Day Time


Night Time

Every night at midnight, a flash of green light at the edge of the Blight-wood accompanies the sudden visible deaths of three trees, their leaves and bark instantly incinerated.

Moments later, a faint white ghost appears from the Humble Tomb with a ball of bright green light in its hand. The ghost appears to be a human woman with a rose emblem on its chest.

It goes to a grave in the northwest area and deposits the green light in the ground. One minute later, a Clayskin erupts from the grave to shamble out into the forest. The ghost then returns to the tomb.

Ghost of Sister Anna 1,100xp

45HP • 11AC • 40ft • +5 ATT • 3d6 necrotic

A pale, wispy image of a woman in clerical robes glides through the air, her eyes vacant, her voiceless lips gaping. Frost covers the ground as she passes.

- If the ghost sees the party, it attempts to grapple the smallest member (DC 13 Str ST) and phase the character through the wall of the tomb to leave them unconscious in the Wailing Tunnels below.

- If the party attacks the ghost, it fights them. If reduced to half HP, then it vanishes through the tomb walls. The party can pursue the ghost into the tomb, and down into the tunnels to continue the fight.
SAX FAMILY CRYPT
This white marble structure has iron bars protecting tiny glass windows, an iron gate protecting an iron door, and a roof covered in wrought iron spikes and turrets to resemble a tiny castle. Above the door is the name: “Sax”.

- **Iron gate.** Locked. DC 10 to pick or DC 15 to force open.
- **Iron door.** Locked. DC 12 to pick or DC 17 to force open.
- **Pressure plate trap.** Located immediately inside the iron door. One charge. DC 10 to detect. DC 15 to disarm. 3d6 poison damage.

Built into the walls are 50 small alcoves. Eleven alcoves contain blue porcelain urns, all containing human ashes. The other alcoves are empty. In the center of the crypt is a cedar table with a lace runner, all covered in dust.

- Under the table is a hidden compartment (DC 15 to find) containing a pink corset and a brass bell.

CONSTANCE’S CORSET OF CONTORTION
This pink corset allows the wearer to squeeze through Tiny gaps at full speed, but the wearer is unable to hold their breath at all. The item is cursed and cannot be removed without the Remove Curse spell. Value: 300gp.

BERTRAND’S BROKEN BRASS BELL
This mangled brass bell’s discordant clanging drives away any Beast within 10 feet for 1 minute, and attracts any Ooze within 100 feet for 1 minute. Value: 120gp.

HUMBLE TOMB
The only feature on this gray stone mausoleum is the iron-bound door. Above the door are the words: “Here lie the sisters of Saint Helena”.

- **Iron door.** Unlocked. Rusted and overgrown. DC 15 to force open.

Inside the tomb there are three shallow shelves cut into the walls on each side. Two shelves on the left side contain shrouded remains: Sister Ruth and Sister Anna. The others are empty.

- **DM NOTE:** If the party blesses, burns, or removes the remains of Sister Anna from the cemetery, then the ghost will stop rising. No more villagers will return. The blight will fade. Eventually.

At the back of the tomb, in the center of the floor, the stone tiles are pried up to reveal a 5-foot-wide dirt hole descending into the darkness. The darkness smells of rotten vegetables and copper. Faint sounds echo up from below. It almost sounds like countless people wailing in pain...
**Wailing Tunnels**

The dirt hole drops 15 feet straight down to the tunnel floor, which is entirely covered in a black oily fluid. [Dolorous Ichor] There is no light. Roots dangle like webs. Screams echo endlessly from every direction. From the hole, there are tunnels extending to the west, to the north, and to the east.

- **DM NOTE:** If the party frees or kills all the creatures digging in the tunnels, but leaves the ghost intact, the resurrections will stop until the ghost can find more creatures to dig in the tunnels. And it will.

**Dolorous Ichor**

Every footstep that falls on the Ichor causes this living mass of black slime to moan and shriek with a hundred tiny voices, which can be heard 300 feet away. It is impossible to walk through the tunnels without stepping on the Ichor.

- If a creature stands still on the Ichor for one minute, dozens of slender black tendrils will rise up to weakly paw at the creature’s feet. There is a 1-in-12 chance that the Ichor will trip the creature and it will fall prone.
- If a creature falls prone in the Ichor, the black tendrils will immediately smother its eyes, ears, and throat, rendering it Blind, Deaf, and Suffocating. DC 12 Str ST to escape.

- **The Ichor can only be dissolved by acid.** It does not burn or freeze, or react to physical attacks. Acid will clear a small area for a few moments, before the rest of the Ichor oozes back over the cleared space.

**North Tunnel**

The north tunnel snakes along for 300 feet and then splits to the left and to the right.

- **Left fork.** 60 feet to a giant badger.
- **Right fork.** 120 feet to a gnoll.

**Giant Badger**

13HP • 10AC • 30ft • +3 ATT • 2d4+1 slashing

A giant badger labors in the darkness to extend the tunnel. It does not notice you approaching. It ignores the party unless attacked. It can be commanded in Sylvan or Druidic to peacefully leave the tunnel through the tomb.

**Hesheg the Gnoll**

5HP • 8AC • 10ft • +1 ATT • 1d4+1 piercing

Emaciated, eyes sunken, limbs shaking, a gnoll labors to extend the tunnel using a rusty pickaxe. Hearing you approach, he cowers against the dirt walls, holding the pickaxe up to shield himself.

- If attacked, he howls but does not fight back.
- If asked, he claims to have come to the cemetery to dig up and eat a body, but he was captured by a ghost and forced to work in the tunnels. He has been here for weeks.
- If freed, he will flee into the forest to the north and be killed by the elves.
**West Tunnel**

The west tunnel runs 200 feet and then splits to the left and right.

- **Left fork.** 30 feet to a dead goblin.
- **Right fork.** 120 feet to a live goblin.

**Besk the (dead) Goblin**

The tunnel ends in a particularly pungent pool of the Dolorous Ichor. Rising above the surface are the decaying remains of a goblin, as well as a rusty shovel, a bent knife, and one small leather boot.

The black tendrils of the Ichor continuously caress the dead flesh, gently licking it away. Two thin arms of the Ichor reach up through the goblin’s empty eye sockets.

- Somewhere under the Ichor is a diamond ring. DC 18 to find it. Value: 100gp.

**Nikt the (live) Goblin**

Sweating and swearing, a wiry young goblin works to extend the tunnel, digging with a shovel too large for him to handle properly.

- If attacked, he fights back.
- If asked, he claims he followed his brother Besk to the cemetery to rob some graves, and they were both captured by a ghost and forced to dig in the tunnels. Sometimes he sees the ghost in the tunnels, sucking the life from the exposed tree roots.
- If freed, he flees east into the forest to join his father Grazler.

**East Tunnel**

The east tunnel curves a bit to the north and ends 90 feet from the hole. The walls here shift and glitter as thousands of black ants swarm over the bones of a giant mole.

Next to the ants is a partly open coffin that has fallen out of the wall. The walnut lid is askew. Inside is a **glint of gold**.

- The swarm attacks if the coffin is touched.

**Silas’s Golden Cravat**

Attunement. This extravagant neckwear allows the wearer’s speech to be understood by any creature that can hear it and that can understand at least one language. It does not allow the wearer to understand other languages. Value: 200gp.

**Swarm of Ants**

**100xp**

- 30HP • 12AC • 20ft • +3 ATT • 3d4 piercing