

VEILBOUND REALMS

FOLKLORE FIELD GUIDE

Creatures, Trees & Ancient Stories

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How to read a creature, a tree or a story

Begin with a detail

Look before interpreting. Notice where a figure stands, the direction of a path or the shape of a leaf. Describe something another reader could point to in the same picture. The illustration can then become a specific conversation rather than a collection of general keywords.

Ask what kind of evidence you have

A historical object has a maker, material and date. A recorded tale has a teller or written source. A tree has observable botanical features. Veilbound's Lantern Fox and Inkwing Moth have a contemporary creator. These categories can meet in one book while remaining distinct.

Keep the version in view

Folklore and myth change across languages, communities and periods. The source notes identify the accounts used here. A museum explanation is a useful doorway into a subject; it is not proof that every community told the same story or gave an image the same meaning.

Let interpretation remain a choice

The reflections and exercises are newly written prompts. They do not establish what another person thinks or predict an event. Keep any connection that helps you ask a clearer question, and leave room to find a picture interesting without finding a personal message in it.

Take care with the real world

The tree entries are introductions, not instructions for foraging, medicinal use or identifying edible plants. Observe wildlife and places without disturbing them. Use appropriate natural-history references when identification matters. A fantasy creature belongs to a different kind of encounter.

The Dragon

Wales



Beneath a threatened stronghold, a story about two dragons gives a landscape a second life.

A contemporary Veilbound dragon illustration; an imaginative response to legend.

Behind the image

The source records

The National Trust retells the Dinas Emrys legend: a red and a white dragon disturb the foundations of Vortigern's intended stronghold. The tale connects the red dragon with the people of Britain and the white with invading Saxons. This is a legendary explanation attached to a real Welsh place, not evidence that dragons lived beneath it.

Keep the context

A place-name and a story can preserve different kinds of information. The hill can be visited and its physical remains investigated; the dragons belong to the narrative told about it. Keeping those layers separate lets you enjoy the imagined struggle without turning a legend into an excavation report.

Look again

Follow the outline before examining the scales. Where does the creature's weight rest? Does the landscape make it appear protective, vulnerable or threatening?

A contemporary reflection

A dragon in fantasy can hold a boundary, shelter a small flame or occupy a place that others want to enter. None of those readings is a permanent definition of every dragon. Choose one detail in this image and explain how it supports your interpretation. The explanation is more useful than simply deciding that dragons always mean strength.

A question to carry

What would I like to protect, and what kind of care would actually help?

Try this in your notes

Sketch a doorway and write one thing you welcome beside it and one boundary you would like to make clearer. Keep both connected to a situation you can influence.

Sources: S1 (see pages 39-42).

Within Veilbound: Dragon Oracle & Beyond the Hedgerow

Sources & further reading

References identify the particular objects, accounts and descriptions used in this edition. Websites were checked during preparation in November 2026. Follow the named item as well as its link: a page title alone is not enough to establish that it supports a claim.

S1 National Trust: The legendary trail of Dinas Emrys

https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/craflwyn-and-beddgelert/the-legendary-trail-of-dinas-emrys

S2 Historic Environment Scotland: Supernatural creatures in Scottish folklore

https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2018/10/supernatural-creatures-scottish-folklore/

S3 VisitScotland: Scottish myths and legends

https://www.visitscotland.com/things-to-do/culture-history/myths-legends

S4 Royal Collection Trust: Unicorns

https://www.rct.uk/resources/unicorns