

Rularn Hamlet

Hex 1307

A rather shabbily run-down hamlet near the confluence of the Torden Stream with the Cindaros River, set on both banks of the Torden, a little west of the Cindaros. Perhaps the most notable feature, and certainly the most immediately curious, is that the hamlet is located within a huge circle of standing stones, with a broad, low, partly slumped, raised earthen ring-bank henge placed just outside them. There are gaps in the henge where the road crosses it to the northwest, and where the Torden Stream flows through it on the east and west sides. The henge and stones clearly predate the settlement, which is mostly of timber and brick construction. Local belief is that moving or damaging the stones will bring ill-fortune on those doing so, and likely the settlement itself (for all some might argue its present state is scarcely a shining example of good luck). The northwest trail leads off to Osalin (Hex 1105, 18 miles away, nearly 30 kilometres). In mid-henge, this route crosses the Torden Stream by a ford to the southern part of the settlement. North of the Torden is the Cornel Market bakery and its mill. A long-forgotten secret room in the bakery contains a still-longer-lost sacred relic. Four old barn-sized sheds are in this part of the settlement too, three of which remain in use for agricultural and food storage at times, although the fourth has fallen into disrepair. South of the Stream is "The Captain's Eel" tavern, where outsiders are rarely welcomed, while another of the properties in this area, owned by the dubious-looking Human called Elsonby, is a criminal safe house. Several other properties are in a tumbledown, or fully ruined, state, and while some of the fields inside the henge continue in use as small-holdings for those living here, others have fallen into to disuse, with trees and bushes encroaching into them, and close to quite a number of properties, especially south of the Torden Stream. (From the Shadowdark RPG's random tables, the settlement is Neutral, with a Low district north of the Stream and a Slums one south of it. Both bakery and tavern are Poor, and the bakery's hidden relic relates to Saint Terragnis.)