

## **Embra Crossing Places of Interest 4-10: Seven Streets**

This map condenses the final Crossing Places of Interest, seven streets, into one illustration. The streets in order are: The Remin, Ferry Road, Seafield Road, Slateford Road, Greenplank Lonnen, Cordbinders' View and Spiderweb Way. Each is discussed in more detail below. These streets are intended to be entered primarily along their own road, as they all have quite strongly constrained boundaries. While two are more usual crossing places in the sense of being bridges (if of their own peculiarly unusual character), and one leads to a river-ferry crossing point, the other four are narrow ways that link broader, unnamed ways at each end of their own lengths, serving as crossing places in a slightly different sense.

The misty edges to each mapped street area are because, like all the Embra Places maps, none of these seven streets links directly to any other specific location in the city. Instead when leaving any of the mapped zones (or sometimes only when crossing some form of threshold within one - GM's choice), the party can return either to the Crossing Places map, or the Embra Official Guide map, from where the GM can select a new location for the players to visit.

While scales are provided alongside the map, accurate to the features as drawn, and directions in these notes refer to the standard pattern of north being towards the map's top as viewed, east to its right-hand edge, and so on, none of these elements need be considered strongly fixed. Such things in the Faerie Realm can be quite fluid, to fit whatever the GM may prefer.

Similarly, the featured texts also beside the map can be used to add extra flavour, or ignored, just as the GM wishes. Note though that some do have physical elements that appear on their respective maps. Each text is repeated with its street description below.

For greater clarity, note that the FCW file has a toggle to allow the on-map place-name labels to be turned-off, if desired (the street names remain even when this option is used).

### **4. The Remin**

None of the properties here bear separate names. Indeed, it is difficult to tell there even ARE properties along here, unless one is of a Faerie nature, or is paying careful attention, since all the buildings are roofed with living, growing, leafy wooden timbers, the walls are made of thorny bushes, and each is surrounded by a dense, thorn hedge, much as the featured text might suggest: "Thorny walls of briars, and a weeping woman." It is hard to know just where the hedges end and the buildings begin in places, other than where the paved paths from the road enter each property. The sounds of a weeping woman may be heard, while their source may prove impossible to identify among all the difficult greenery. From time to time too, strange wailing musical notes may be heard, rising and falling on a scale that seems to belong to no known instrument. Again, its source may never be uncovered (though there is a clue to its nature in the street's name!). The road is barely 5 feet wide (1.5 metres), paved with cobblestones, and often overhung by scratchy, thorn branches and foliage.

## 5. Ferry Road

Five of the wooden houses along Ferry Road are marked with the abbreviation “FH” for “Flying House”, properties that hang in mid-air, floating and flying like dandelion seeds when the mood takes them, although they may be tethered to the ground sometimes as well. The road is stone-paved, around six feet wide (1.8 m), and bends around from the west to the south, till it runs up to the bank of the River Clack. Here, the road ends at a small wooden dock with a waiting ferry boat. A second similar landing stage is on the far bank, not quite opposite, but slightly upstream. A narrower paved road leads away southeast from the river there, although that is not part of Ferry Road. The Clack often appears variable in size and nature from the different Places maps on which it features, but it is always the same river that names the vale in which Embra lies. Here it is apparently of modest width. It usually flows east to west, right to left when viewing the map. Another narrower paved route joins Ferry Road about halfway along its length, from the northwest. The featured text for here is: “Foxes chase dandelion seeds. A brown-robed woman with a seed-tipped long pole operates the ferry.” So there is a distinctive dandelion-seed theme to this route. The ferry-woman lives in the street’s largest property, the grey-roofed, inverted “C”-shaped building closest to the Ferry Road landing stage.

## 6. Seafield Road

Much the longest of the Crossing Places streets, Seafield Road is a 10 ft wide (3 m) hard-packed dirt route, running generally north to south, with a crossroads near its northern end, and a second junction on its east side leading off to the southeast, about one-third of the way along its length from the north. A large square, Phoenix Court, is towards its southern end. Perhaps its most notable aspect, and that which leads to it being classed as a Crossing Place, is its southern half, where a vast rock bridge overflies Rocky Vale.

**Rocky Vale** is a deep valley with three cliff lines that drop to far below the surface of Seafield Road. The Vale is dotted with many large boulders and rock outcrops. The stretch of land passing high above on which part of the Road runs might well be considered impossible anywhere except Faerie. The Vale is very difficult to access, even by those able to fly or levitate, to the point where it is unclear if the Vale is genuinely real, or merely a massive illusion. Those trying to get down to the Vale’s floor typically find themselves transported elsewhere in Embra, even those Faerie folk who usually have no great problems in navigating the ways of the city. Named features along the Road include the following, in order from the north. **Firehead Hall** is a huge property with an enclosed paved courtyard in its midst, and a larger open courtyard in front. **Blacksite House** is another large property, neighbouring Firehead Hall. It has a long, broad, hard-packed earth drive along its northwestern side. **Barn House** is a third substantial house in the northern part of the Road, this time with two wings and a large paved courtyard open to the road in front. Roughly halfway along the Road on its western side, is **Pleasant Manor**, a further double-winged large house, with a front courtyard set back from the road a little. It is the first of the larger properties to be set wholly on the flyover portion of the Road when approaching from the north. As noted, **Phoenix Court** is the large square at the Vale end of the Road, wholly on the flyover “bridge” section. It is around this Court where the phoenix of the featured text is often to be found: “A scarlet phoenix in the trees. Many flowers and berries.” Several especially large properties are set around the Court, including **Lightnature House**, a distinctive, long, thin, cruciform building.

## 7. Slateford Road

A narrow, 6 ft wide (1.8 m) stone-flagged street that runs curvingly east-west between two broader ways, Slateford Road has a notably large, stone-paved square towards its east end, **Rocky Pine Square**. This Square has a steep-sided rocky pinnacle in its centre, on top of which is a single, tall, pine tree, as noted in the featured text: "A lone pine tree on a stony rise is guarded by a shielded warrior with sword and spear." The only larger property on the Road is off the north side of this Square, a timber-built structure, the **Lonesome Pine Tavern**.

## 8. Greenplank Lonnen

A slightly narrower stone-paved way than Slateford Road, with a five-foot width (1.5 m), Greenplank Lonnen runs curvingly northeast-southwest between two wider routes. The roadway has a black edge to it, as the featured text notes: "A silver-grey roadway with black stone edging, and similar buildings." The stand-out property here then is **Blue House**, the only blue-roofed building on the street. All the rest have silvery-grey tiles, with black walls. Blue House has silver-blue tiles and blue walls instead.

## 9. Cordbinders' View

Another narrow, stone-paved way, around 6 ft wide (1.8 m), this curves gently round from north to southwest, spanning between another pair of broader routes. A still narrower cobblestone street veers off Cordbinders' View to the southwest from a small, circular plaza about one-third down from the northern end, passing through one of the View's larger properties, **Cordgate**, which is a double-winged property flanking the route to the gate tunnel through its central part. The round paved area this spur breaks away from surrounds the carved pillar from the featured text: "Red roses and white birds flock around a stone pillar carved with lifelike seated apes, bees, butterflies and foxes. The birds' leader is a female humanoid Faerie in a white-rose gown, when not in bird form." The pillar is tall and square in section, with a slanting, pyramidal top. **Pillar View House**, the largest property on the View, situated almost opposite Cordgate on the east side of the circle, also faces towards the pillar.

## 10. Spiderweb Way

One of the broadest routes to be encountered among Embra's streets, at 20 ft wide (6 m), and stone paved, Spiderweb Way is a still more curious street than even Seafeld Road, as much of it, including many of the properties along it, the paths to them, and the footpaths that run behind them, are suspended in mid-air, high above **The Inlet** (an arm of the sea, over which much of the Way hangs). The main roadway and paths simply continue on from the land surface into the air at the same level they were on land, and, with the buildings, just as rigidly as if they were supported on solid ground. The whole area has the scent of the sea about it, and the water level in The Inlet changes as the tides normally would, yet Embra is very far inland. It is unclear if The Inlet and the suspended nature of much of the Way is real or illusory. Much of the time, it is as if the whole Way is under the sea too, which can be most disconcerting. As the featured text notes: "Turtles, Merfolk and Seahorses mingle with seaweed as if underwater here." Three of the larger suspended properties are named, as **Elkhorn**, **Scholar's Pasture** and **Melbridge**.