

WE HEAR YOU NOW

'We hear you now,

Humans, from more than one shore

Bring us your stories of lineage, longing and loss

Of your transitions and arrivals here

or of those who came before you

Speak to us of what it has taken to craft a life here

Tell us of your quiet hopes and new horizons'

We Hear You Now – Prologue

'I want our listeners, readers and fellow wanderers to experience this landscape as an open embrace, as diverse, fragile, and as a beloved relative in need of care. I want them to feel that our interconnected futures can be transformed, through the stories we tell and the actions those stories provoke.'

Alinah Azadeh

'This extraordinary Seven Sisters landscape – with its deep time origins in the chalk, its edges and its wide horizons between land and sea – has offered us particularly rich metaphors for writing on journeying, belonging, loss, change and renewal. As we wander with you around meanders, through chalk grasslands and towards the sea, we hope our work opens up some of the less visible paths, biodiversity and histories we discovered, and offers you space to reflect on your own relationship with this sublime and shifting landscape, past, present, and future'.



THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

From rolling hills to bustling market towns, the South Downs National Park's landscapes cover 1,600km² of breathtaking views, hidden gems and quintessentially English scenery. A rich tapestry of wildlife, landscapes, tranquillity and visitor attractions, weave together a story of people and place in harmony.

Getting here

The Sussex Heritage Coast is easily accessed by public transport. Visit sevensisters.org.uk/plan-your-visit/getting-here/.

Cliff Safety

Please keep away from the delicate cliff edges at all times.



Take the Lead

If visiting with your dog please always bag and bin your dog's poo. Keep your dog on the lead around wildlife and livestock – release your dog and get to safety if you feel threatened. Please stick to the paths to avoid disturbing wildlife.

South Downs National
Park Authority:
01730 814810



SOUTH DOWNS.GOV.UK

Details correct at time of going to print. Please be aware that routes are shared with other users (vehicles, pedestrians, dogs, horses etc.) and users of this route do so at their own risk. We do not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, arising directly or indirectly from use of this leaflet.

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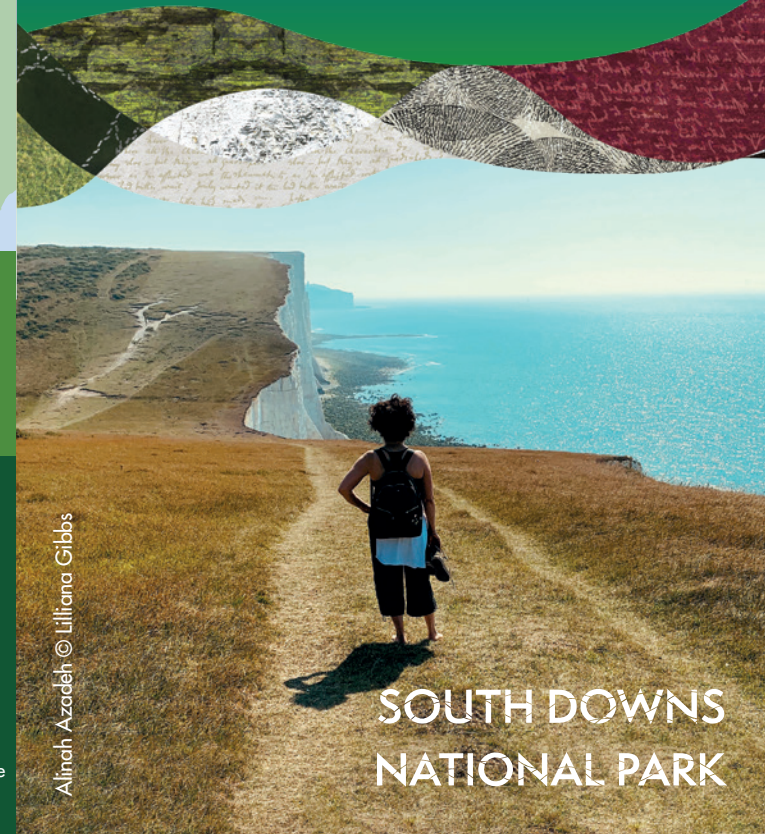
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SEVEN SISTERS
SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

WE HEAR YOU NOW

New stories for the Seven Sisters and Sussex Heritage Coast

Discover audio story, new myth and poetry on Listening Points across this iconic landscape.



Alinah Azadeh © Lilliana Gibbs

**SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK**

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *We Hear You Now*, a spoken word audio series embedded in 13 listening points on benches, gates or signposts, around the Seven Sisters Country Park, taking in the Cuckmere Valley and stretching along parts of the Sussex Heritage Coast, from Beachy Head, via Birling Gap and Belle Tout Lighthouse - to Seaford.

This collection of stories and poetry is a creative response to some of the history, topography and biodiversity of this spectacular chalk landscape, written and voiced by nine Sussex-based writers and poets; Alinah Azadeh, Georgina Aboud, Jenny Arach, Razia Aziz, Joyoti Grech Cato, Oluwafemi Hughes, Dulani Kulasinghe, Georgina Parke and Akila Richards.

Look out for *We Hear You Now* NFC and QR plaques at certain points across the Heritage Coast (see map overleaf). Use your phone to listen as you walk, save for later, or just sit and enjoy the vistas in this landscape that inspired the writing. You can also read or listen to the whole series in captioned form via the Seven Sisters website.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

With spectacular open views of sea and land, the Sussex Heritage Coast is an iconic and inspiring chalk landscape with an exceptional sense of space, peace and tranquillity.

Created through centuries of settlement and farming, this special part of the South Downs National Park is home to the stunning Seven Sisters white cliffs, the meandering River Cuckmere, an array of beautiful wildlife and an abundance of stories; some well-known, some hidden, and some yet to be heard. The *We Hear You Now* series explores contemporary issues for our rural landscapes such as belonging, climate change, biodiversity, legacies of empire, loss, and renewal.

The work you will hear grew mainly out of *We See You Now* (2019-22), a creative writing and walking programme for 35 writers, poets and artists of the global majority, devised and led by Alinah Azadeh, inaugural writer-in-residence at Seven Sisters Country Park and Sussex Heritage Coast. Drawing on her own creative writing and research with residents, archaeologists and landscape specialists, as well as public workshops with 144 participants, she set out to make space for new kinds of stories to be written about the past, present and imagined future of this chalkland.

ABOUT THE WRITERS

All the work you will hear has been written by award-winning, established and emerging writers, poets, artists, performers and activists based across East Sussex, with heritage from across the globe.

They have developed or adapted location-based work, responding to Sussex's sublime coastal landscape and their own, personal relationship with it. The work they have written brings a gently radical and diverse perspective to the coastal fringes of the South Downs, and often centres the voice of nature itself as narrator.

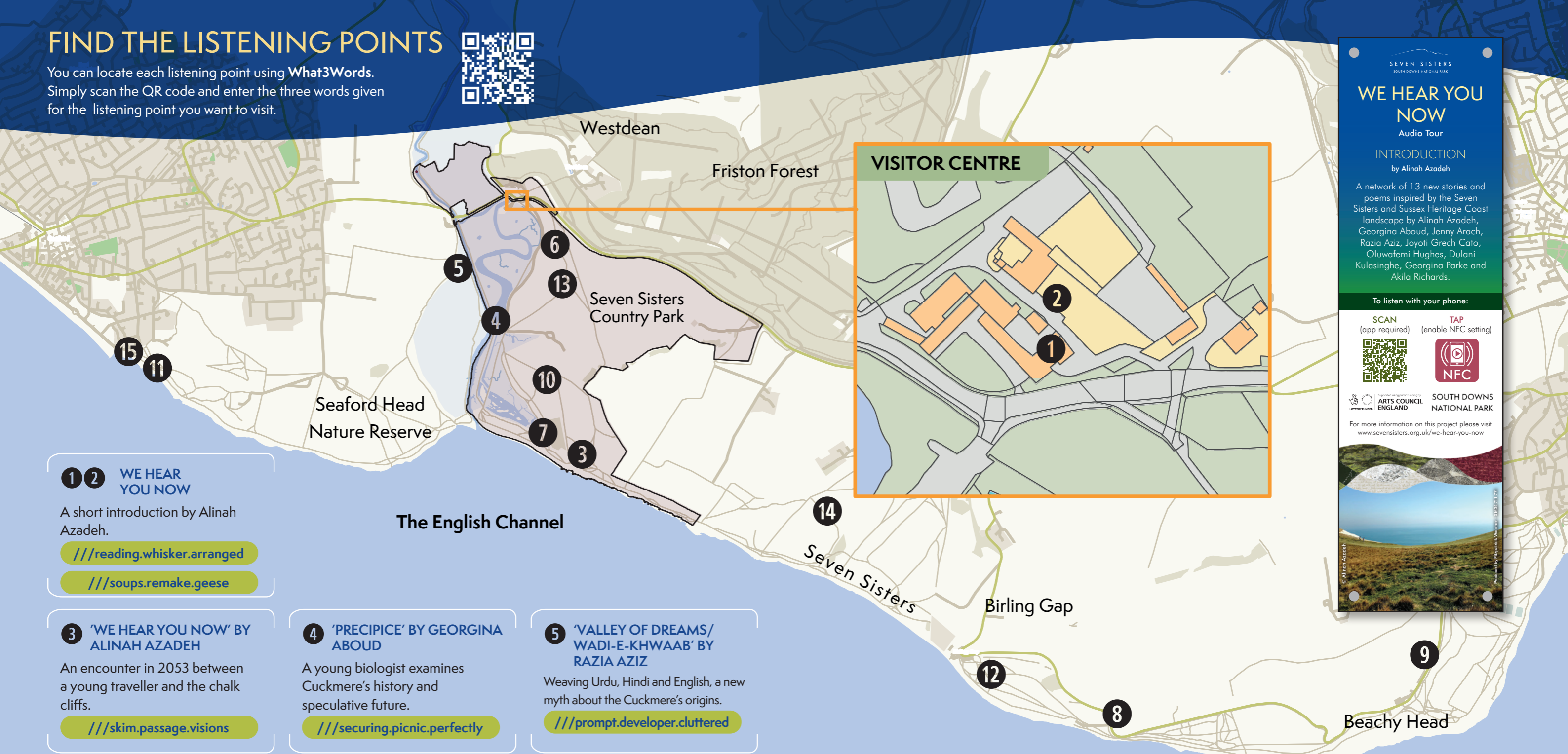
We hope anyone who encounters this series feels closer to the land under their feet, and to the people and cultures who have been part, and continue to be part of its future.

→ For more information on the writers, their work and the public programme around it, please visit www.sevensisters.org.uk/we-hear-you-now/



FIND THE LISTENING POINTS

You can locate each listening point using **What3Words**.
Simply scan the QR code and enter the three words given for the listening point you want to visit.



SEVEN SISTERS
SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

WE HEAR YOU NOW

Audio Tour

INTRODUCTION
by Alinah Azadeh

A network of 13 new stories and poems inspired by the Seven Sisters and Sussex Heritage Coast landscape by Alinah Azadeh, Georgina Aboud, Jenny Arach, Razia Aziz, Joyoti Grech Cato, Oluwafemi Hughes, Dulani Kulasinghe, Georgina Parke and Akila Richards.

To listen with your phone:

SCAN (app required) TAP (enable NFC setting)

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

For more information on this project please visit www.sevensisters.org.uk/we-hear-you-now

1 2 WE HEAR YOU NOW

A short introduction by Alinah Azadeh.

///reading.whisker.arranged

///soups.remake.geese

3 'WE HEAR YOU NOW' BY ALINAH AZADEH

An encounter in 2053 between a young traveller and the chalk cliffs.

///skim.passage.visions

4 'PRECIPICE' BY GEORGINA ABOUD

A young biologist examines Cuckmere's history and speculative future.

///securing.picnic.perfectly

5 'VALLEY OF DREAMS/WADI-E-KHWAAB' BY RAZIA AZIZ

Weaving Urdu, Hindi and English, a new myth about the Cuckmere's origins.

///prompt.developer.cluttered

6 'WHITEHAWK WOMAN AT CUCKMERE HAVEN' BY JOYOTI GRECH CATO

Our Neolithic ancestor stands watch over the land and the people.

///divisible.gender.blubber

7 'THE TWILIGHT PORTAL' BY AKILA RICHARDS

Grandmother and granddaughter walk through a twilight portal.

///melt.perkily.redeemed

8 'COSMIC WALKER' BY GEORGINA PARKE

An intimate walk in the dark along the chalkland coast.

///stag.double.ignites

9 'THE DUBIOUS TOUR' BY JENNY ARACH

A bus and life journey with an English working class and African heritage poet.

///activates.sweeping.linex

10 'MISSING ON SEVEN SISTERS' BY OLUWAFEMI HUGHES

A daughter of the earth and of African and Asian heritage explores loss and reclamation.

///marmalade.saying.racing

11 'IF YOU CAN IMAGINE' BY ALINAH AZADEH

A past, present and future walk with the deep time lenses of an archaeologist.

///kicked.learn.grandest

12 'FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE' BY ALINAH AZADEH

The Belle Tout Lighthouse tells us of its many lives and dreams.

///line.arise.feed

13 'TAKING ROOT' BY ALINAH AZADEH

A search for rest, recovery and renewal as medieval history repeats itself.

///boasted.hound.crunched

14 'THE FRUIT-BEARING TREE' BY ALINAH AZADEH

Reflections on star constellations, land, climate and kinship.

///erupt.recruited.condensed

15 'LETTERS HOME' BY DULANI KULASINGHE

A young St Lucian man and friends train in Seaford to fight in World War I.

///cunning.smarting.spruced

