

# Every Dune is a Mountain

a mini-collection



Alicia Hayden

in partnership with Dynamic Dunescapes and the Lincolnshire  
Wildlife Trust



**Lincolnshire**  
Wildlife Trust



**DYNAMIC**  
DUNESCAPES



# Every Dune is a Mountain

a mini-collection

Alicia Hayden

in partnership with Dynamic Dunescapes and the Lincolnshire  
Wildlife Trust



Copyright © 2022 Alicia Hayden

All rights reserved. This mini-collection “Every Dune is a Mountain”  
(or any portion thereof) may not be reproduced or  
used in any manner without written permission from the author,  
except in the context of reviews.

First published 2022  
ISBN: 978-1-5262-0931-3  
Printed and bound in the United Kingdom by  
Ruddocks, Lincoln

Cover art by Alicia Hayden  
Illustrations Copyright © 2022 Alicia Hayden  
Music score & Performance Copyright © 2022 William Pearce  
Audio recordings Copyright © 2022 Alicia Hayden & Jacob Burley

Published in partnership with Dynamic Dunescapes and The Lincolnshire  
Wildlife Trust

<https://aliciahaydenwildlifephotography.zenfolio.com/>

<https://dynamicdunescapes.co.uk/>







For everyone who has ever wandered along a series of sand dunes, and  
thought — I wonder if there is a collection of poems about dunes? —  
this is for you.



## Foreword



I often hear that I should appreciate 'the little things'. I do, generally.  
The morning coffee, the sound of my footsteps, and the daily tiny coincidences.

These are pleasantries and I appreciate them.

Less so am I told to appreciate 'the big things'.

What would they even be? Large I suppose.

I propose we define these elusive big things as being more than the sum of their  
parts.

Does that sound good?

That brings me to the Lincolnshire dunes.

I rest assured that for many people these are one of those delightful little  
things that keep the day ticking along.

But if we look a little closer, and apply our new definition, aren't they huge?

Don't they have so much going on?

Every dune is a mountain.

And, much like this collection, they are bustling with activity. So please join me  
for a stroll through the Lincolnshire dunes as they are writ ever so large over  
these pages.

Enjoy one of the big things.

Jacob Burley







## Contents



Approaching

Marram Grass

The Grey Seal

A Drama of Dunes

The Northern dune tiger beetle (or Faster, faster)

Yellow No. 3 - 'sand'

Oystercatchers

Fading

Dynamic Dunescapes

Audiobook

Acknowledgements

About the Author

About Dynamic Dunescapes

About the Font





## Approaching

Vast.

A foam mattress, carved out with veins and arteries,

Salt water pumping, flowing

Through sand,

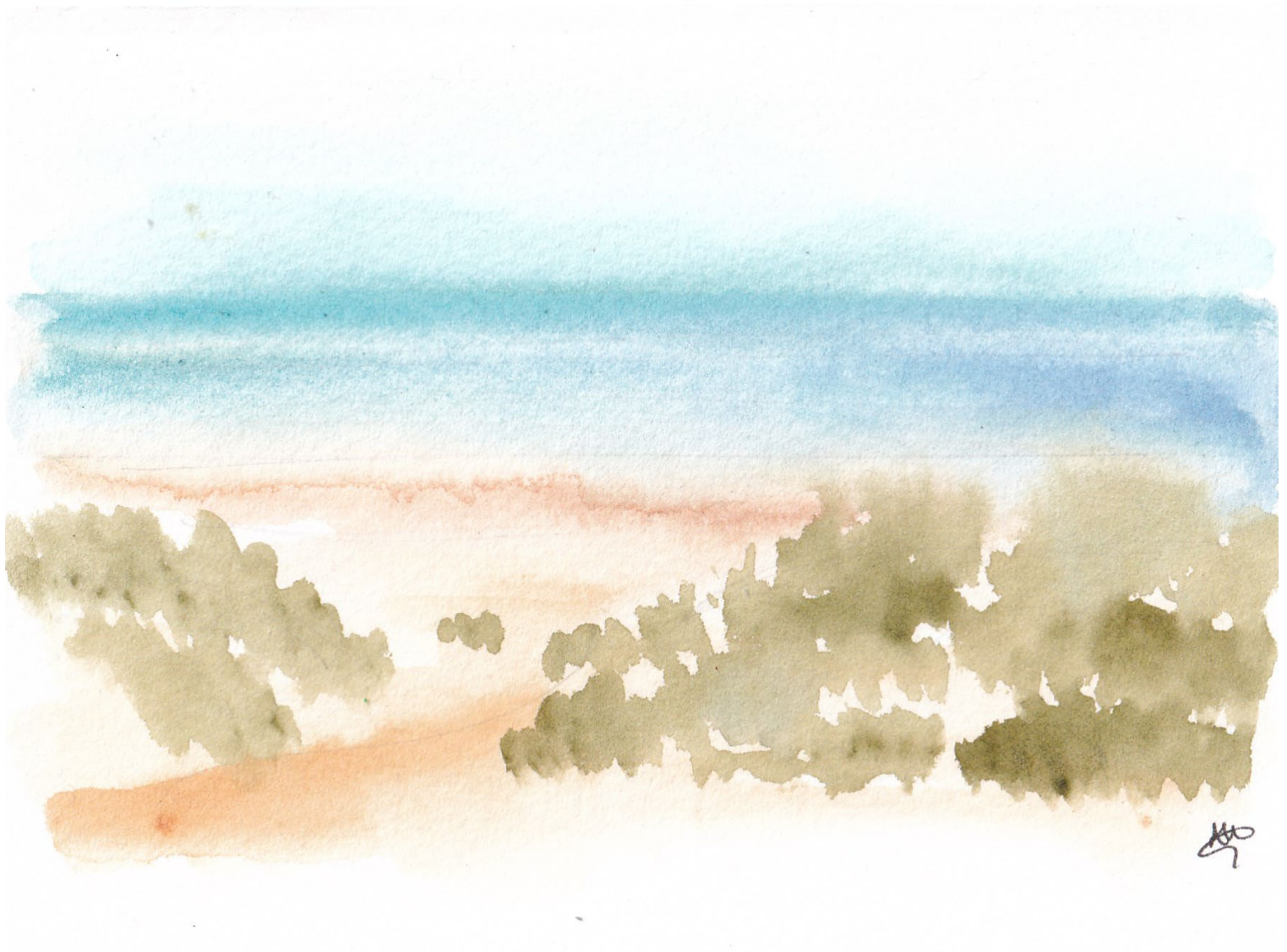
Sand — the colour of cocoa dust, the

Colour of rust, the colour of old paint.

And up through the dust, mountains

Of miniscule glassy fragments,

Tufted with ropey yellows, and pastel greens.



## Marram Grass

We're Xerophytes

And we're here to fight

For everything we hold dear.

The waves may crash

But we will lash

Against every wave, and every tear.

We're *Ammophila*

We like good weather —

Just kidding! We like extremes.

Throw us salt and sand,

A small patch of land,

And we'll grow for reams and reams.

We're children's swords,

And fit for lords

Who duel upon the beach.

We're tough as nails,

Through sun, snow, and hail,

Growing to heights you'll never reach.



## The Grey Seal

We have this persona of roly-poly cream buns;  
propagated by the media — people flock to see us  
belly-flop, rock-drop.

People point at us and laugh,  
*but they should see us underneath the waves.*

Off the dunes, we are birds.

Streamlined, aerodynamic, flying machines,  
we take each wave the way pink-footed geese  
ride the updrafts.

Sleek, fast, deadly.





## A Drama of Dunes

Like a small army, they wave shields and artillery at the ocean,  
The wind seems to shout on behalf of them  
'We protect the coast! Nothing gets past us!'  
But despite their spikey exterior;  
The wave-front they show to the rest of the world,  
They are soft and cosy – a home  
For warbler, orchid, trefoil, darter.  
They may be dramatic,  
A dynamic troop,  
But their ecosystem is a precious burden to protect;  
A little drama is sometimes necessary.



*AD*  
While researching for this collection, I realised there were no collective nouns for 'sand dunes'. The best I could find was the frequent, and accurate, description of sand dunes being 'dramatic' – so I thought that I'd suggest 'a drama of dunes' as an apt collective noun.











## The Northern dune tiger beetle

### Or Faster, faster

Umber cases rumbling,  
rumbling,

Over pebbles tumbling,  
tumbling,

Sharp mandibles grabbing,  
grabbing,

Unsuspecting prey scuttling,  
scuttling,

Six legs kicking,  
running,

Faster and faster,  
Pitter and patter,

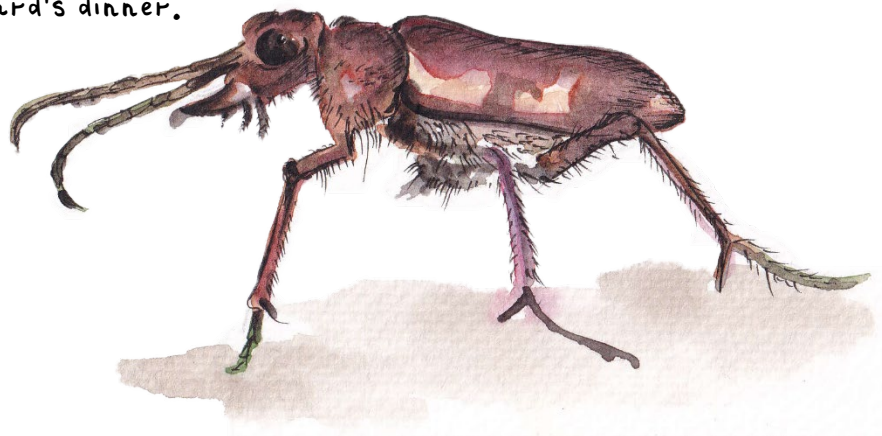
Then suddenly  
- Stop -

Temporary exhaustion,

But a fatal error,

Take greater precautions,

To avoid becoming the sand lizard's dinner.



## Yellow No. 3 – 'sand'

Hovering above

They appear like stardust

Painted perfection.



## Oystercatchers

We tumble like pebbles  
rolling along the earth.  
Our bodies twist into a sky helix,  
twirling like ballerinas,  
We whisper our love song  
through ocean waves and sand crusted clouds.

And then, down,  
down, down,  
Down – endless flight,  
we embrace the waves crashing and cheering  
For us, the Audrey Hepburn of birds,  
as we glide to a standstill.



## Fading

You and I used to walk on this beach every day.

Hand in hand, we'd venture over sand dunes that felt like mountains,

And scamper over marram grass tufts, against the sea breeze,

Which buffeted us — pushed us back and into one another —

Giggling. We'd slip down the slopes and run to the North Sea,

Gasping as faded azure salt foam licked our ankles,

Soaked our canvas shoes.

And gave our jeans a crusty salt line half-way up our calves.

Little terns cried — squeaky gates and bubbles underwater —

The wind joins in, a ghostly serenade.

We would run home before the tide came in, jumping through

Sharp marram grass spears like new-born deer.

We never looked back — not in those days —

But if we had, all we'd have seen

Would have been two pairs of footprints,

Fading away into the sand.



# Dynamic Dunescapes

for Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Composed by Will Pearce

Lyrics by Alicia Hayden

$\text{♩} = 140$

*mf*

*With pedal*

5

*mp*

Pas - tel brush strokes paint the sky a  
Oy - ster - catch - ers walk the shore the

10

Win - ter's and day tide in who Sum - mer's eye  
Wind and tide who keep the score

15

Sand so prints soft in the mount - ains tall will  
Foot - prints in the chess - board sand where

20

fall one day. The sea a spray a fog  
time will play the the win - ning hand oo\_

27

*mf*

31

Im - per - man - ent shape Dy - nam - ic dune scape

*mp*

35

Time will play the win - ning hand

*p rit.*







## Audiobook

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to listen to readings of all of the poems from 'Every Dune is a Mountain'.

Read by Jacob Burley.

'Dynamic Dunescapes' performed by Will Pearce.

<https://aliciahaydenwildlifephotography.zenfolio.com/dynamic-dunescapes>



## Acknowledgements

'Every Dune is a Mountain' wouldn't have come to be without the help of Tish Cookson, the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's People Engagement Officer. Tish has been so excited about the prospect of a mini-collection inspired by the sand dunes since the very beginning; thank you for helping me make this mini-collection a reality!



I would also like to thank the rest of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and the Dynamic Dunescapes project, who helped me fund the publication of this mini-collection.

A massive thank you to Jacob, who is instrumental in telling me to relax sometimes, and who also volunteered to write the foreword – I don't know if you were joking, but I guess it's worked out alright!

My family have always been so supportive of my creative endeavours over the years – thank you all so much for believing in me!

And finally, thank you to Will. Thank you for creating the music for this collection, and thank you for encouraging me to write it. You inspire me every day, and I know I wouldn't be making this without you. I love you.

Alicia xx



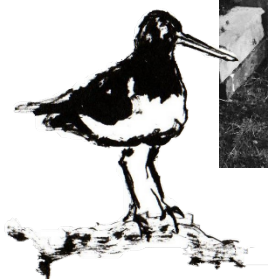


## About the Author

Alicia Hayden is an award-winning wildlife photographer, artist, writer, and filmmaker, from North Yorkshire. She has a degree in Biological Sciences from Oxford University, and is currently studying for a Masters in Wildlife Filmmaking at UWE, in partnership with the BBC. Alicia won the 'Human Impact' category in David Shepherd Wildlife Artist of the Year 2021 for her piece 'When the Whale Sang', and was awarded the inaugural Ingrid Beazley Award. Alicia hopes that by showcasing the beauty of the natural world, she will encourage more people to protect it.

'Every Dune is a Mountain' is the fourth instalment in Alicia's series of mini-collections exploring the beauty and mystery of our local spaces. It has been created in partnership with the Dynamic Dunescapes project and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust; inspired by the wild beauty of the Lincolnshire sand dunes.

Alicia's first poetry book ['Rain before Rainbows'](#) came out in 2020, and she is currently working on her second.



## About Dynamic Dunescapes

Dynamic Dunescapes is an ambitious project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the EU LIFE Programme, to restore sand dunes for the benefit of people, wildlife, and communities. Partners include Natural England, Plantlife, the National Trust, Natural Resources Wales, and The Wildlife Trusts.



**Lincolnshire**  
Wildlife Trust



Plantlife



## About the Font

The font of *Every Dune is a Mountain* is designed by Alicia, based on her own hand writing. She hopes her font, called *How Do I See You*, makes her mini-collections more personal, as the poems appear hand-written, which is how Alicia initially writes them.





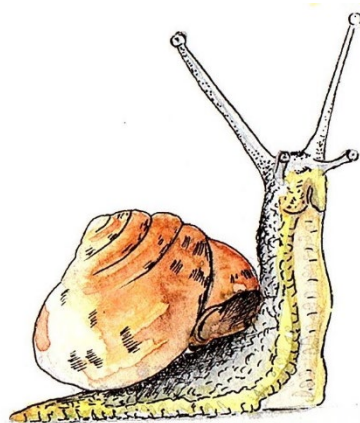
*'You and I used to walk on this beach every day,*

*Hand in hand, we'd venture over sand dunes that felt like  
mountains'*

Sand dunes are some of our most important ecosystems, home to over 70 nationally rare species including the northern dune tiger beetle, and marram grass.

But these magnificent sand mountains are increasingly under threat, and we are at risk of losing our dunes, and the species which call them home, forever.

Every Dune is a Mountain is a mini-collection of poems inspired by the Lincolnshire sand dunes, and written in partnership with the Dynamic Dunescapes project, and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.



Copyright Alicia Hayden 2022

<https://aliciahaydenwildlifephotography.zenfolio.com/>