

# Griset quarry: A journey through 300 million years



## The former excavation faces of the Griset Quarry are rare witnesses to the Hercynian unconformity!

The Blacourt Formation, specifically the Griset limestones, was mined for aggregate and rockfill production from 1950 to 2005. Since extraction ended, the Griset Quarry has been undergoing rehabilitation in accordance with the conditions set by the prefectural site authorization order, as outlined in the Landscape Plan of the Marquise Quarry Basin.

This rehabilitation involves partial backfilling of the former extraction pit to match the surrounding natural terrain using external inert materials. These can include soil from earthworks, demolition materials from construction (bricks, ceramics, concrete, etc.), sterile materials from external mines, or sediments from river dredging and cleaning operations.

## Indeed, in front of you lies the famous Hercynian unconformity.

It demonstrates the superposition of a set of Devonian-aged strata, tilted up to 30° during a tectonic event (linked to the formation of the Alps in southern France), and another set of horizontal Cretaceous strata, which remained intact because they were deposited well after this tectonic event.



Part of the site will be reforested with native species to create continuity with the natural area of Bois de Beaulieu and La Parisienne to the south. Some zones will be left "open" to promote the growth of endemic species, such as wild orchids.



The Griset Quarry is a remarkable geological site, designated as a "geosite" within the Cross-Channel Geopark, an initiative led by the Parc Naturel Régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale (France) and the Kent Downs National Landscape (England). This initiative is part of efforts to promote and recognize the geological heritage of our region and gain UNESCO Global Geopark status.

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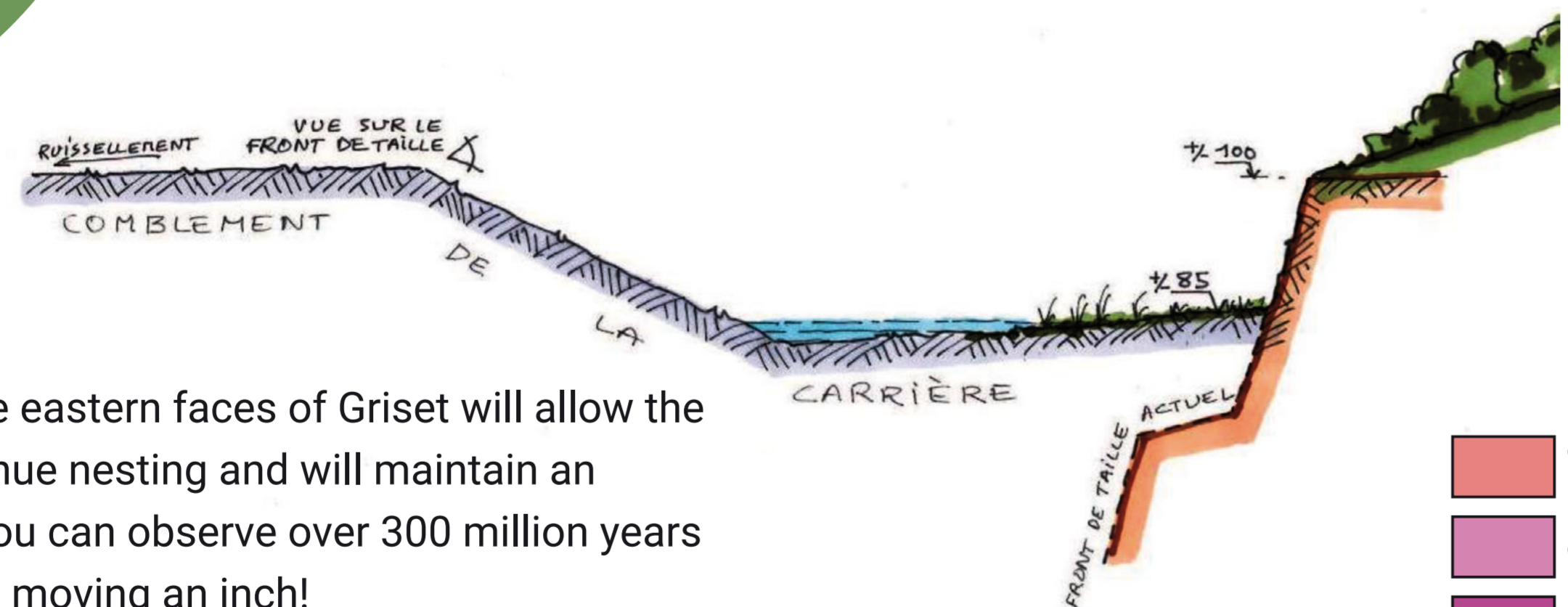
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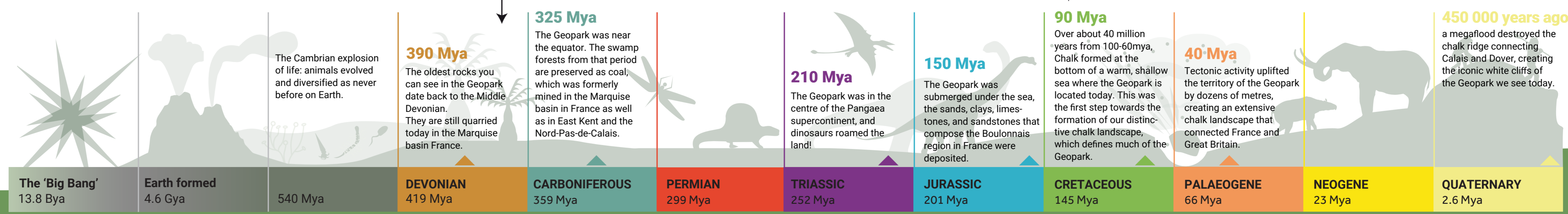
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Finally, preserving part of the eastern faces of Griset will allow the European eagle owl to continue nesting and will maintain an exceptional geosite where you can observe over 300 million years of geological history without moving an inch!



- d5c-6a Schiste, Marnes et calcaires massifs dolomitiques, Formation de Beaulieu, Givétien terminal - Frasnesien
- d5b Formation de Blacourt, Givétien
- d5a-Ca Formation de Caffiers, Givétien inférieur
- c1Cr Craie marseuse et tourtia, Cénomanién
- n6G « Agiles du Gault », Albien supérieur
- n5-6SV Sables verts glauconieux, Albien inférieur et Aptien

This is a Cross-Channel Geopark Geosite



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