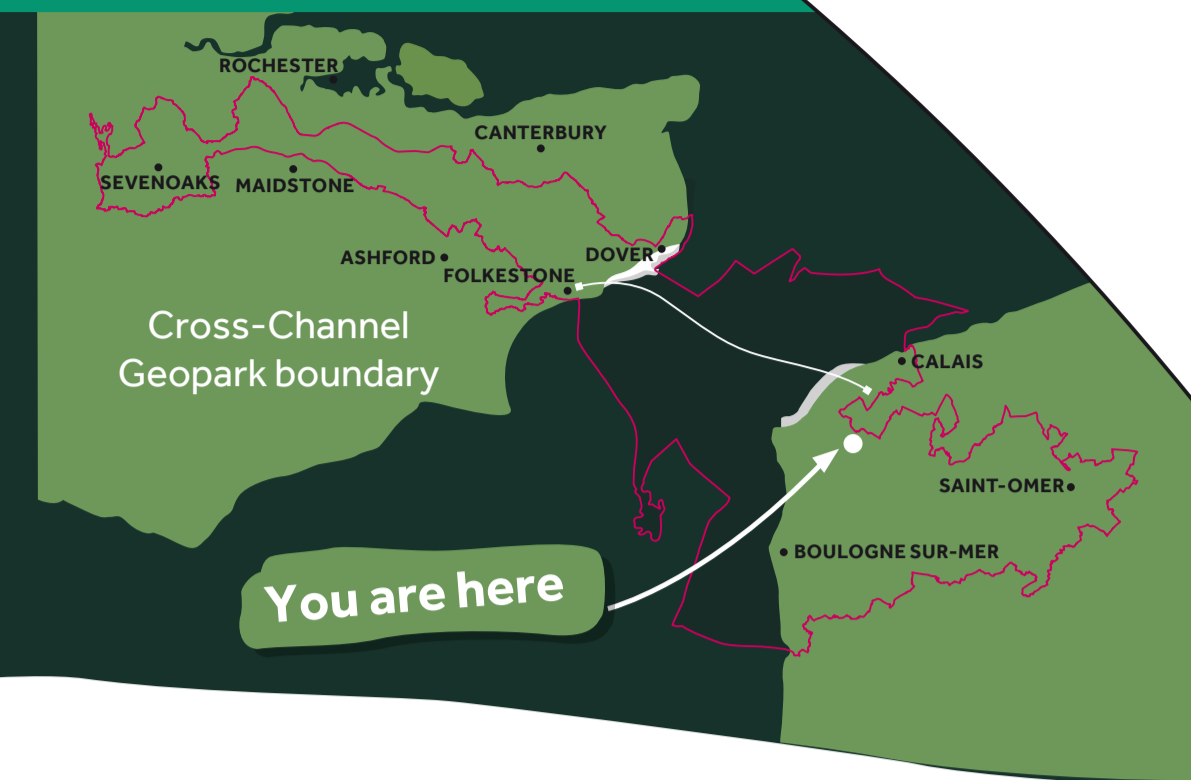




The marquise carrier basin geosite



The Marquise quarry basin is famous for its rocks, which have been exploited since Roman times.

This geological basin consists of four extraction companies:

- **Carrières du Boulonnais**
- **Carrières de la Vallée Heureuse**
- **Carrières de Stinkal**
- **Magnésie et Dolomie de France**

You are currently in front of Carrières du Boulonnais, the largest quarry in France.



The Marquise Quarry Basin is a remarkable geological site, designated as a 'geosite' within the Geopark Transmanche. This initiative is led by the Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale (France) and the Kent Downs National Landscape (England) to promote and recognise the geological heritage of the region under UNESCO.

What is a quarry?

A quarry is a place where rock materials are extracted from the ground. There are two main types of quarries:

- **Massive rock quarries:** where the deposit requires explosives or sawing to extract materials, intended for the production of aggregates or ornamental rocks, like the one in front of you.
- **Loose rock quarries** (such as gravel and sand pits): primarily used for aggregate production.

The extraction process

- 1. Blasting:** The rock is fractured with explosives to facilitate its extraction.
- 2. Transport:** The materials are transported by dumpers (trucks capable of carrying up to 100 tons of materials each).
- 3. Crushing:** The extracted rocks are crushed into aggregates of various sizes.



Carrières du Boulonnais

Carrières du Boulonnais is the largest quarry in France with:

- **Area:** Approximately 520 hectares
- **Depth:** 150 metres (the floor is located about 65 metres below sea level)

Extraction is done on terraces, allowing for progressive, secure, and coordinated extraction of different levels.

An essential product for industry

Each year, Carrières du Boulonnais produces about 7 million tons of limestone aggregates, used in:

- **Industry:** steelmaking, lime, glass, sugar, animal feed...
- **Construction:** ready-mix concrete, prefabricated concrete...
- **Public works:** infrastructure and development.



This project is co-financed by the Green Fund.



This is a Cross-Channel Geopark Geosite



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