



Creating a new landscape, welcoming a new biodiversity, protecting the environment



The management of the activities of the Marquise carrier basin is based on an ambitious environmental approach, structured around three complementary major objectives:

- Create a harmonious and integrated new landscape
- Promote biodiversity
- Limit nuisances through innovation

The Marquise Carrier Basin Landscape Plan:

A Collective Commitment

Signed in 1994, at the initiative of the Ministry of Ecology and the Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale, an agreement protocol enabled local communities and quarry industries to design a long-term land restoration landscape project. It is organised around two lines of hills, to the north and south of the quarries, formed from the sterile materials produced by the operations. These hills are designed based on the Boulonnais relief model, with the lower part planted with local tree species and the upper third covered with calcareous grasslands. As for the extraction pit, it will eventually be transformed into a vast body of water.

Biodiversity is thriving here. Some extraction fronts will be preserved for geodiversity.

The lines of the hills, as envisioned by Jacques Sgard, a landscape architect, 30 years ago, are beginning to appear on the horizon.



Limiting Nuisances and

Protecting the Environment

As part of their environmental commitment, beyond landscape and biodiversity, quarry operators implement concrete measures to limit nuisances:

- Noise and vibrations
- Dust and gas emissions
- Water and industrial waste management

These measures aim to minimize the environmental impacts of the operations while respecting people and the surrounding area. The goal is to maintain a pleasant living environment for the local residents.

Local consultation and monitoring committees are regularly organized, allowing residents and other local stakeholders to exchange, voice their opinions, and contribute to the continuous improvement of the quarries' environmental practices.

Decarbonization of Transport:

A Step Towards the Future

In its effort to reduce its carbon footprint, Carrières du Boulonnais has diversified its delivery methods to limit the nuisances associated with transportation:

- Train, Road, Inland and Seafaring Routes

In 2021, a new rail terminal was established with an annual capacity of 4,000,000 tons, thus allowing:

- Reducing the number of trucks on the roads: between 40,000 and 90,000 trucks avoided per year.

- Limiting the nuisances associated with road transport while reducing CO₂ emissions.



Protection of Biodiversity:

Privileged Habitats

Quarries are an ideal environment for fauna, such as the Eurasian Eagle Owl, the largest nocturnal bird of prey in Europe. This species, once endangered, has been nesting since 2012 on various sites, close to active extraction fronts. Monitoring of the species is conducted by the Ecosphere study office, the Aubépine association, and the Parc naturel régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale.

As for the flora, the quarries host many rare plants, including local wild orchids that are regularly spotted and recorded.



Orchis Abeille



Hibou Grand Duc

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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.



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