



- A chine (coastal ravine) found on the south west coast of the island, occupied by the Blackgang Chine Theme Park.
- Claims to be the **oldest theme park** in the UK, having opened its gates in **1843** to holiday makers from the mainland<sup>1</sup>.
- It once occupied the land partially within the chine of the same name. Over time this unprotected section of the south west coast of the island, which is largely made up of **gault clay** (known as blue slipper on the Island) has been eroded both by the actions of the sea and by sub-aerial processes.
- An estimated **400m** of land has been lost to the sea since **1940** and after years of landslips, the chine is almost unrecognisable today, resembling instead a large area of clay spoil held within a number of landslip systems<sup>2</sup>.
- The result of this is that the theme park itself has had to **retreat** further and further up the cliff face, and finding new locations for existing rides and features continues to be an annual problem.
- A major **landslip in January 1994** resulted in the loss of a large section of the park and the view from the car park on Blackgang Road allows one to see the remnants of old rides and masonry in the cliff debris below<sup>3</sup>.
- It has remained a family business, with the descendants of the original owner, Alexander Dabell, managing the park today<sup>4</sup>.

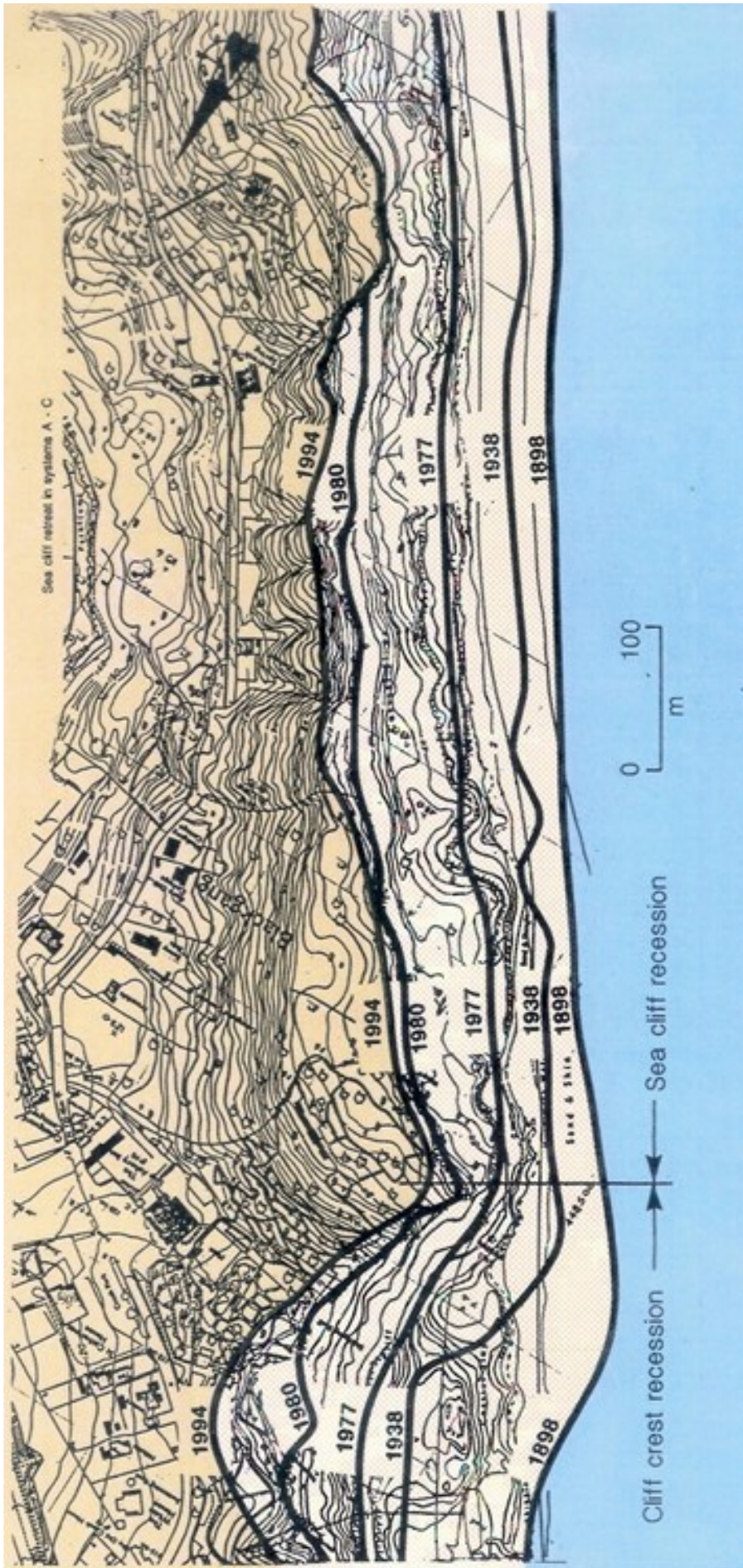
## References

<sup>1</sup> [The history of Blackgang Chine – the UK's oldest theme park](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Blackgang Chine – UK Fossil Collecting \(ukfossils.co.uk\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [HERITAGE: 25 years on: Blackgang's huge landslip | Isle of Wight County Press](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Simon Dabell: Making it work with four generations looking down... - Island Life Magazine](#)



Unknown source