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Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris: restoration project BRGM and the public body in charge of conservation and restoration of Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral have signed a research and development agreement.

The fire that destroyed Notre Dame cathedral on 15 April 2019 caused extensive damage to stone parts of the building.

Restoration therefore requires new stones that are compatible with the building, in larger quantities than those usually required for maintaining and restoring historical monuments

To meet this need, the public body and BRGM have established a research and development programme to **identify, characterise and select new stones that are aesthetically and physically compatible with the damaged stones**. This programme will result in a methodological reference guide applicable to the cathedral, which can also be used for other buildings in the Paris area.



Quarry extracting limestone (© S.Andrieu - BRGM)

The research methodology includes geological investigations in quarries and laboratory tests on stone samples. The programme initiated in July 2020 brings together geologists, sedimentologists, geomaticians and laboratory technicians from BRGM. It also involves the Ministry of Culture's Historic Monuments Research Laboratory (LRMH) for its in-depth knowledge of the cathedral's stone.

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The original stone was extracted from the subsoil of Paris. It consists of limestone of the Lutetian age, a geological stratum formed 41 to 48 million years ago. There are outcrops of this type in many parts of the Paris Basin, the largest of the three French sedimentary basins, covering most of the northern half of France with an area of about 110,000 km². Building stone is still extracted today from this basin in about ten quarries north of Paris, in the Oise and Aisne departments. The Lutetian limestone results from a complex sedimentation process which will be explored as part of the programme signed between the public body and BRGM to identify the characteristics of stones suitable for the cathedral restoration.

The study programme is scheduled for completion in mid-2021 and will focus first on active quarries, then on unexploited deposits that could, if necessary, provide the site with stone compatible with existing cathedral stone.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC BODY IN CHARGE OF THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL IN PARIS

Under the law of 29 July 2019, the public body in charge of the conservation and restoration of Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral was established on 1 December 2019. This body is chaired by General Jean-Louis Georgelin. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, it conducts, coordinates and carries out studies and operations contributing to the conservation and restoration of the cathedral. It also has the task of enhancing the value of the site and the trades and know-how that contribute to it. Further information is available at www.rebatirnotredamedeparis.fr and news of the construction site can be found at: @Rebatirnotredamedeparis on Facebook and Instagram

ABOUT BRGM

BRGM, the French geological survey, is France's reference public institution for Earth Science applications in the management of surface and subsurface resources and risks. It operates as a public industrial and commercial institution, reporting to the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Its programmes focus on scientific research, supporting public policies and international cooperation. It undertakes research under contract with industrial sectors and businesses of every size. More information on www.brgm.eu and on [@BRGM_fr](https://twitter.com/BRGM_fr)

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