



# International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits

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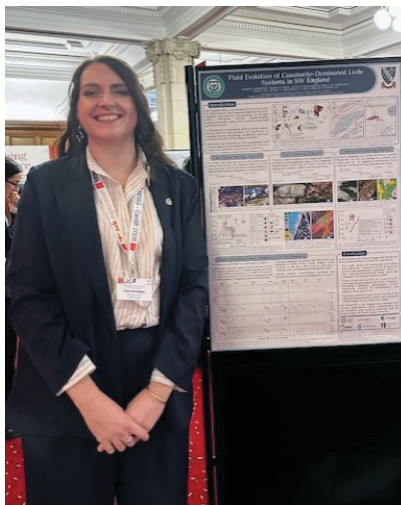
## THE 48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER MEETING OF THE MINERAL DEPOSITS STUDIES GROUP

The Mineral Deposits Studies Group (MDSG) convened its 48<sup>th</sup> annual winter conference at Cardiff University (UK) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2026, bringing together approximately 160 researchers and industry professionals, including around 50 students. The meeting, organised by Dr James Lambert-Smith, highlighted current advances in mineral deposits research and the growing importance of sustainable resource development.

The MDSG, affiliated with the Geological Society of London, the Mineralogical Society, and the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3), promotes the study of mineralisation processes and related disciplines. Its annual conference rotates across the UK and Ireland, and this year the conference in Cardiff was generously supported by 15 sponsors, including industry partners and IAGOD.

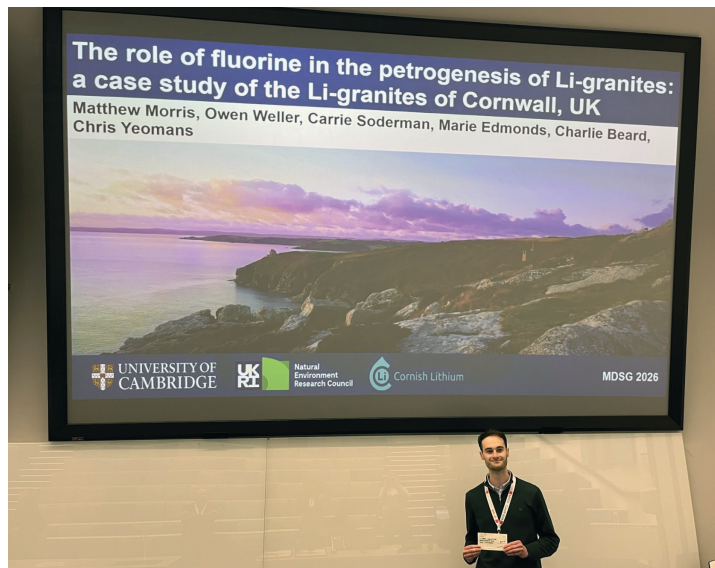
The 2026 programme featured thematic sessions on the circular economy, sustainable resource extraction, magmatic–hydrothermal systems, granite-hosted mineralisation, advances in exploration geology, and rare earth element enrichment in supergene and sedimentary environments. The programme highlighted the wide range of research taking place to meet society's increasing global demand for critical minerals.

Keynote presentations on the opening day included an updated assessment of mineral prospectivity in the Arabian Shield by **Dr James Davey** of SRK Consulting, and new insights into porphyry copper deposit formation linked to flat-slab subduction by **Professor Thomas Lamont** of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (USA). On the second day, **Professor Frances Wall** discussed pathways towards a circular economy for critical minerals, while **Dr Martin Li** presented on the formation of regolith-hosted heavy rare earth element deposits through weathering processes. Dr Li is the 2026 MDSG Early Career Research Distinguished Lecturer and will deliver a series of talks across the UK and Ireland throughout the year. If you are based at a UK or Irish university and are interested in hosting Dr Li, please get in touch.



Kiara Brooksby, University of Exeter - prize for best student poster, sponsored by Rio Tinto.

Student participation remained a central component of the meeting, with many poster and oral presentations, including several first-time presenters. Awards were presented to **Kiara Brooksby** (University of Exeter, UK) for best student poster, **Matthew Morris** (University of Cambridge, UK) for best student talk, and **Andrés Ojeda Sepúlveda** (Natural History Museum, UK) for best student mineral systems presentation. The prizes were sponsored by Rio Tinto and Halliburton. **Zindiswa Alex-Eyitene** (University of Leicester, UK) won the MDSG 2026 Best Student Master's Level Project, sponsored by the Applied Mineralogy Group, for the project titled 'The use of phlogopite as an indicator mineral in Ni-Cu sulfide exploration in NE Scotland'.



Matthew Morris, University of Cambridge – prize for best student talk, sponsored by Rio Tinto.

MDSG closed the meeting by thanking **Dr Katie McFall**, the outgoing Chair, for her efforts and dedicated leadership during her time in the role, recognising her significant effort to strengthen the group's community and advance its scientific mission. Following the conference, two technical workshops were delivered by MSA Group and SRK Consulting, focusing on mineral resource estimation and prospectivity mapping within a mineral systems framework.



Andrés Ojeda Sepúlveda, Natural History Museum – prize for best student mineral systems talk, sponsored by Halliburton.

The next MDSG winter conference will be in Belfast in early January 2027. More information about the group can be found at <https://mdsg.org.uk>.

**Steven Hollis**, University of Edinburgh  
**Holly Elliott**, British Geological Survey