

Programme for upcoming meeting
New Horizons in Forensic Geoscience, Burlington House, London, 4-5 December 2023
GSL-FGG and IUGS-IFG



New Horizons in Forensic Geoscience: The Bedrock of International Security in Minerals, Mining, Metals, Murders and the Missing

A forensic geology joint meeting between GSL-FGG and IUGS-IFG
The Geological Society of London, Burlington House, 4-5 December 2023

Monday 4 December 2023

13:00-14:00. Drinks reception and registration in lower library.

14:00-14:10. Welcome by GSL-FGG Chair, Prof Lorna Dawson.

14:10-14:30. Launch of 'A Guide to Forensic Geology' (copies available for purchase) and an overview of the history and development of GSL-FGG and IUGS-IFG, Dr Laurance Donnelly, Chair IUGS-IFG.

14:30-15:30. Session 1. Search Operations. Session Chairs: Dr Alastair Ruffell and Dr Jamie Pringle.

14:30-14:50. Keynote Guest speaker, Murray Haynes, National Crime Agency, UK National Search Adviser.

14:50-15:30. Various submitted presentations on ground searches for burials.

15:30-16:00. Coffee break and poster session.

16:00-17:00. Session 2. Minerals, Mining and Metals Crimes. Session Chairs: Prof Duncan Pirrie and Dr Laurance Donnelly.

16:00-16:20 Keynote Guest speaker, Fabio Salvador, Brazilian Federal Police and The Clean Gold Programme.

16:20-17:00. Various submitted presentations on minerals, mining, and metals crimes.

Break: 17:00-17:30

17:30-18:30. Poster presentation and drinks reception in the lower library. Three minutes at every poster for a short presentation. Voting box for community assessment of poster prize.

18:45. Introduction of guest speaker. Session Chair: GSL-FGG Chair, Prof Lorna Dawson.

19:00-20:00. Evening public guest presentation. Jodi Webb, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Ground Search and Geological Trace Evidence in the US system. Including 15 minutes of panel Q and A.

Close 20:00. Close of day's events at Burlington House by GSL-FGG Chair Prof Lorna Dawson.

Tuesday 5 December 2023

09:00-09:10. Welcome by IUGS-IFG Chair, Dr Laurance Donnelly.

09:10-10:10. Session 3. Geological Trace Evidence. Chair: Prof Ruth Morgan.

09:10-09:25. Invited speaker: Mr Gary Pugh, UK Forensic Science Regulator.

09:25-10:10. Panel discussion on the evaluation of geological trace evidence, including comparisons across different legal systems with a focus on adversarial legal systems.

10:10-10:30. Coffee break

10:30-11:30. Session 4. A Human Taphonomic Facility for the UK? Chair: Prof John Cassella.

11:00-11:15. Invited speaker: Prof Roelof-Jan Oostra, Amsterdam, UMC.

11:15-11:05. Panel discussion on human taphonomy and geological information assisting in its use as intelligence and evidence.

11:05-12:00. Various submitted talks on the topics of geological trace evidence and taphonomy.

12:00-12:15. Close of meeting by IUGS-IFG Chair, Dr Laurance Donnelly and the IUGS-IFG Raymond Murray Award.

12:15-12:30. Hand over from Prof Lorna Dawson (outgoing chair) to new incoming GSL-FGG Chair and Committee, and presentation of poster prizes and GSL-FGG Award.

Contact: Prof Lorna Dawson, Chair GSL-FGG, lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk

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Overview

The Forensic Geoscience Group of the Geological Society of London (GSL-FGG) and the International Union of Geological Sciences, Initiative on Forensic Geology (IUGS-IFG) are offering a forum where contributors from the UK and internationally, can present and debate the results of recent research and operational case studies in forensic geology. In addition, this event will demonstrate where forensic geology has delivered to policy and practice with sessions on regulation and the law. The event will also focus on minerals, mining and metal crimes, search operations, geological trace evidence and policy. We anticipate this event attracting international delegates and will encourage this by enabling livestreaming of some of the presentations. Suppliers of equipment, software and services will also be invited to attend. The meeting therefore represents an invaluable opportunity for practitioners and researchers to exchange information about recent global developments in forensic geology.

This meeting will capture interest across the geological, forensic, law enforcement, environmental science, mining, minerals, metals and archaeological communities, with those working in the fields of serious crime investigation, search, law and mining crime. Operational case studies from industry and law enforcement are encouraged. Student poster presentations are very much welcomed, and prizes will be awarded.

Conference convenors

Prof Lorna Dawson, Chair, GSL-FGG, Head of Centre for Forensic Soil Science, James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH and Professor, Forensic Science, Pharmacy and Life Sciences, RGU, Aberdeen, AB10 7G. Lorna.dawson@hutton.ac.uk

Dr Laurance Donnelly, Chair, IUGS-IFG, Chief Geologist and Head of Technical Department, AHK International, Kings Business Park, Kings Drive, Prescot, L34 1PJ. laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com

Dr Alastair Ruffell, Treasurer, GSL-FGG School of the Natural, Built Environment, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN. a.ruffell@qub.ac.uk

Prof John Cassella, Forensic Science, Department of Life Science, Faculty of Science, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo, Republic of Ireland, F91 YW50. John.Cassella@ATU.ie

[Reserve your place at the meeting](#)

A form will be provided after you have booked your place, to submit an abstract for your proposed presentation.

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