



CRITICAL MINERALS ASSOCIATION (UK)

MAY 2025

MINISTER JONES VISITS SOUTH WEST AHEAD OF
UPDATED CRITICAL MINERALS STRATEGY

US AND UK SIGN LANDMARK TRADE AGREEMENT

CMA (UK) PUBLISHES PAPER ON ESG RISKS &
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE UK LITHIUM SECTOR



APRIL 2025

Welcome to the CMA (UK) Monthly Newsletter, featuring updates on the critical minerals space. Read on for:

- UK APPG for Critical Minerals Celebrates CLIMATES Programme
- UK Modern Industrial Strategy in Final Stages before Release
- Minister Jones Visits Cornwall Ahead of Critical Minerals Strategy
- CMA (UK) Paper on ESG Opportunities in the UK Lithium Sector
- US & UK Sign Landmark Trade Deal including Reduction of Tariffs
- UK and India Sign Landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- US and Ukraine Sign Minerals Deal after Months of Negotiation
- CMA (UK) Speaks at Rethinking Materials Summit in London
- Met4Tech Publishes Landmark Circular Economy Roadmaps
- Less Common Metals to Establish Strategic Presence in France
- Register for Uni of Exeter & UNECE Webinar on Circular Economy
- Register to Attend WIM UK's Event on Rare Earth Geopolitics
- Bloomberg Releases 2025 Global Li-Ion Supply Chain Rankings
- News Round Up: Cobalt, Copper, Graphite, Lithium, Nickel, Manganese, Rare Earth Elements, Tin, Tungsten, Vanadium
- Events Calendar 2025

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Would you like to feature in a future edition?
Contact our editor Eileen at eileen@criticalmineral.org



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UK APPG FOR CRITICAL MINERALS CELEBRATES CLIMATES PROGRAMME

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On 23 April, the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Critical Minerals welcomed over 100 people to Parliament to showcase and celebrate the work of Innovate UK's Circular Critical Materials Supply Chain (CLIMATES) programme.

Since 2023 CLIMATES has provided £15m in grant funding (resulting in £200m in co-investments) for UK-based rare earth projects, with a focus on developing primary and secondary supply chains. Projects include Ionic Technologies, Less Common Metals, HyProMag, Minviro, and the Camborne School of Mines. Event speakers included APPG Chairs Noah Law MP, Perran Moon MP, and Baroness Northover; Grace Humphries, Department for Business & Trade; and Mike Biddle, Director of Net Zero at Innovate UK.

An article about the event is now available on our website.

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UK INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY IN FINAL STAGES

2

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has announced that Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy is entering its final stages of policy analysis. It incorporates feedback from the November 2024 consultation, as well as from advisory forums and months of regional and international engagements.

As announced by Rachel Reeves, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Strategy is expected to be published in June 2025 in alignment with the multi-year Spending Review. It will focus support on eight key sectors of comparative advantage as launchpads for the UK's future growth.

It is expected to address reducing barriers to trade, streamlining regulation, crowding in investment, and creating a pro-business environment across the UK. It is also expected to recognise the importance of security of supply and national resilience, and will outline necessary interventions to secure the sovereignty of supply chains within sector plans.

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Invest 2035:

The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy

MINISTER JONES VISITS PROJECTS IN CORNWALL

Ahead of the release of the updated UK Industrial Strategy and Critical Minerals Strategy, the Minister of State for the Department and Business and Trade, Sarah Jones, travelled down to the South West of England to meet industry.

Her tour included visits to the Camborne School of Mines, a world-leading institution for geoscience, mining research and education, as well as Cornish Metals, Cornish Lithium, Cornwall Resources Limited, and Imerys British Lithium.

In a statement on LinkedIn, Minister Jones said: "We packed a lot into two days, and seeing the UK's incredible industry in action highlights the importance of this government's strategy - and our modern industrial Strategy - to bolster these sectors for the long term, bringing growth to key communities across the UK."

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CMA (UK) ESG WORKING GROUP LAUNCHES REPORT

4

On 9 May, the CMA (UK)'s ESG Working Group launched its latest paper on 'ESG in the UK Lithium Sector: Risks and Opportunities for Developing a Domestic Integrated Supply Chain', co-authored by Eileen Maes (CMA UK) and Adriana Zamora (Minviro).

Building upon 2021 and 2022 ESG recommendations, the paper considers recent legislative and strategic developments, including the refreshed UK Critical Minerals Strategy, the UK Industrial Strategy (Invest 2035), the EU Battery Regulation, and the EU Critical Raw Materials Act.

On 21 May, Eileen hosted a launch webinar, featuring in-depth discussions with Jordan Lindsay (Minviro), Noah Law MP, and Fiona Cessford (SRK Consulting), outlining the report's findings and opportunities for ESG in the UK.

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Report Launch

The UK stands at a pivotal moment in its economic history. It has the opportunity to establish itself as a responsible supplier of lithium - a critical mineral for renewable technologies that will drive the UK's Green Industrial Revolution.



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All-Party Parliamentary Group for
Critical Minerals





US & UK ANNOUNCE BREAKTHROUGH TRADE DEAL

5

On 8 May, a UK-US trade agreement was announced, securing immediate job protection and tariff reductions for British industry, particularly in the automotive and steel sectors. The deal lays a strategic foundation for future collaboration in high-tech industries reliant on critical minerals, including advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and nuclear energy.

Reduced tariffs on the UK's electric vehicle (EV) exports, as well as zero tariffs on steel and aluminium exports, are expected to catalyse greater domestic investment in critical mineral refining and processing infrastructure. Preferential treatment under Section 232 will also enhance the UK's eligibility for U.S. procurement and co-financing schemes.

Check out the CMA (UK)'s analysis of the deal and its implications, written by our Political Analyst, Elliott Trickey.

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UK-US Trade Deal:

Implications for the Critical Minerals Sector

Written by Elliott Trickey, Political Analyst, CMA (UK)





UK & INDIA SIGN LANDMARK FREE TRADE DEAL

6

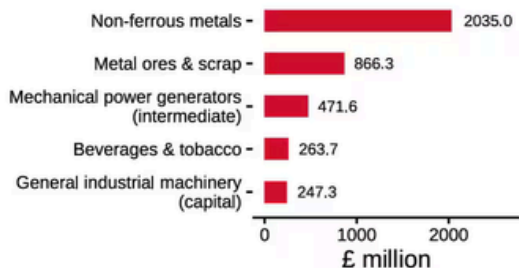
On 6 May, the UK and India signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA), concluding 15 rounds of negotiations since 2022. It is expected to further strengthen the UK-India strategic partnership through increased bilateral trade, projected to reach \$34 billion annually by 2040.

The FTA removes tariffs on 99% of India's exports and, within a decade, 85% of UK exports. This applies to high-growth sectors outlined in the UK's Industrial Strategy, namely advanced manufacturing of medical devices, electrical machinery, automotives and aerospace applications.

Further UK benefits will materialise through greater access to India's procurement market, collaborative innovation and R&D opportunities, and reduced barriers to trade including jointly developed regulations and safeguarding against unfair practices such as supply-side dumping.

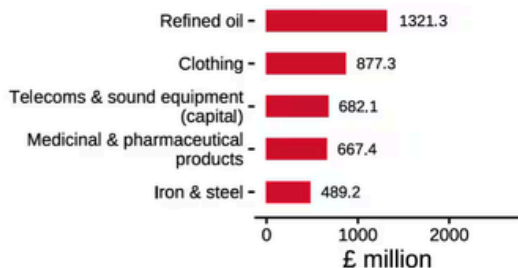
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The top 5 UK goods exports, in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2024, to India



Source: ONS, February 2025

The top 5 UK goods imports, in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2024, from India



Source: ONS, February 2025



US & UKRAINE SIGN MONUMENTAL MINERALS DEAL

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After months of fraught negotiations, Kyiv and Washington signed a minerals deal in Washington on 30 April, which continues to be heavily promoted by US President Trump.

The deal includes the creation of a Reconstruction Investment Fund (to become active on 23 May) that will receive funds from new mining licenses in Ukraine and in return, invest in mineral projects. US officials have framed the deal as a sign of the US's 'lasting support for Ukraine.'

According to the Kyiv Independent, "[p]revious iterations of the deal were viewed by many to be exploitative of Ukraine's natural resources, state institutions, and infrastructure. The latest version appears to be much more favorable to Kyiv."

The full text of the agreement was released by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, and is available to read online.

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CMA (UK) SPEAKS AT RETHINKING MATERIALS SUMMIT

From May 13-14, Rethinking Materials hosted its premier summit at Hilton London Bankside, featuring over 100 speakers representing 34 countries. This two-day event welcomed C-suite decision makers to discuss scaling innovative materials and solutions for circular systems.

Our CEO and co-founder, Kirsty Benham, spoke on achieving resilient and diversified supply chains with a panel of experts include Deputy Director of Global Cooperation at the OECD, Karim Dahou. Key take-aways from the conversation included supporting systems change through combining public-private investment partnerships, and diversifying funding channels to avoid innovation's 'Valley of Death'.

Other solutions included redefining waste as an economically viable resource, devising and enforcing complementary regulation, and gathering more recycling data to hold businesses accountable and provide benchmarks for governments.

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MET4TECH PUBLISH LANDMARK CIRCULAR ECONOMY ROADMAPS

On 19 May, Met4Tech published two landmark circular economy roadmaps for both rare earth elements (REE) in permanent magnets and lithium-ion batteries. One of five centres of excellence in the UK, Met4Tech is funded through the UK's largest circular economy research endeavour by DEFRA and UKRI.

Led by the University of Exeter in collaboration with other institutions, the roadmaps address the UK's near 100% import reliance on technology metals and the lack of a singular point of reference to move forward. They outline actions and strategies to transform the current linear system by 2050, setting measurable targets along the route. From responsible sourcing to recycling, the roadmaps adopt a whole value chain approach, revolutionising the circular economy for some of our most critical raw materials.

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Met4Tech

**Circular Economy
Roadmap Report**
for Rare Earth Elements
(REE) in Permanent
Magnets





LCM IN FRANCE TO SUPPORT EU SUPPLY CHAINS

10

Less Common Metals (LCM), a UK-based manufacturer specialising in rare earth metals and complex alloy systems, have established a strategic presence in France to support the growth of UK and European Union (EU) supply chains.

LCM has proposed a project investment of €110 million to build a plant in Lacq for the production of both light and heavy rare earth metals and alloys.

"Choosing France for this strategic expansion marks an important milestone in our mission to develop a robust and complementary rare earth supply chain for the Western World," said Grant Smith, Chairman of LCM. "France's strong support, robust industrial base, collaborative research environment, and strategic positioning within Europe align closely with our vision to invest in critical materials development and build alternative supply chains."

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INTERNATIONAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY WEBINAR

11

On 24 June, the University of Exeter and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will host an international webinar exploring the opportunities and challenges of implementing the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS). The event is part of the UK ICE-SRM Centre's ongoing work to support the voluntary adoption of international good practices across sectors.

The webinar will examine practical applications of the UNRMS in supporting circular economy strategies, transparency, and sustainability reporting within resource-intensive industries. Key themes will include the integration of classification systems, cross-sector collaboration, and the role of minerals in sustainable development.

The session will feature academic experts and senior industry representatives from Brazil, CBMM, and the International Council of Metals and Mining (ICMM), followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A session.

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WIM UK TO HOST SESSION ON RARE EARTH GEOPOLITICS

On 26 June, Women in Mining UK (WIM UK) and Pinsent Masons are co-hosting a panel discussion in London exploring the strategic role that rare earth elements (REEs) plays in today's geopolitical landscape, including the race for defence technology, digital innovation, and green energy.

This marks the third session in their 'Digging Deep' series, that aims to convene experts from across the supply chain to confront complex challenges at the nexus of industry, government and international relations. This session in particular will bring together miners, geopolitical experts, and specialists in export regulations.

With global tensions emerging from recent US actions and the war in Ukraine, the discussion offers a timely opportunity to hear insights and spark dialogue on the forces reshaping the mining sector.

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Pinsent Masons

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M IN MINING

#WIMADVOCATE #WIMINSPIRE

2025 GLOBAL LI-ION BATTERY SUPPLY CHAIN RANKING

On 13 May, BloombergNEF released its annual Global Lithium-Ion Battery Supply Chain Ranking, assessing 30 countries on their potential to build a secure, reliable, and sustainable supply chain.

China outperformed Canada to earn the top spot, driven by low commercial electricity prices, expanding infrastructure, and faster progress in scaling manufacturing. The biggest movers were Brazil and Indonesia.

Of the 11 European countries ranked, only the Czech Republic and Turkey improved. Hungary and Finland saw the largest declines, while the UK remained stable in 12th place. Bloomberg assesses that Europe risks falling behind emerging markets due to a lack of targeted interventions on barriers such as permitting and operational costs.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

The following news articles from Argus Media, Mining Weekly, Mining Magazine, Financial Times, and others, provide an overview of critical mineral mining for:

- Cobalt
- Copper
- Graphite
- Lithium
- Nickel
- Manganese
- Rare Earth Elements
- Tin
- Tungsten
- Vanadium

The Critical Minerals Association (UK) takes no credit for any articles and makes no endorsement of any of the content.

Cobalt

- Africa
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo [14.05.25]
 - DRC government states it may impose cobalt export curbs after the existing four-month ban ends.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo: CMOC Group [21.05.25]
 - China's CMOC Group calls on the DRC to lift cobalt export bans due to expire in June.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
 - United Kingdom: Cobalt Holdings [12.05.25]
 - Cobalt Holdings targets June for largest UK mining IPO in over two years.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Magna Terra [15.05.25]
 - Magna Terra announces exploration plans at the Humber copper-cobalt project in Newfoundland.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Legacy Minerals Holdings Ltd. [13.05.25]
 - Legacy Minerals files exploration license application for Australian nickel-cobalt deposit.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Copper

- Africa

- Tanzania: Resources Mining Corporation Ltd [19.05.25]
 - Resource Mining sends soils and auger samples from its Mpanda Copper-Gold project for laboratory assessment.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Zambia: EPointZero [23.05.25]
 - Mopani Copper Mines to be decarbonised by International Resources Holding (IRH) following signing of MoU by EPointZero and IRH.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

- North America

- Canada: FireFly Metals Ltd [07.05.25]
 - FireFly Metals drilling results show high grade copper-gold extensions at its Green Bay Project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- USA: COMEX [23.05.25]
 - COMEX copper stocks outperform LME copper for the first time since 2022.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

- South America

- Ecuador: Solaris Resources Inc [21.05.25]
 - Solaris Resources to receive \$200 million from financing deal to advance its Warintza copper-gold project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Graphite

- Africa
 - Madagascar: NextSource Materials Inc [16.05.25]
 - NextSource Materials plans Phase 2 expansion of its Molo Graphite mine.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - Mozambique: Syrah Resources Ltd [16.05.25]
 - Syrah Resources to restart operations at its Balama graphite mine after force majeure in December 2024.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - USA: Graphite One Inc [09.05.25]
 - Graphite One to apply for permits following successful Bankable Feasibility Study.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - USA: International Graphite Ltd [19.05.25]
 - International Graphite white paper submission receives positive feedback from Department of Defense.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Lincoln Minerals Ltd [22.05.25]
 - Purification test results at Lincoln Minerals' Kookabara Project confirms battery grade standard graphite.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Lithium

- Africa
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo [14.05.25]
 - KoBold Metals have agreed on a framework to buy AVZ's interests in the Manono lithium deposit.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Europe
 - Finland: Sibanye-Stillwater [12.05.25]
 - SBSW increase estimated costs of its Keliber lithium project by 17% to €783 million.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Patriot Battery Metals [13.05.25]
 - Patriot announce increased resource estimates in Shaakichiuwaan project ahead of pre-feasibility study.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- South America
 - Argentina: Rio Tinto [20.05.25]
 - Argentina's government announces approval of Rio Tinto's Rincon project, the first of five awaiting approval under the RIGI framework.
 - [Read the article here](#)
 - Chile: Rio Tinto [19.05.25]
 - Rio Tinto agrees to \$900 million deal to acquire 49.99% stake in partnership with Codelco to develop Maricunga lithium project.

Manganese

- Africa
 - South Africa: Exxaro Resources Ltd [13.05.25]
 - Exxaro signs deal worth approximately £541m deal to acquire manganese assets to diversify portfolio.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - South Africa: Giyani Metals Corp [20.05.25]
 - Giyani Metals announces first shipment of high grade manganese from its demonstration plant in Johannesburg.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - China: Firebird Metals Ltd [12.05.25]
 - Chinese subsidiary of Firebird Metals, Hunan Firebird Battery Technology, successfully completes processing test work for Taza Metals technologies.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: Manganese X Energy Corp [14.05.25]
 - Manganese X shares encouraging Phase 2 preliminary test results.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: South32 [23.05.25]
 - South32 to resume shipping manganese following hiatus caused by Tropical Cyclone Megan.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Nickel

- Africa
 - Tanzania: Tembo Nickel Ltd. [15.05.25]
 - Construction at Kabanga nickel mine to commence in October, marking a milestone in the sector.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - Indonesia: PT QMB New Energy Materials Co. Ltd. [08.05.25]
 - Major nickel plant in Indonesia restarts after landslide in March suspended production.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - Canada: First Atlantic Nickel Corp. [07.05.25]
 - Second phase of drilling commences at Atlantic Nickel project in Newfoundland.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - United States: NewRange Copper Nickel [02.05.25]
 - Trump administration adds planned copper-nickel project to fast-track permitting list.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
 - United States: Talon Metals [13.05.25]
 - Talon announces significant sulphide discovery at Tamarack nickel-copper project in Minnesota.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Rare Earth Elements

- Asia

- China: Peak Rare Earths, Shenghe Resources [15.05.25]
 - China's Shenghe Resources to acquire Australia's Peak Rare Earths, including the Ngualla REE project in Tanzania.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Malaysia: Lynas Rare Earths Ltd [19.05.25]
 - Production of heavy REEs commences at Lynas Malaysia plant.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

- Europe

- Russia: Rosneft, Vostok Engineering [21.05.25]
 - Russia's Rosneft acquires Vostok Engineering, which holds the license for Tomtor in Siberia, the largest REE deposit in Russia.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

- Middle East

- Saudi Arabia: MP Materials, Ma'aden [14.05.25]
 - Memorandum of understanding signed with Saudi state miner Ma'aden to develop domestic REE supply chain.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

- North America

- United States: American Rare Earths Ltd [08.05.25]
 - Channel sampling shows high-grade REE mineralisation at Halleck Creek project in Wyoming.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Tin

- Africa
 - Morocco: Achmmach [06.05.25]
 - Xingye groups plans to acquire the Achmmach tin project in the south of Meknes.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Asia
 - Indonesia: Supply disruption fades [22.05.25]
 - Indonesia's refined tin exports returning to normal levels as authorities conclude investigation into corruption.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Tungsten

- North America
 - USA: Almonty [07.05.25]
 - Almonty Industries Inc. enters into offtake agreement to supply U.S. defence sector.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - Australia: Hatches Creek [19.05.25]
 - Tungsten mining exceed expectations in first tungsten resource for Hatches Creek.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

Vanadium

- Africa
 - South Africa: Shuka Minerals [21.05.25]
 - Shuka Minerals, currently finalising purchase of the Kabwe mine in Zambia, seals a secondary listing on JSE.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- North America
 - USA: Bureau of Land Management [13.05.25]
 - State department announces it will fast-track the permitting process for Velvet-Wood uranium and vanadium mine owned by TSX-V-listed Anfield Energy.
 - [Read the article here.](#)
- Oceania
 - New Zealand: Trans-Tasman Resources [16.05.25]
 - TTR have cleared first-phase of Fast-track process for the Taranaki VTM Iron Sands project.
 - [Read the article here.](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 2025

- Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) | **Minerals Planning Conference** | London, UK | 10 June
 - [Register here](#)
- Cornish Lithium | **UK Mining Conference in Cornwall** | Falmouth, UK | 11 - 12 June
 - [Register here](#)
- TransWorld Events | **E-Waste World Conference and Expo** | Frankfurt Messe, Germany | 11 - 12 June
 - [Register here](#)
- Canada House | **Canada - UK Business Summit** | London, UK | 25 June
 - [Register here](#)
- Women in Mining UK, Pinsent Masons LLP | **Digging Deep: Rare Earth Minerals and the Geopolitical Fault Lines** | London, UK | 26 June
 - [Register here](#)

Interested in upcoming events?

Contact eileen@criticalmineral.org

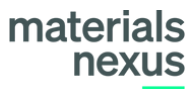
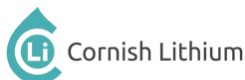
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Media production and marketing for the critical minerals and sustainability sectors.
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