

# Scientists discover more about the process of rock matrix diffusion

New research investigating crystalline rocks is helping us to understand the extent to which groundwater may access the rock matrix as it travels through fractures in the rock.

Contaminants can be carried by groundwater flowing in fractures through the rock, but processes such as diffusion into the adjacent rock may either temporarily delay the movement of contaminants, or prevent them from moving any further by effectively 'holding on to them'.