

Regional lead isotope study of a polluted river catchment: River Wear, Northern England, UK

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Abstract

High precision, lead isotope analyses of archived stream sediments from the River Wear catchment, northeast England (1986-88), provide evidence for three main sources of anthropogenic lead pollution; lead mining, industrial lead emissions and leaded petrol. In the upper catchment, pollution is totally controlled and dominated by large lead discharges from historic mining centres in the North Pennine Orefield ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios range from 2.0744 - 2.0954 and 0.8413 - 0.8554 respectively). In the lower catchment, co-extensive with the Durham Coalfield and areas of high population density, pollution levels are lower and regionally more uniform. Isotope ratios are systematically higher than in the upper catchment ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios range from 2.0856 - 2.1397 and 0.8554 - 0.8896 respectively) and far exceed values determined for the geogenic regional background. Here, the pollution is characterised by the atmospheric deposition of industrial lead and petrol lead. Lead derived from the combustion of coal, although present, is masked by the other two sources. Recent sediments from the main channel of the River Wear are isotopically indistinguishable from older, low order stream sediments of the North Pennine Orefield, indicating that contamination of the river by lead mining waste (up to several 1000 mg/kg Pb at some locations) continues to pose an environmental problem; a pattern that can be traced all the way to the tidal reach. Using within-catchment isotope variation and sediment lead concentrations, estimates can be made of the discharges from discrete mines or groups of mines to the overall level of lead pollution in the River Wear. As well as providing information pertinent to source apportionment and on-going catchment remediation measures, the database is a valuable resource for epidemiologists concerned with the health risks posed by environmental lead.

Keywords: Lead isotopes; Stream sediments; Pollution; Mining; Industrial emissions Leaded petrol; Source apportionment; England; Laser ablation-ICP-MS

1. Introduction

Using the catchment of the River Wear (Fig. 1), a study was undertaken to examine regional variation in the isotopic composition of lead in stream sediments in order to establish the principal sources of lead pollution in northeast England. Northeast England, like many other industrial and highly populated regions of the UK, is synonymous with coal and has a long history of underground and opencast mining, especially during the 19th and 20th centuries. Geologically the eastern part of the region encompasses the onshore Durham Coalfield and its North Sea offshore extensions. During the same period, the western part of the region, referred to as the North Pennine Orefield, was the UK's main producer of lead and zinc (Dunham 1990). Coal and non-metalliferous mining have now effectively ceased and other industries are in sharp decline. Despite ongoing remediation measures, centuries of intense industrial activity (steel making, ship building, mining, chemical processing) have left a legacy of environmental pollution. Streams and rivers in former lead mining areas have fine-grained sediments that contain more than 600 mg/kg Pb (British Geological Survey, 1996; Macklin et al., 1997; Hudson-Edwards et al., 1997; Lord & Morgan, 2003; Robson & Neal, 1997). Extensive areas in both the orefield and coalfield have soils with 100-300 mg/kg Pb and locally > 400 mg/kg Pb (McGrath & Loveland, 1992). Geochemical data for the city/urban areas of northeast England are less comprehensive but in Newcastle upon Tyne for example (population 250,000), lead in soils frequently exceeds UK Soil Guideline Values for residential (450 mg/kg Pb) and commercial land-use (750 mg/kg Pb) (Rimmer et al., 2006; DEFRA 2005). As yet the implications for public health, especially the concerns of low level lead neurotoxicity in young children (Canfield et al., 2003; Lanphear et al., 2005), have not been fully evaluated. However, one of the fundamental problems in determining health risk is source apportionment. In the case of lead, lead isotopes have proved extremely valuable in identifying the sources and pathways by which this metal enters the environment (Farmer et al., 1999; Gulson et al., 1994; Hansmann et al., 2000; Labonne et al., 2001; Monna et al., 1997). Potential anthropogenic sources

in northeast England (past and present) are numerous; the most important of which include local lead ores, leaded petrol, industrial emissions and coal combustion.

Previous lead isotope studies have focussed almost exclusively on the historically important North Pennine Orefield, either to elucidate the origin of the ores (Moorbath, 1962) or to provide information for archaeological investigations (Rohl, 1996). With the exception of two coal analyses for the Durham Coalfield (Farmer et al., 1999), there are no lead isotope data for areas of the River Wear catchment outside the confines of the North Pennine Orefield. The overall aim of this study therefore was to use high precision lead isotope analysis of stream sediments to identify the principal sources of lead pollution. In creating a lead isotope database, it was hoped the information would be a resource for future epidemiological studies where regional variation might provide a basis for assessing lead body burdens for people living in area.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Study area

The River Wear has a catchment area of approximately 1300km² and is one of several major river systems in northeast England (Fig. 1). It comprises (1) a western, upper catchment that includes part of the more extensive North Pennine Orefield (1600km²) and is characterised by substantial pollution from historical lead mining activities, and (2) a multi-sourced, polluted lower catchment that drains the highly populated, heavily industrialised Durham Coalfield to the east.

2.1.1 Upper catchment 'Orefield'

The upper catchment is underlain by the Carboniferous Limestone Series (limestones, shales, sandstones) and overlying Millstone Grit Series (predominantly sandstones) that rest unconformably upon an older, Lower Palaeozoic granite 'Weardale Granite'. The granite is not exposed at the surface but has been proved by drilling and geophysics (Dunham et al., 1961). A distinctive feature of the orefield is

the spatial zoning of ores, with an inner zone of lead, zinc and fluorspar located over the top of the granite (Fig. 1) surrounded by an outer zone of barite and lead (Dunham, 1990). Though disputed evidence exists for Roman mining, the upper Wear valley has been a centre of mining activity for the last 400 years (1665-1985) and accounts for 30% of the total recorded North Pennine Orefield production of 2.9 Mt lead. The ores were worked primarily from sub-vertical mineral veins of which several hundred are recorded. The range of fine-grained, stream sediment lead concentrations is extremely large (60 to 20,000 mg/kg Pb) with most streams having >250 mg/kg Pb which is several times greater than the expected geological background. Typical regional background concentrations for fine-grained sediment in streams draining unmineralised Carboniferous limestones are <35 mg/kg Pb and ≈100 mg/kg Pb for shales and sandstones (British Geological Survey, 1993, 1996).

2.1.2 Lower catchment 'Coalfield'

Downstream, the lower catchment is underlain by the Coal Measures; a thick sequence of shales, sandstones and coal seams that lie stratigraphically above the Carboniferous lithologies referred to above. This is the Durham Coalfield *sensu stricto*. As in the upper catchment, centuries of mining have left their environmental scar. Fine-grained stream sediment values range from ~60 to ~600 mg/kg Pb. However, in contrast to the highly variable lead concentrations in streams draining the orefield, there is a more even but nevertheless significantly elevated level of 100-200 mg/kg Pb in streams across most of the coalfield. Only in the relatively unworked, western fringe of the Durham Coalfield, where industrial activity has been least, is there a preponderance of streams with values <90 mg/kg Pb. In the absence of other evidence, the least contaminated streams are taken to be a good approximation of the regional lead background. The regional scale distribution of streams with fine-grained sediment containing 100-220mg/kg Pb is consistent with the concept of diffuse anthropogenic pollution (D'Arcy et al., 2000).

2.2 Samples

Use was made of 118 archived stream sediment samples collected from low order streams by the British Geological Survey during 1986-88 (British Geological Survey, 1996) and supplemented by 27 sediment samples (this study 1999-2001) from the main channel of the River Wear (Fig. 2; Table 1). Low order stream sediments (i.e. the fine-grained, <150 μm size clay and fine silt fractions) have the advantage over soil samples in averaging the lead over a much greater area. They comprise a well-mixed composite of eroded soil, weathered bedrock and chemical precipitates and, although the sampled area may vary from stream to stream, they tend to minimise the influence of very localised soil anomalies. The sampling methods used were those described by Plant (1971) and Plant and Moore (1979), and subsequently incorporated into the international standard for geochemical mapping (Darnley et al., 1995). Stream sediments collected using these protocols were considered satisfactory for revealing regional scale variation without recourse to a high-density soil survey involving 1000s samples. Moreover, the density of archived low order stream sediments was considered robust enough to detect important within-catchment variation. For completeness, the sampled area was extended to include adjacent parts of the Tyne and Tees river catchments. Samples from the main channel of the River Wear were taken by sediment suction pump (Lord & Morgan, 2003). This method was adopted because it facilitates the sampling of wider, more slowly flowing rivers in water depths up to 1m. It does not however take into account sediment accumulation rates, so the time span of contamination (years or decades) represented by the sample is unknown. In faster flowing, low order streams, the accumulation of fine-grained sediment is minimal and subject to shorter time scale changes. No attempt was made to take water samples or to recover suspended particulate matter for analysis.

To validate the isotopic composition of lead entering the streams from abandoned lead mines, 44 galena samples (lead ores) were collected from individual, well-documented, mineral veins in the North Pennine Orefield (Fig. 2; Table 1). Sampling was based on geological criteria relating to vein orientation and the relative age of mineral deposition (Dunham, 1990) to give a broader perspective on isotopic variation than had been possible from previous studies (Moorbath, 1962; Rohl, 1996).

To supplement the limited coal data (Farmer et al., 1999) and provide better control on the lead isotope composition of coal waste, use was made of unpublished

data for coal and shale samples from the Durham Coalfield (Pearson & Worrall pers.comm.).

The study benefited greatly in having total lead concentrations for all of the archived samples prior to isotopic analysis (British Geological Survey, 1996). Chemical analysis of the additional River Wear samples was carried out at the University of Sunderland and at a commercial laboratory (ACME, Canada).

2.3 Analytical procedures

High precision lead isotope analysis was performed by laser ablation, multi-collector, ICP mass spectrometry (LA-MC-ICP-MS). The sediment samples were prepared as 1cm diameter pressed powder discs using a styrene-wax binder (van Zyl, 1982). This provided a flat, even surface for laser ablation with the minimum degree of spalling. Ablation was carried out using a one-pass raster pattern over an area of 25mm² and a spot size of 300µm. For the galenas, ablation was carried out on fresh, cleavage fragments using the lowest possible laser fluence and a spot size of 30µm. To reduce fluctuations in ion intensities and signal spikes caused by variable degrees of vapourisation, a particle trap was mounted between the ablation cell and ICP.

Isotope ratio analysis was carried out using either a VG Elemental Axiom or P54 multi-collector ICP MS linked to a New Wave Research Microprobe II, 266 nm Nd:YAG laser ablation system. Instrumental mass bias was determined by simultaneous aspiration of a thallium solution through the laser cell (Longerich et al., 1987; Ketterer et al., 1991). Isobaric interference of ²⁰⁴Hg on ²⁰⁴Pb was corrected by reference to ²⁰²Hg.

For each analytical session (by day), multiple analyses of the Standard Reference Material NBS981 (in solution) were used to monitor instrument performance and allow normalization to internationally accepted values (Thirwell, 2002). Repeatability and overall uncertainty were assessed by laser analysis of an in-house reference material (urban soil: 407 mg/kg Pb) before and after each analytical session. Total, combined, overall uncertainties (2σ %) for the period of analysis (2001-2005) after quadratic error propagation are as follows: ²⁰⁶Pb/²⁰⁴Pb 0.113%; ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁴Pb 0.087%; ²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁴Pb 0.095%; ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb 0.070%; ²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁶Pb 0.033%.

Analyses provided by Pearson & Worrall (pers. comm.) were acquired using a Nu Plasma MC-ICP mass spectrometer in solution mode. All analyses were corrected for mass bias and Hg isobaric interference as described above, and normalized to NBS981 (Todt et al., 1996). Overall uncertainties (2σ %) for the period of analysis (May 1999-January 2000) are estimated as follows: $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ 0.030%; $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ 0.032%; $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ 0.032%.

3. Results and Discussion

Lead isotope analyses for the stream sediments and galenas are summarised in Table 1 and shown in Figs. 3 to 7. Also included in Table 1 are the unpublished data (Pearson & Worrall) for coal and shale samples from northeast England. Throughout the following discussion the terms ‘upper catchment and Orefield’ and ‘lower catchment and Coalfield’ are used synonymously. Absolute uncertainty errors (2 sigma) on the isotope ratios shown in Figures 3 to 7 are ± 0.0005 for $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ and ± 0.0006 for $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$.

3.1 Spatial Variation

The foremost feature of the stream sediment data is the strong lead isotope contrast between the Orefield and Coalfield (Fig. 3). Over the Orefield, $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios range from 2.0744 to 2.0954 and 0.8413 to 0.8554 respectively, thereafter increasing to 2.1397 and 0.8896 over the Coalfield. Given the large range of lead concentrations considered, this pattern is independent of lead concentration and represents a true picture of regional variation.

A second, equally significant feature is the degree of variation seen within the upper catchment. Here, the lowest $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios (< 2.083) are located within the inner zone of the North Pennine Orefield, directly above the top of the concealed Weardale Granite (see Fig. 1). Streams in the Rookhope and Stanhope valleys, in particular, define a cluster of noticeably low values. Outside this cluster, the stream sediments have higher $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios typical of the outer zones of the North Pennine Orefield. Within the outer zone, samples from the lower section of the

Bollihope valley, immediately downstream of mining activity, show a marked enrichment in ^{208}Pb and have unusually high $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios >2.091 . In both cases (Rookhope and Bollihope), the anomalously low and high $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios are a direct measure of the locally mined lead ores. Throughout the orefield there is excellent isotopic agreement between stream sediments and lead ores and, where mines have worked several veins with different isotope compositions, the sediments provide an average value (see section 3.2 for discussion). Because the upper catchment is wholly within the North Pennine Orefield, no stream can be regarded as being outside the influence of mineralization and hence the natural ‘geogenic’ background could not be unequivocally established.

Whilst considered outside the scope of this paper, the isotope data make an important contribution to theories concerning the origin of the lead ores. The apparent zonation noted above is in accordance with current metallogenic models for the North Pennine Orefield (Cann & Banks, 2001; Bouch et al., 2006). These invoke a channelling of lead-rich fluids (originating in adjacent sedimentary basins) inwards and upwards through the Weardale Granite. The development of galenas with low $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios in the upper Wear valley adds support to the assertion that the mineralizing fluids responsible for the deposition of these ores have leached part of their lead from the high U-Th, radiogenic, sub-surface granite (Brown et al., 1980; Bouch et al., 2006).

For the Coalfield, within-catchment variation ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 2.0856-2.1397, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 0.8554-0.8896) shows no obvious spatial correlation with opencast coal sites or the extensive spoil tips from underground coal workings. Many stream sediments have extremely high $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios (>2.100) that fall well outside the regional background (~ 2.088 - 2.098) as estimated for samples with lead concentrations $<90\text{mg/kg Pb}$, for streams on the western fringes of the Coalfield where coal extraction has been least. Neither does the range of $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios for stream sediments overlap with the range of $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios (2.058-2.085; Table 1) determined for Carboniferous coals or shales from NE England (Farmer et al., 1999; Pearson & Worrall pers.comm.). Thus the elevated levels of lead are not solely a function of the fluvial dispersal of finely ground coal waste from abandoned mine sites, and implies one or more additional anthropogenic sources. Given the diffuse nature of the regional distribution of lead, the most likely source of pollution is

atmospheric deposition (dry and wet aerosols) linked to industrial lead emissions and petrol lead, but also including a contribution of lead from centuries of coal combustion. A more detailed discussion of source apportionment is presented below.

3.2 River Wear Pollution Profile

Variation in the lead content of the River Wear sediments (Fig. 4, Table 1), from the highest sampling point on the river at Wearhead (Site 1) to the tidal reach near Sunderland (Site 27), a distance of 87km, suggests an exponential decrease in concentration due to the dilution of lead-rich mine waste by relatively uncontaminated sediment. At Wearhead (Site 1), mine waste from a large cluster of abandoned mines and associated smelt mills charges the river sediment with more than 6000 mg/kg Pb. Within 7 km downstream (Site 5), the lead concentration has fallen to less than 1000 mg/kg Pb. Such a sharp fall in concentration is attributed to a combination of dilution and the density settling of finely milled lead ore that gives exceptionally high levels of lead in the <150 µm sediment fraction at Sites 1 and 2. From Site 5 to Site 9, the Wear is joined by two major tributaries; Rookhope Burn and Stanhope Burn. Both valleys were the loci of extensive mining and smelting, and their contaminated sediment input raises the lead concentration in the main channel of the River Wear to >3500 mg/kg Pb. After an initial rapid fall in concentration downstream from Site 9, similar to that shown at Site 1, the lead concentration remains fairly constant at about 1200-1500 mg/kg Pb for a further 18km until Site 14. Thereafter there is a progressive decrease in concentration as the river flows through the Coalfield to a value of about 350 mg/kg Pb near the tidal reach (Site 27).

Combining the isotope and total lead data, important detail is revealed concerning the effect of specific tributaries on the source and level of lead pollution in the River Wear. Fig. 4 shows the co-variation in lead concentration and $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios for five consecutive river sections.

Section I (Sites 1-5: 0-7km)

Site 1, as mentioned above, reflects an intense level of pollution from a plexus of veins and mines around the old processing plant and waste dumps at Kilhope, where it

is estimated that more than 60,000 tonnes of lead concentrate were treated (Dunham, 1990). The isotopic composition ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 2.0865) is characteristic of the outer zone of the orefield in having a high $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio. Downstream from Site 1, the lead concentration continues to decrease as a result of sediment dilution but the isotope composition remains fairly constant. Thus Site 5 ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 2.0834) may be regarded as the end member isotope component of lead pollution in the River Wear from mines in the western, outer zone of the orefield.

Section II (Sites 6-9: 7-15km)

Between Sites 6 and 9, although there is a marked rise in lead concentration due to fresh inputs of mine waste from the Rookhope and Stanhope valleys, there is a steady fall in the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio. This is a result of the mixing between lead, as measured at Site 5 ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 2.0834), with lead from mines in the inner zone of the orefield characterised by lower $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios. The mean ratio for mine waste released into the Rookhope and Stanhope streams is 2.0783 (Table 1, samples 323486, 323461, Rh8 and Rh9). Using these two end member components, lead in the River Wear at Site 10 (1610 mg/kg Pb) comprises about 50% lead from mines in the Rookhope and Stanhope valleys.

Section III (Sites 10-14: 15-28km)

Between Sites 10 and 11 the Wear is joined by Bollihope Beck; a stream that brings in additional lead from an important cluster of mines close to its confluence with the River Wear. The mean Bollihope component ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 2.0920) as defined by samples BB2 and BB3 (Table 1) mixes with lead in the Wear to raise the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio to 2.0828 (Site 11). Applying similar reasoning, the Bollihope mine waste at this point on the River Wear constitutes ~18% of the total lead (1226 mg/kg Pb). Below Site 11 there is no further input of anthropogenic lead from the North Pennine orefield and the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio can be used as the isotopic end member component of mine-related pollution in the River Wear before it enters the Coalfield. Any changes further downstream are due to other anthropogenic sources. For the next 6.6km until Site 14, the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio remains relatively unchanged.

Section IV (Sites 15-23: 28-65km)

From Site 15 to Site 22, the sediment lead concentration slowly decreases to about 700 mg/kg Pb. This is accompanied however by a steady increase in the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio to approximately 2.0845. If this were due to dilution by relatively uncontaminated, local sediments (i.e. derived from the weathering of Coal Measure shales and sandstones), one would have expected the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio to remain fairly constant. This is not observed and suggests an increasing contribution from another source having a higher $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio. Given the regional pattern of isotopic variation shown by streams in the lower catchment, it is thought the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ increase is due to a steady input of diffuse anthropogenic pollution from tributaries throughout the abandoned Coalfield.

Section V (Sites 24-27: 65-87km)

For the final section of the Wear, there is a very sudden rise in the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio to 2.0882 (Site 24), followed by an equally sharp fall (Site 27) to a value similar to that of Site 23. The rise occurs as the River Wear enters the city of Durham. This could be due to either (1) an increased input of diffuse pollution or, (2) contamination by locally high levels of tetra-ethyl lead (TEL). TEL, the principal lead additive to UK petrol prior to it being phased out in the late 1990s, had an average $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ composition of ~ 2.189 for the period 1989-91 (based on $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ data from Sugden et al. (1993) recalculated according Haack et al. (2004)). Only 2-3 % of this lead would be needed to raise the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio to 2.088. Since the rate of river sedimentation is unknown, older inputs of TEL may also be present. However, taking an even lower $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio of ~ 2.16 for French-UK petrol for the period 1980-87 (based on $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ data from Veron et al. (1999) recalculated according Haack et al. (2004)), the same shift is evident. During this earlier period, the European manufacturer of TEL (Octel Co.) supplied both the UK and French markets (Monna et al., 1997). By contrast, in all cases, at least 10-20% of anthropogenic lead with a $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ range of ~ 2.10 - 2.12 , typical of the Coalfield, would be required to create the same isotopic shift. Whilst it is not possible to discriminate between these two hypotheses, a higher petrol lead component seems most probable in that it does not require a major change in sediment influx.

3.3 Source Apportionment

The following interpretation is based on information for the Wear catchment (this study), unpublished data for coal and shale from the Durham Coalfield (pers.comm. Pearson & Worrall), data for North Pennine lead ores (Rohl, 1996), UK coals (Farmer et al., 1999), peat and freshwater sediments (Farmer et al., 1997), industrial/urban aerosols in the UK and Western Europe (Sugden et al., 1993; Monna et al., 1997; Bollhöfer et al., 1999; Veron et al., 1999; Farmer et al., 2002; Haack et al., 2003; Noble et al., 2007) and UK leaded petrol (Sugden et al., 1993; Monna et al., 1997; Veron et al., 1999).

3.3.1 Orefield

Fig. 5 shows the co-variation in $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ for stream sediments and galenas (lead ores) in the upper Wear catchment 'Orefield'. It is evident that pollution of upper catchment streams is determined by the discharge of lead-rich waste from abandoned mines. The degree of correspondence in $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios between stream sediments and galenas is very high and there is no apparent indication of mixing with other sources. Theoretically one would expect to detect, albeit minor, a component of airborne pollution (petrol lead and/or coal lead) as observed by Farmer et al. (2002) for localities in Scotland or a component of global anthropogenic lead (Boutron et al., 1994). This is not observed. In the absence of such evidence we conclude that the archival stream sediments for the period 1986-88 only record the dominant North Pennine lead ore component. Weaker anthropogenic sources, if present, are masked. To detect and quantify the contribution of airborne pollution to the upper Wear catchment it will be necessary to use other media such as herbage, peat or undisturbed lake sediments. Galena samples with $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios <2.070 are from mineralised veins intersected by the Weardale borehole (Dunham et al., 1961). Although of geological interest, these veins were never economically exploited. Thus their ^{206}Pb -enriched isotopic signature is not reflected in the mine waste-polluted stream sediments of Rookhope Beck or other streams in the upper

Weardale valley that sit topographically above the sub-surface Weardale Granite (Fig. 1). With regard to the extent and significance of mine-related pollution, comparison of Figs. 4 and 5 clearly indicates that the environmental lead loadings of present day river sediments in the lower reaches of the River Wear (main channel) are dominated by discharges from abandoned mines in the North Pennine Orefield; up to 70km upstream.

3.3.2 Coalfield

Fig. 6 shows the corresponding co-variation in $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ for stream sediments in the lower Wear catchment 'Coalfield'. Previous work by Farmer et al. (1997, 1999, 2002) has shown that notwithstanding the withdrawal of leaded petrol and decreased coal consumption, the contribution from coal continues to affect the content and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios of atmospheric lead in Scotland and, by inference, the rest of the UK. Even allowing for scatter in the coal-shale data, streams in the Coalfield are not dominated by a coal lead component. Instead, excluding those few measurements that fall within the regional background ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 2.088-2.098), they define a linear array ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ~2.100-2.1398; $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ~0.8265-0.8896) that shows very little overlap with representative samples of coal and shale from the Durham Coalfield.

The Coalfield array (Fig 7) does however extend to higher $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios indicative of UK leaded petrol and includes the field for UK airborne particulate matter (Southampton and London) reported by Monna et al. (1997) for 1994-96 ($^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 2.100-2.175, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 0.865-0.911) and Veron et al. (1999) for 1968-96 ($^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ~0.882-0.907). Similar ratios have been found for present day airborne pollution in Germany, Japan and the UK (Monna et al., 1997; Noble et al., 2007). Such pollution is interpreted as a mixture of industrial lead, petrol lead and lead from the combustion of coal. As noted by Monna et al. (1997), the trend to lower ratios in the 1994-96 data probably reflects the withdrawal of leaded petrol allowing industrial sources to become more evident.

Discriminating between these three anthropogenic sources is far from easy. The problem is especially difficult for industrial lead for which there is no unique end-

member isotope composition and which varies from region to region depending upon local inputs. Data for industrial emissions, specifically for northeast England, are lacking but by comparability with airborne pollution in southern England for 1994-96 (Monna et al., 1997; Veron et al., 1999), industrial emissions in northern France for 1993-94 (Monna et al., 1997) and atmospheric deposition in Scotland for 1980-89 using an archival moss record (Farmer et al., 2002), it is reasonable to infer a similar range of values.

With regard to the petrol lead component, Fig. 7 shows the composition of UK leaded petrol for 1994-95 (Monna et al., 1997), the composition for 1989-91 (Sugden et al., 1993) and, for reference, the average of French-UK petrol for 1980-87 (Veron et al., 1999). In the case of data from Sugden et al. and Veron et al., $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios were estimated from measured $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios using parameters for the 'European Leaded Gasolines' regression given by Haack et al. (2004). For the period of interest therefore, UK leaded petrol lies on a linear extension of the Coalfield array at higher $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$, $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios.

The coal combustion end-member component is similarly hard to define. Individual UK coalfields show significant variation in the lead isotope composition of coal (Farmer et al., 1999). This complicates any attempt to assign a degree of certainty to the isotopic composition of resultant pollution. The data reported by Pearson and Worrall (this study) are the most comprehensive to date for the Durham Coalfield but do not account for the more radiogenic nature (i.e. higher ratios) of the stream sediment samples. We infer therefore that any contribution from coal combustion in the stream sediments is isotopically masked by contributions from industrial and petrol lead. As a consequence, the contribution of lead from the commercial and domestic burning of coal is difficult to estimate.

There remains the question of the geogenic component and its contribution to total lead isotope composition. Fine grained stream sediment is the product of soil erosion and surface weathering and will always carry a finite component of natural lead. In the case of the lower Wear catchment, the regional background provides an approximation of natural lead and, based on streams in areas with little history of coal mining, is unlikely to exceed 100mg/kg Pb and have a $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio <2.100 and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio <0.865 .

The best interpretation is that the Coalfield array is a mixing array between a coal lead component, comprising coal combustion lead and regional background lead, and a petrol lead component that includes an inferred but unknown proportion of industrial lead. The exact amount of petrol lead in any one stream sediment sample will depend upon many factors, not least, the proximity of the local catchment to major roads or urban centres. Thus, elevated levels of lead in the lower Wear catchment are considered to be a mixture of geogenic lead and three principal components of anthropogenic lead (petrol lead, industrial lead, coal combustion lead).

4. Conclusions

The study successfully demonstrates that stream sediments are a very effective sampling medium for determining regional variation in the isotope composition of environmental lead. As a result of differences in industrial activity, the upper and lower catchments of the River Wear are isotopically distinctive, allowing different sources of anthropogenic pollution to be identified and characterised. As expected, pollution in the upper catchment is controlled and dominated by waste from abandoned mines and smelter sites in the North Pennine Orefield. Furthermore, within-catchment variation due to natural variation in the isotope composition of the lead ores, allows one to trace the fluvial dispersal of lead from specific mines or groups of mines into the River Wear. In the lower catchment, the dispersal of finely divided coal/shale waste from abandoned coal workings does not appear to be a major source of lead pollution, either in terms of total concentration or isotope composition. Lead levels across the Durham Coalfield are lower than those of the upper catchment and display a more uniform, regional distribution. However they are significantly elevated above background levels, indicating a major source of anthropogenic pollution. Isotope ratios suggest that the pollution, as represented by the archival stream sediments, is dominated by variable amounts of petrol lead and lead from diverse industrial emissions. The presence of both components is attributed to the deposition of airborne particulate matter over extended periods of time. Because of their dominance they tend to mask the contribution of other anthropogenic sources. Since the stream sediment samples (as distinct from the River Wear samples) were collected prior to the phasing out of leaded petrol, the data must be interpreted

cautiously with respect to present day lead loadings. Nevertheless, the close isotopic agreement between 1999-2001 and pre-1990 sediment samples provides compelling evidence that contamination of the River Wear by lead mining waste continues to pose an environmental problem. Even at its tidal reach, the river carries an overwhelming lead isotope signature of the North Pennine Orefield. Given the similarity of northeast England to other regions of the world with long histories of coal and non-metalliferous mining, there is considerable scope for extending this type of work. The pollution of rivers by mine waste is a worldwide problem and source apportionment is an important factor in achieving effective remediation. Finally, it is hoped the data will stimulate more informed discussion by health authorities concerning lead in the environment and the use of stable lead isotopes in epidemiological studies.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to acknowledge numerous BGS and NIGL colleagues who have given valuable technical support throughout this study. Brian Young (University Durham) and David Banks (University Leeds) are especially thanked for providing samples of galena ores from the North Pennine Orefield. We are especially grateful to Graham Pearson (University Durham) for generously allowing use of unpublished coal and coal shale lead isotope data. Our appreciation is also extended to the two anonymous referees who did much to improve the paper and steer our interpretation. Publication for SRNC, LEA, NB, SFH and BAK is by permission of the Director, British Geological Survey, NERC.

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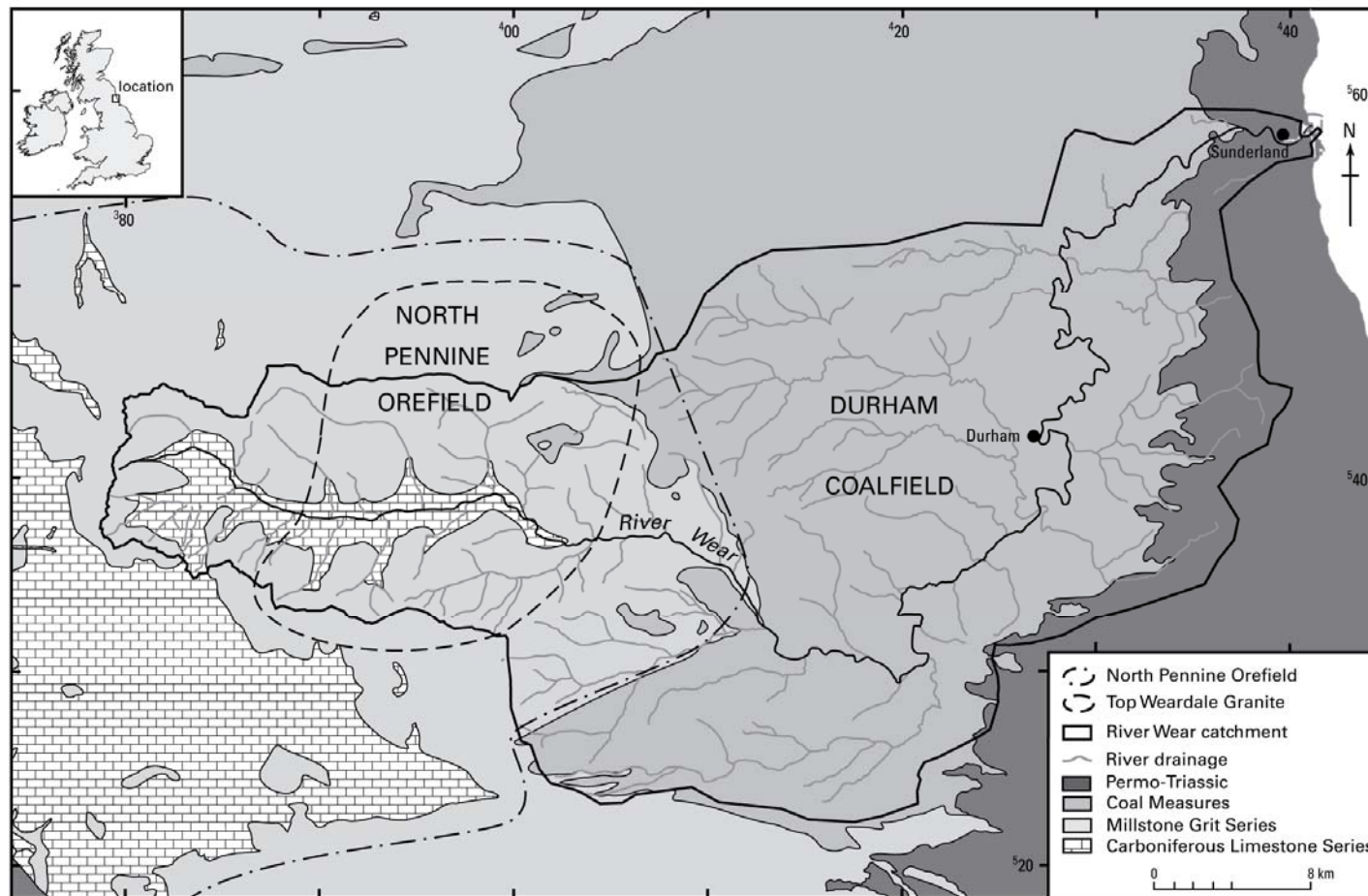


Figure 1 STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

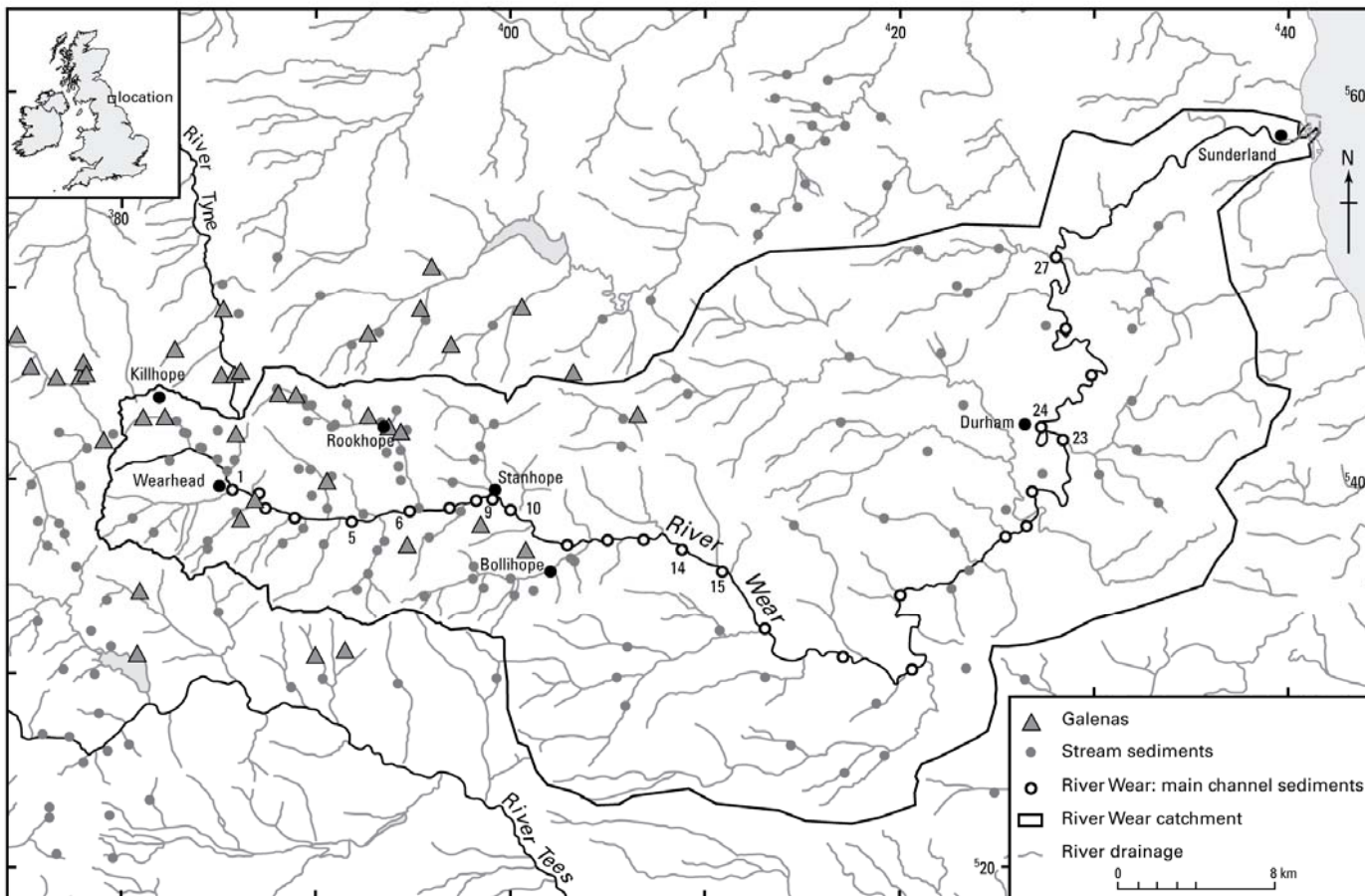


Figure 2 STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

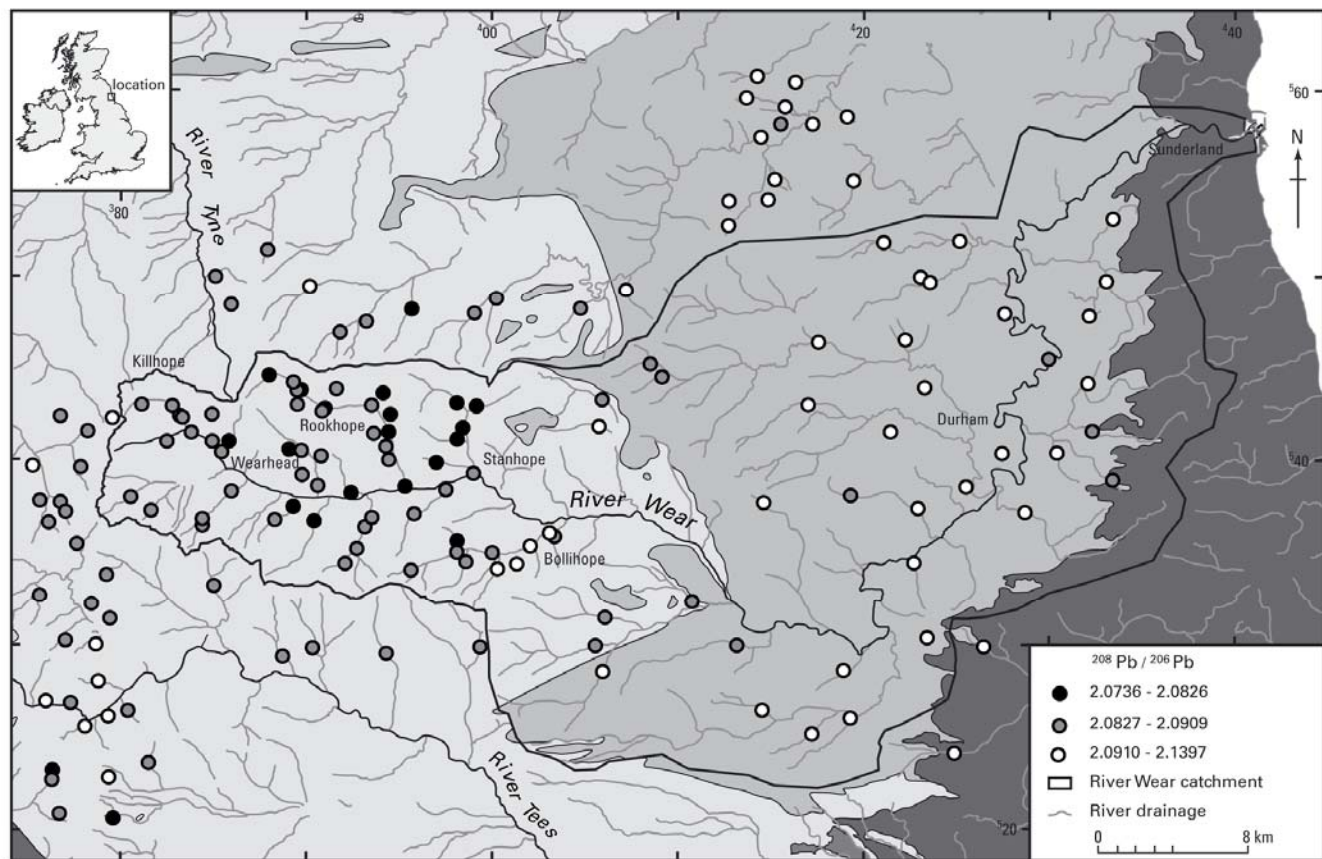


Figure 3 STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

Figure 4 STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

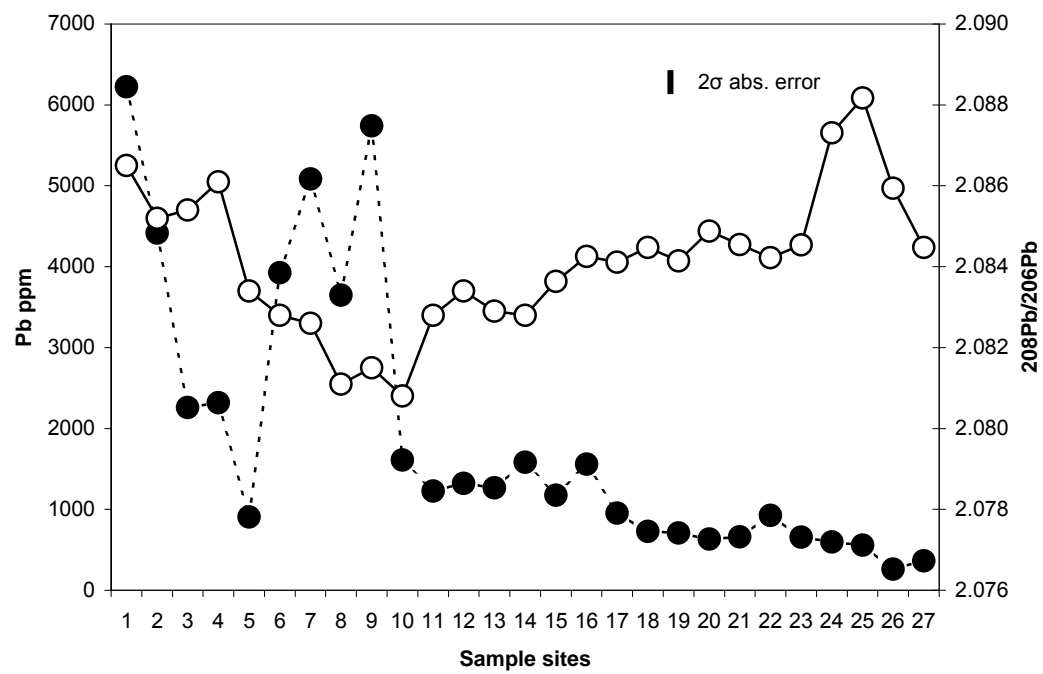


Figure 5 STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

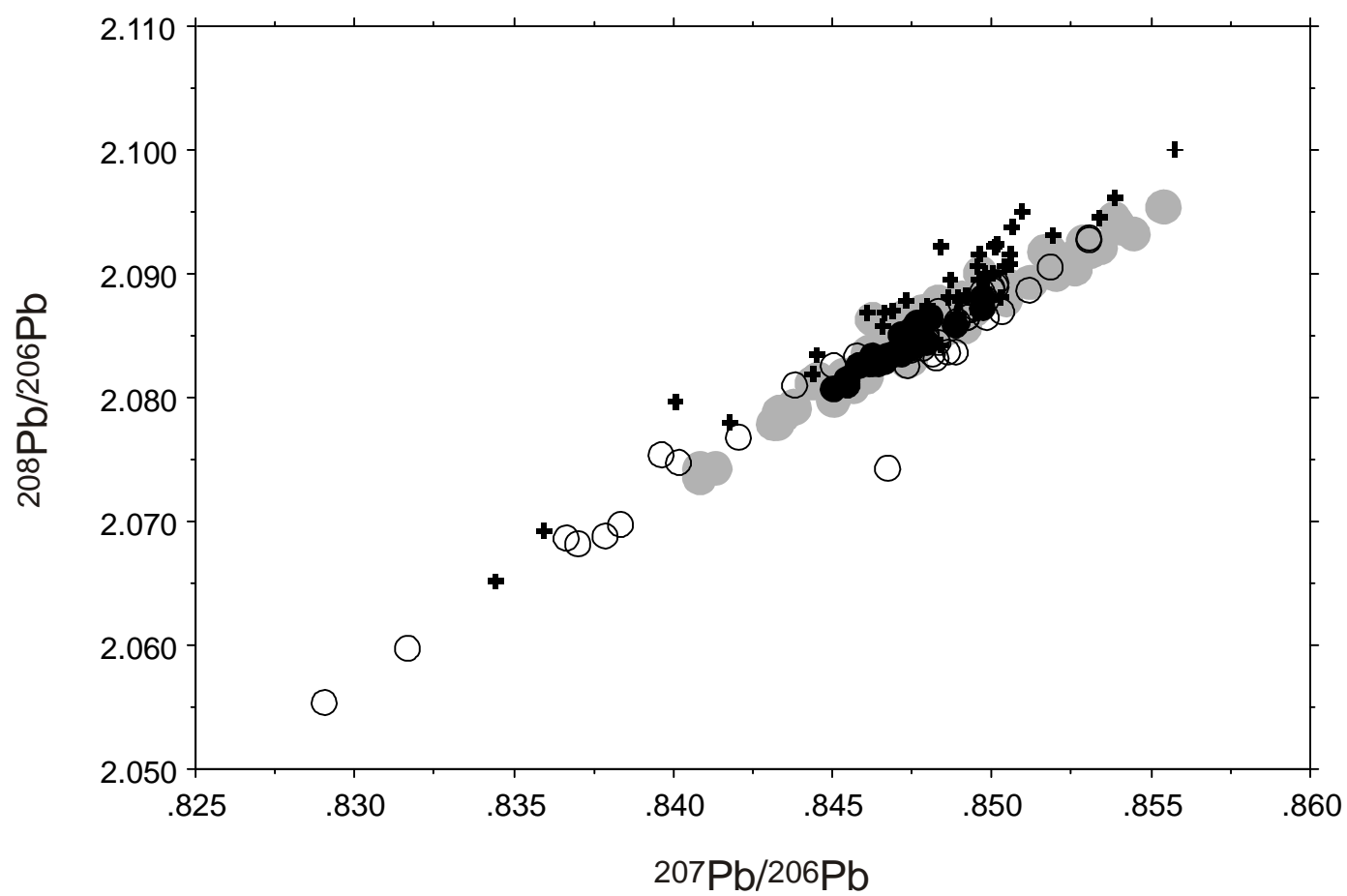


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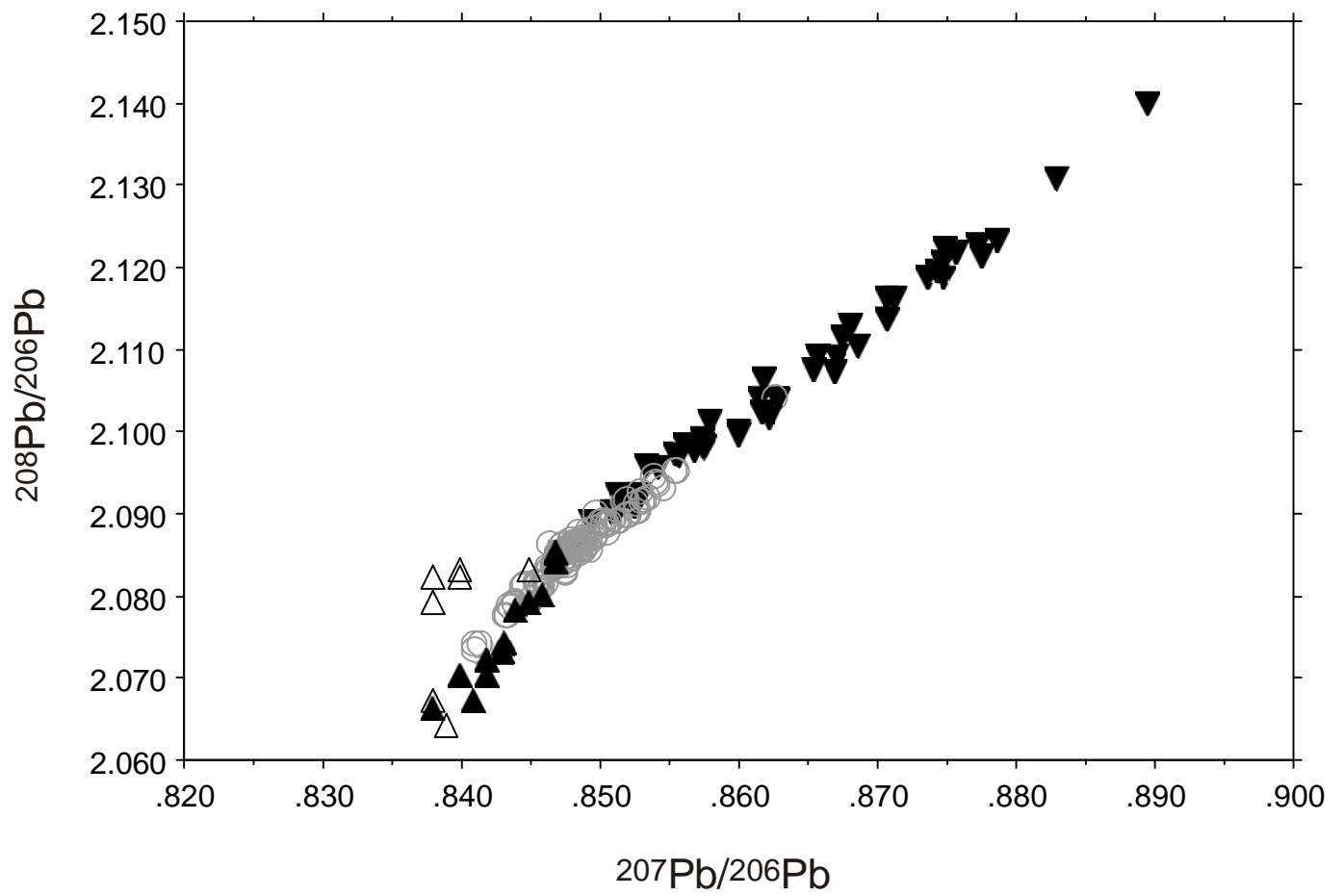


Figure 7 STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

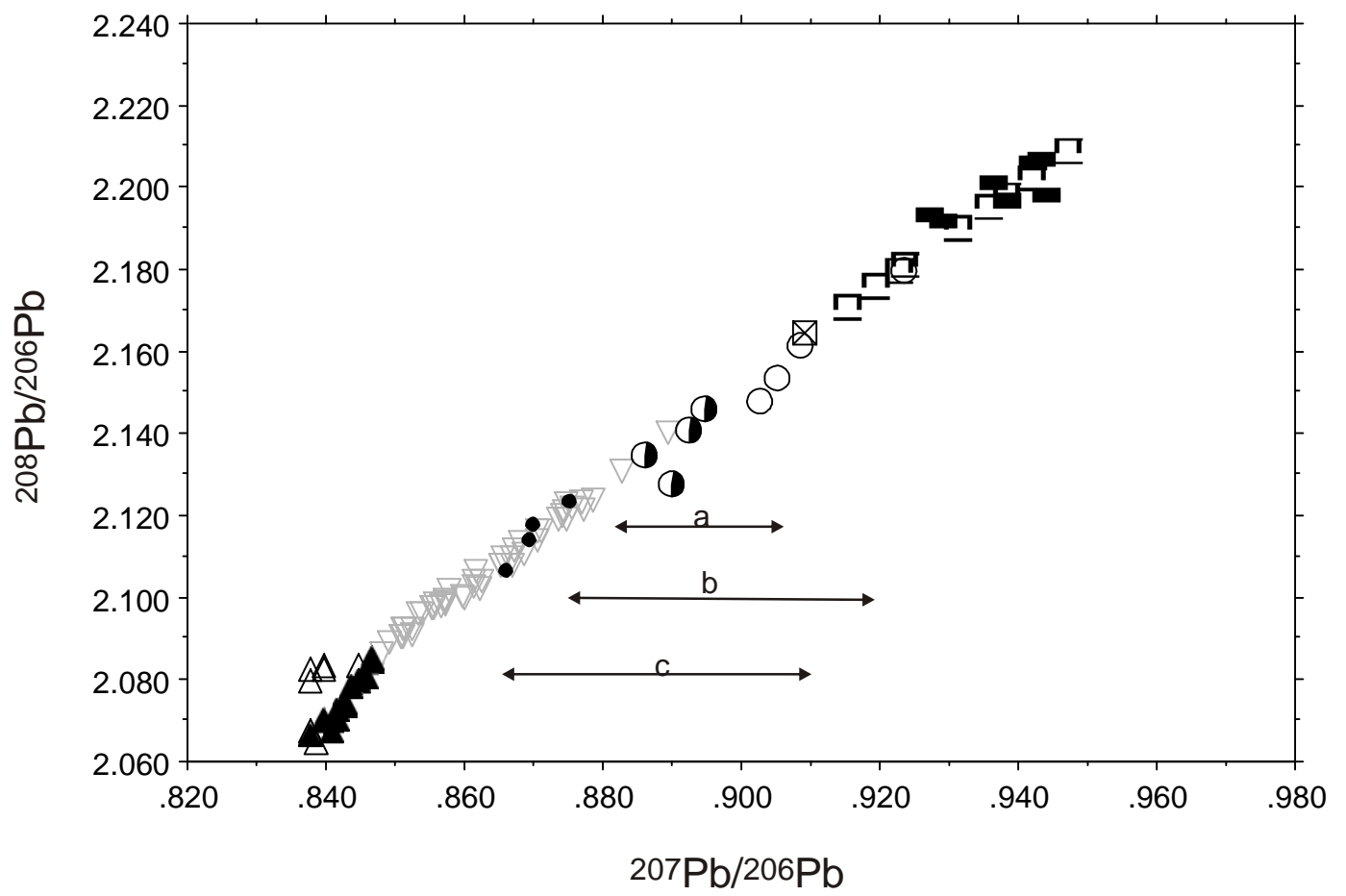


Figure Captions and Table STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

- Fig. 1 Simplified geological map of northeast England showing the River Wear catchment. The lower catchment 'Coalfield' is defined as that area underlain by Coal Measures (Durham Coalfield). The upper catchment 'Orefield' is underlain by the Millstone Grit and Carboniferous Limestone Series and occupies part of the more extensive North Pennine Orefield. Also shown is the sub-surface top of the Weardale Granite that delimits the central 'inner' zone of the orefield (see text for details).
- Fig. 2 River Wear catchment showing the location of sediment sampling points for 1st and 2nd order streams, lead ores (galenas) and sediments collected from the main channel of the River Wear (numbered 1-27). Sample points are also shown for sediments and lead ores collected in the contiguous catchments of the Rivers Tyne and Tees.
- Fig. 3 Regional variation in $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ for stream sediments from 1st and 2nd order streams with respect to the upper and lower catchments of the River Wear (excluding data for the River Wear main channel samples). Geological legend as for Fig. 1. Note the anomalously high ratios for the Bollihope area and clustering of very low ratios in the Stanhope and Rookhope valley areas (see text for details).
- Fig. 4 Profile along the River Wear showing co-variation in lead concentration and $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios for sediments taken from the main river channel. Numbers 1 to 27 along the ordinal axis are the sediment sample sites shown in Fig.2 and described in Table 1. Site 1 represents the highest point on the Wear and Site 27 the lowest point on the Wear - a total distance of 86.5km. Ordinal axis is not linear. Filled circles refer to lead concentrations; open circles to $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratios. Vertical error bar indicates the 2σ absolute uncertainty assigned to the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ measurements.
- Fig. 5 $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ - $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ co-variation for archival stream sediments (1986-88) and lead ores from the upper catchment of the River Wear 'Orefield' indicating their close relationship to more recent sediment samples (1999-2001) taken from the main channel of the River Wear. Also shown are the data of Rohl (1996) for North Pennine galenas (lead ores). 2σ analytical uncertainties for $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ and $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ are 0.033% and 0.070% respectively (grey filled circles stream sediments; black filled circles recent River Wear sediments; open circles lead ores; crosses galenas (Rohl 1996)).
- Fig. 6 $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ - $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ co-variation for archival stream sediments (1986-88) from the lower catchment of the River Wear 'Coalfield'. Also shown, for reference, are data for the upper catchment sediments and the lead isotope composition of Carboniferous coals and shales (data from Pearson & Worrall pers.comm.). See text for 2σ analytical uncertainties (inverted filled triangles lower catchment stream sediments; grey open circles upper catchment stream sediments; filled triangles coal (this study and Farmer et al., 1999); open triangles shale).
- Fig. 7 $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ - $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ co-variation showing the relationships between stream sediments for the lower catchment of the River Wear 'Coalfield' (1986-88), coal and shale from the Durham Coalfield, UK leaded petrol and UK airborne particulates (inverted open triangles stream sediments; filled triangles coal (this study and Farmer et al., 1999); open triangles shale; solid squares petrol England 1994 (Monna et al., 1997); open squares petrol Scotland 1981-91 (Sugden et al., 1993); crossed square mean UK-French petrol 1980-87 (Veron et al., 1999); open circles airborne particulates Scotland 1994-95 (Bollhöfer et al., 1999), half filled circles airborne particulates England 1996-98 (Veron et al., 1999; Bollhöfer et al., 1999); small filled

circles industrial emissions France 1993-94 (Monna et al., 1997). Bar 'a' is the range of UK airborne particulates 1968-96 (Veron et al., 1999). Bar 'b' is the range of airborne particulates for Scotland 1980-89 using archival mosses (Farmer et al., 2002). Bar 'c' is the range of airborne particulates for England 1994-96 (Monna et al., 1997). All ranges are with respect to $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$.

Table 1 Location and lead isotope composition of samples from the River Wear catchment and adjacent areas, Northern England.

Table 1 STOTEN-D-08-01278R1

Table 1. Location and lead isotope composition of samples from the River Wear catchment and adjacent areas, Northern England.

Sediments: 1st and 2nd order streams

Sample no	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	Pb ppm	Grid Ref	Eastings	Northings	Regional Location
300012	17.9608	15.5501	37.8764	0.8658	2.1091	139	NZ	425150	551900	Coalfield
300033	17.7578	15.5361	37.6210	0.8749	2.1185	169	NZ	423230	543910	Coalfield
300048	18.1552	15.5699	38.0976	0.8575	2.0983	93	NZ	422170	546500	Coalfield
300073	18.3576	15.5949	38.3454	0.8495	2.0888	112	NZ	415500	558200	Coalfield
300077	18.0431	15.5193	37.8878	0.8601	2.0998	104	NZ	421400	541530	Coalfield
300087	17.8004	15.5533	37.7095	0.8738	2.1186	393	NZ	419400	555100	Coalfield
300088	18.0460	15.5497	37.9641	0.8616	2.1038	190	NZ	416990	543010	Coalfield
300092	17.8727	15.4977	37.6929	0.8672	2.1091	78	NZ	423520	549660	Coalfield
300093	18.2213	15.5123	38.1123	0.8514	2.0921	99	NZ	417510	546350	Coalfield
300101	17.6690	15.5273	37.5159	0.8788	2.1231	179	NZ	422990	549980	Coalfield
300111	17.9945	15.5299	37.8564	0.8629	2.1038	108	NZ	421060	551800	Coalfield
300112	18.1315	15.5560	38.0998	0.8580	2.1011	124	NZ	416300	560500	Coalfield
300118	17.7744	15.5488	37.6878	0.8748	2.1205	255	NZ	415700	559100	Coalfield
300136	17.8577	15.5525	37.7814	0.8709	2.1159	169	NZ	414200	560800	Coalfield
300142	18.0526	15.4818	37.8737	0.8576	2.0980	156	NZ	413600	559600	Coalfield
300146	18.2218	15.5942	38.2071	0.8558	2.0969	227	NZ	414800	554100	Coalfield
300154	17.7859	15.5537	37.6942	0.8745	2.1194	196	NZ	427570	547930	Coalfield
300185	17.8667	15.5675	37.8061	0.8714	2.1160	236	NZ	415200	555200	Coalfield
300224	18.2060	15.5764	38.1734	0.8556	2.0970	112	NZ	412700	554000	Coalfield
300226	17.7281	15.5529	37.6284	0.8773	2.1226	164	NZ	419100	558600	Coalfield
300234	17.4550	15.5254	37.3497	0.8896	2.1398	163	NZ	416200	557400	Coalfield
300255	18.2735	15.5955	38.2828	0.8535	2.0956	109	NZ	414400	557500	Coalfield
300271	17.6034	15.5461	37.5061	0.8831	2.1305	181	NZ	417200	558200	Coalfield
300281	18.0478	15.5561	38.0100	0.8619	2.1061	189	NZ	412700	552700	Coalfield
300305	18.3906	15.5992	38.3531	0.8483	2.0856	246	NZ	419290	538120	Coalfield
300312	18.3964	15.6135	38.3708	0.8487	2.0858	879	NZ	400200	548740	Orefield

300316	17.9182	15.5565	37.8568	0.8682	2.1128	110	NZ	426460	529890	Coalfield
300321	18.1596	15.5476	38.0836	0.8562	2.0982	83	NZ	422900	537390	Coalfield
300341	17.6826	15.5186	37.5035	0.8776	2.1211	128	NZ	425480	538600	Coalfield
300364	18.2131	15.5636	38.1631	0.8543	2.0955	72	NZ	422700	534500	Coalfield
300374	18.2218	15.5369	38.0939	0.8527	2.0907	62	NZ	433400	538900	Coalfield
300381	18.1472	15.5617	38.0925	0.8575	2.0990	373	NZ	428650	537200	Coalfield
300533	18.3738	15.5911	38.3498	0.8486	2.0872	197	NZ	409100	544500	Orefield
300534	17.7733	15.5658	37.7083	0.8758	2.1216	805	NZ	423420	530410	Coalfield
300542	18.2120	15.5298	38.0717	0.8526	2.0904	90	NZ	405890	543250	Orefield
300548	18.4032	15.6202	38.3892	0.8488	2.0861	1771	NZ	404740	548210	Orefield
300595	18.0228	15.5444	37.9268	0.8625	2.1044	166	NZ	405690	541790	Orefield
300623	17.7328	15.5206	37.6392	0.8750	2.1222	444	NZ	433410	553100	Coalfield
300624	18.0365	15.5560	37.9036	0.8624	2.1016	147	NZ	432040	544180	Coalfield
300629	18.0247	15.5341	37.8978	0.8618	2.1021	117	NZ	432110	547830	Coalfield
300674	17.9087	15.5277	37.7370	0.8671	2.1072	76	NZ	430340	540390	Coalfield
300684	18.2489	15.5305	38.1402	0.8510	2.0901	119	NZ	432290	541600	Coalfield
300685	17.9671	15.5513	37.8611	0.8656	2.1074	127	NZ	427400	540400	Coalfield
300694	17.9521	15.5745	37.8911	0.8676	2.1113	269	NZ	433060	549730	Coalfield
300739	18.3161	15.5848	38.2731	0.8509	2.0896	204	NZ	408500	545200	Orefield
300764	18.1154	15.5812	38.0290	0.8602	2.0993	11160	NZ	407210	549200	Coalfield
301914	17.9728	15.5587	37.8759	0.8656	2.1073	146	NZ	418870	528570	Coalfield
301925	17.8433	15.5376	37.7163	0.8708	2.1135	104	NZ	417210	525150	Coalfield
301933	18.2086	15.5034	38.0526	0.8215	2.0899	91	NZ	413140	529950	Coalfield
301943	18.1331	15.5404	38.0380	0.8570	2.0976	107	NZ	419280	526000	Coalfield
301972	18.2155	15.5380	38.1048	0.8529	2.0921	127	NZ	414620	537740	Coalfield
302104	18.2967	15.5829	38.2821	0.8516	2.0918	184	NZ	405930	528500	Orefield
302132	18.4499	15.6269	38.4657	0.8470	2.0850	1097	NZ	406040	531450	Orefield
302146	18.4547	15.6305	38.4768	0.8470	2.0852	3227	NZ	405530	529950	Orefield
302155	18.4149	15.6245	38.4200	0.8486	2.0864	644	NZ	410750	532360	Orefield
302169	17.8733	15.5282	37.7158	0.8688	2.1101	156	NZ	424910	524100	Coalfield
302506	18.2660	15.5557	38.2104	0.8517	2.0918	102	NZ	414510	526480	Coalfield
302517	18.3011	15.6095	38.2809	0.8529	2.0917	11295	NZ	400220	534120	Orefield
302541	18.4316	15.6205	38.4473	0.8475	2.0859	1428	NZ	403360	535860	Orefield
302562	18.2837	15.6037	38.2576	0.8534	2.0922	1473	NZ	401290	534400	Orefield
320209	18.4256	15.6309	38.4684	0.8483	2.0878	4064	NY	378150	541550	Orefield
320222	18.4755	15.6331	38.5501	0.8462	2.0864	2725	NY	376700	537700	Orefield

320270	18.4482	15.6282	38.4691	0.8471	2.0855	3220	NY	377000	537200	Orefield
320276	18.4076	15.6114	38.3929	0.8482	2.0857	140	NY	375600	537800	Orefield
320293	18.4252	15.6176	38.4320	0.8476	2.0856	413	NY	376100	536600	Orefield
320305	18.3084	15.6214	38.3019	0.8531	2.0918	1743	NY	379500	542250	Orefield
320622	18.4117	15.6259	38.4381	0.8490	2.0882	15392	NY	376700	542350	Orefield
320627	18.3311	15.5815	38.2904	0.8501	2.0888	194	NY	375600	532700	Orefield
320647	18.3078	15.5978	38.2666	0.8520	2.0900	138	NY	377000	530200	Orefield
320691	18.3521	15.6086	38.3367	0.8505	2.0890	496	NY	379400	531400	Orefield
320693	18.3748	15.6162	38.3866	0.8498	2.0891	6359	NY	378400	532200	Orefield
320806	18.3252	15.5826	38.2610	0.8504	2.0879	115	NY	388700	529350	Orefield
320824	18.4419	15.6272	38.4489	0.8474	2.0848	1372	NY	384990	533190	Orefield
321039	18.4037	15.6229	38.4069	0.8489	2.0870	469	NY	394290	529500	Orefield
321041	18.3822	15.6140	38.3840	0.8495	2.0884	391	NY	379200	533800	Orefield
321099	18.4175	15.6231	38.4260	0.8483	2.0864	3024	NY	390310	529780	Orefield
321230	18.4765	15.6251	38.4548	0.8456	2.0810	672	NY	376300	523200	Orefield
321249	18.6125	15.6479	38.5943	0.8408	2.0736	nr	NY	379600	520600	Orefield
321254	18.2305	15.5937	38.2006	0.8553	2.0954	200	NY	379400	522800	Orefield
321273	18.3208	15.6049	38.2900	0.8518	2.0901	166	NY	381500	523600	Orefield
321279	18.3075	15.6064	38.2688	0.8525	2.0905	nr	NY	376300	522700	Orefield
321281	18.3774	15.6036	38.3327	0.8491	2.0858	105	NY	376700	520800	Orefield
321454	18.4132	15.6264	38.4112	0.8487	2.0860	4096	NY	385080	549960	Orefield
321460	18.4117	15.6205	38.3953	0.8484	2.0854	1401	NY	385910	548410	Orefield
322463	18.2816	15.5910	38.2547	0.8283	2.0921	211	NY	390150	549400	Orefield
322488	18.3028	15.5610	38.2265	0.8502	2.0888	124	NY	387890	551380	Orefield
322607	18.3389	15.5605	38.2500	0.8485	2.0857	103	NY	393210	547480	Orefield
322672	18.5042	15.6362	38.4936	0.8450	2.0799	14867	NY	395600	548140	Orefield
322808	18.6047	15.6432	38.5798	0.8408	2.0743	6509	NY	394510	542450	Orefield
322812	18.3360	15.5767	38.2676	0.8494	2.0872	142	NY	399050	547910	Orefield
322820	18.4622	15.6213	38.4607	0.8461	2.0832	327	NY	393620	541400	Orefield
322840	18.5329	15.6362	38.5353	0.8437	2.0794	2647	NY	399150	542900	Orefield
322841	18.4139	15.6208	38.4232	0.8483	2.0866	716	NY	389490	542980	Orefield
322858	18.3490	15.5775	38.2847	0.8490	2.0866	131	NY	391790	546890	Orefield
322872	18.4318	15.6229	38.4129	0.8475	2.0840	2714	NY	394400	540010	Orefield
322877	18.4385	15.6223	38.4059	0.8473	2.0829	7803	NY	394250	540700	Orefield
322880	18.4877	15.6099	38.4702	0.8443	2.0813	96	NY	394150	543610	Orefield
322881	18.4519	15.6201	38.4463	0.8465	2.0836	530	NY	389490	543800	Orefield

322886	18.4563	15.6287	38.4858	0.8468	2.0852	212	NY	390800	542660	Orefield
322887	18.4125	15.6198	38.4084	0.8483	2.0860	163	NY	391610	543870	Orefield
323026	18.4430	15.6253	38.4599	0.8472	2.0853	5694	NY	380490	538000	Orefield
323031	18.4799	15.6228	38.4675	0.8454	2.0816	2045	NY	398100	543100	Orefield
323038	18.4756	15.6331	38.4949	0.8461	2.0837	1118	NY	382430	541000	Orefield
323056	18.4067	15.6186	38.4045	0.8485	2.0864	2402	NY	383180	542380	Orefield
323080	18.4550	15.6259	38.4676	0.8467	2.0844	1364	NY	384890	542470	Orefield
323086	18.4264	15.6224	38.4435	0.8478	2.0863	6910	NY	381600	537280	Orefield
323201	18.4598	15.6286	38.4770	0.8466	2.0844	2536	NY	384380	536460	Orefield
323246	18.4655	15.6359	38.4977	0.8468	2.0848	18538	NY	399360	529850	Orefield
323257	18.4234	15.6189	38.4310	0.8478	2.0860	338	NY	385920	538310	Orefield
323264	18.4920	15.6333	38.4975	0.8454	2.0818	6029	NY	389070	540580	Orefield
323281	18.4057	15.6229	38.4083	0.8488	2.0868	4622	NY	384390	536830	Orefield
323283	18.4559	15.6276	38.4553	0.8467	2.0836	1777	NY	390760	540210	Orefield
323295	18.3526	15.6191	38.3449	0.8511	2.0893	1230	NY	392100	534420	Orefield
323419	18.4473	15.6279	38.4495	0.8471	2.0840	4656	NY	389780	539190	Orefield
323423	18.4249	15.6240	38.4384	0.8480	2.0862	280	NY	393140	536380	Orefield
323434	18.5874	15.6389	38.5585	0.8413	2.0744	1520	NY	392390	538260	Orefield
323457	18.4322	15.6259	38.4268	0.8478	2.0846	4879	NY	388280	536770	Orefield
323458	18.4776	15.6281	38.4583	0.8457	2.0815	2848	NY	398100	535610	Orefield
323461	18.5298	15.6330	38.5223	0.8435	2.0788	1353	NY	396980	539880	Orefield
323474	18.5237	15.6295	38.5148	0.8438	2.0792	1609	NY	398080	541110	Orefield
323486	18.5475	15.6370	38.5395	0.8431	2.0779	2078	NY	398430	541730	Orefield
323652	18.3635	15.6117	38.3682	0.8502	2.0893	234	NY	398600	534510	Orefield
323665	18.4378	15.6246	38.4095	0.8474	2.0832	9723	NY	395600	534030	Orefield
323808	18.3382	15.6096	38.3160	0.8512	2.0894	184	NY	380400	526400	Orefield
323814	18.2704	15.5993	38.2663	0.8538	2.0946	202	NY	379300	526100	Orefield
323849	18.2400	15.6025	38.2201	0.8554	2.0954	146	NY	378000	525500	Orefield
323870	18.2874	15.6156	38.2945	0.8539	2.0940	460	NY	378600	530000	Orefield
323871	18.2537	15.6006	38.2150	0.8544	2.0933	273	NY	378800	528000	Orefield
324038	18.2661	15.5978	38.2378	0.8540	2.0938	218	NY	375900	526900	Orefield
324093	18.3533	15.6078	38.3375	0.8504	2.0888	123	NY	377300	526800	Orefield
324408	18.3709	15.6069	38.3507	0.8496	2.0877	413	NY	377800	539600	Orefield
324425	18.4256	15.6103	38.4472	0.8472	2.0866	222	NY	377600	535500	Orefield
324441	18.3359	15.6186	38.3562	0.8518	2.0918	503	NY	375200	539700	Orefield
BB2	18.3196	15.6177	38.3132	0.8525	2.0914	2131	NZ	403100	536100	Orefield

BB3	18.3138	15.6183	38.3258	0.8528	2.0927	4054	NZ	402000	535400	Orefield
BB5	18.4265	15.6250	38.4527	0.8480	2.0868	3134	NZ	400000	535000	Orefield
BB7	18.3776	15.6144	38.4131	0.8496	2.0902	572	NY	398100	535000	Orefield
DS1	18.4887	15.6418	38.4877	0.8460	2.0817	267	NY	389300	537500	Orefield
HB1	18.4344	15.6246	38.4297	0.8476	2.0847	213	NY	397500	538400	Orefield
HB4	18.4636	15.6290	38.4741	0.8465	2.0838	131	NY	395800	537100	Orefield
KB02	18.4435	15.6197	38.4510	0.8469	2.0848	262	NY	381100	543200	Orefield
KB06	18.4342	15.6282	38.4716	0.8478	2.0870	1561	NY	382800	542900	Orefield
KB09	18.4233	15.6217	38.4287	0.8479	2.0859	1834	NY	383300	542300	Orefield
KB11	18.4093	15.6222	38.4203	0.8486	2.0870	7832	NY	383800	541500	Orefield
KB13	18.4028	15.6251	38.4126	0.8491	2.0873	2118	NY	384900	541000	Orefield
KB14	18.4283	15.6288	38.4533	0.8481	2.0866	4060	NY	385400	540400	Orefield
MhB2	18.4639	15.6415	38.5186	0.8471	2.0862	1145	NY	390200	540800	Orefield
MhB7	18.4728	15.6405	38.5079	0.8467	2.0846	5432	NY	390600	538600	Orefield
Rh2	18.4473	15.6224	38.4495	0.8445	2.0815	183	NY	388000	544600	Orefield
Rh3	18.4683	15.6300	38.4791	0.8463	2.0835	279	NY	389300	544200	Orefield
Rh4	18.5196	15.6402	38.5484	0.8445	2.0815	811	NY	389700	543800	Orefield
Rh5	18.4939	15.6330	38.5076	0.8453	2.0819	2030	NY	391000	542800	Orefield
Rh7	18.4383	15.6237	38.4311	0.8472	2.0843	1128	NY	393500	542900	Orefield
Rh8	18.5476	15.6413	38.5579	0.8433	2.0789	1811	NY	394400	541500	Orefield
Rh9	18.5572	15.6478	38.5603	0.8432	2.0779	9518	NY	395300	538600	Orefield
SeB2	18.4833	15.6452	38.5203	0.8465	2.0820	3806	NY	385800	541000	Orefield
StB1	18.4592	15.6318	38.5120	0.8469	2.0864	105	NY	399000	539300	Orefield
SwB2	18.5994	15.6342	38.7269	0.8406	2.0822	56	NY	390700	536700	Orefield
WhB2	18.3862	15.6198	38.3737	0.8495	2.0871	495	NY	393500	536900	Orefield
WhB4	18.4049	15.6188	38.3905	0.8486	2.0859	303	NY	392700	535200	Orefield

Sediments: Main Channel River Wear

Sample no	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	Pb ppm	Grid Ref	Eastings	Northings	Regional Location
1	18.4360	15.6333	38.4695	0.8480	2.0865	6225	NY	385600	539700	River Wear
2	18.4596	15.6381	38.4922	0.8471	2.0852	4417	NY	386800	538800	River Wear
3	18.4503	15.6355	38.4762	0.8474	2.0854	2259	NY	387500	538500	River Wear
4	18.4467	15.6348	38.4819	0.8476	2.0861	2319	NY	389000	538000	River Wear

5	18.4661	15.6351	38.4736	0.8467	2.0834	905	NY	392000	537900	River Wear
6	18.4664	15.6286	38.4640	0.8464	2.0828	3927	NY	395000	538500	River Wear
7	18.4869	15.6352	38.4954	0.8458	2.0826	5085	NY	397000	538500	River Wear
8	18.4891	15.6312	38.4776	0.8454	2.0811	3648	NY	399000	539100	River Wear
9	18.5014	15.6380	38.5110	0.8454	2.0815	5742	NZ	400000	538500	River Wear
10	18.5003	15.6332	38.4961	0.8450	2.0808	1610	NZ	403000	536800	River Wear
11	18.4788	15.6357	38.4882	0.8461	2.0828	1226	NZ	405000	537100	River Wear
12	18.4786	15.6368	38.4977	0.8462	2.0834	1320	NZ	407000	537000	River Wear
13	18.4693	15.6366	38.4706	0.8466	2.0829	1265	NZ	409000	536400	River Wear
14	18.4836	15.6404	38.4975	0.8462	2.0828	1584	NZ	411000	535400	River Wear
15	18.4611	15.6354	38.4698	0.8471	2.0836	1177	NZ	412872	532314	River Wear
16	18.4491	15.6359	38.4584	0.8474	2.0843	1559	NZ	417038	530861	River Wear
17	18.4561	15.6348	38.4674	0.8471	2.0841	955	NZ	420714	530367	River Wear
18	18.4469	15.6287	38.4521	0.8472	2.0845	727	NZ	420078	534205	River Wear
19	18.4454	15.6307	38.4478	0.8474	2.0841	710	NZ	423583	535481	River Wear
20	18.4339	15.6295	38.4738	0.8478	2.0849	632	NZ	425488	537164	River Wear
21	18.4480	15.6303	38.4593	0.8473	2.0845	662	NZ	426585	537778	River Wear
22	18.4506	15.6334	38.4576	0.8472	2.0842	927	NZ	426823	539427	River Wear
23	18.4376	15.6288	38.4322	0.8476	2.0845	658	NZ	428563	542105	River Wear
24	18.3907	15.6277	38.3933	0.8497	2.0873	596	NZ	427331	542847	River Wear
25	18.3885	15.6240	38.3874	0.8497	2.0882	557	NZ	429932	545484	River Wear
26	18.4068	15.6228	38.3966	0.8488	2.0859	262	NZ	428606	547842	River Wear
27	18.4283	15.6248	38.4167	0.8479	2.0845	365	NZ	428224	551193	River Wear

Galenas: North Pennine Orefield

Sample no	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	Grid Ref	Eastings	Northings	Location
NE-02-14	18.4547	15.6530	38.4460	0.8482	2.0833	NY	49375	54279	Rookhope Borehole
NE-02-15	18.4333	15.6336	38.4076	0.8481	2.0836	NY	49375	54279	Rookhope Borehole
NE-02-16	18.4414	15.6528	38.4279	0.8488	2.0838	NY	49375	54279	Rookhope Borehole
NE-02-17	18.6797	15.6582	38.6639	0.8383	2.0698	NY	49375	54279	Rookhope Borehole
NE-02-19	18.4807	15.6473	38.3370	0.8467	2.0744	NY	49375	54279	Rookhope Borehole
NE-02-21	18.7080	15.6516	38.7023	0.8366	2.0687	NY	4927	55433	Rookhope
NE-02-22	18.8987	15.6674	38.8456	0.8290	2.0555	NY	4944	5425	Rookhope

NE-02-23	18.6921	15.6458	38.6584	0.8370	2.0683	NY	3868	5390	Ireshopeburn
NE-02-24	18.6292	15.6425	38.6636	0.8396	2.0755	NY	48896	54432	Rookhope
NE-02-25	18.6292	15.6490	38.6458	0.8401	2.0748	NY	48896	54432	Rookhope
NE-02-26	18.4813	15.6292	38.5055	0.8457	2.0835	NY	38100	5432	Killhopehead
NE-02-27	18.8338	15.6614	38.7943	0.8316	2.0598	NY	39470	53675	Eastgate
NE-02-28	18.5722	15.6359	38.5693	0.8420	2.0768	NZ	40080	53648	Frosterley
NE-02-29	18.4651	15.6453	38.4358	0.8473	2.0826	NY	38590	54235	Cowshill
NE-02-30	18.4238	15.6204	38.3950	0.8478	2.0840	NY	3905	5400	Westgate
NE-02-31	18.6733	15.6444	38.6322	0.8378	2.0689	NY	3985	5378	Stanhope
NE-02-32	18.4251	15.6221	38.4171	0.8479	2.0852	NY	3861	5379	Ireshopeburn
NE-02-33	18.3672	15.5855	38.2699	0.8486	2.0838	NZ	40663	54348	Wolsingham
NE-02-34	18.4972	15.6312	38.5234	0.8450	2.0826	NY	38218	54325	Killhope
NE-02-35	18.5374	15.6421	38.5783	0.8438	2.0811	NY	38505	54534	Allenheads
NE-02-36	18.3724	15.6181	38.3850	0.8501	2.0893	NY	37520	54575	Nenthead
NE-02-37	18.4331	15.6295	38.4320	0.8479	2.0849	NY	38515	54876	East Allendale
NE-02-38	18.3033	15.6130	38.3048	0.8530	2.0929	NY	40056	54888	Edmundbyers
NE-02-39	18.3691	15.5991	38.3289	0.8492	2.0866	NY	586	606	Brampton
NE-02-40	18.3155	15.5875	38.2575	0.8511	2.0888	NY	8260	6610	Haydon Bridge
NE-02-41	18.3731	15.6193	38.3844	0.8501	2.0891	NY	37790	54797	West Allendale
NE-02-43	18.3919	15.6189	38.3764	0.8492	2.0866	NY	39690	54703	Edmundbyers
NE-02-44	18.3063	15.6155	38.3115	0.8530	2.0928	NZ	40320	54566	Muggleswick
NE-02-45	18.3899	15.6172	38.3836	0.8492	2.0872	NY	3826	5466	Allenheads
NE-02-46	18.4443	15.6358	38.4660	0.8477	2.0855	NY	38569	54532	Allenheads
NE-02-47	18.3776	15.6203	38.3887	0.8500	2.0889	NY	37812	54534	Nenthead
NE-02-48	18.3738	15.6150	38.3650	0.8498	2.0880	NY	37410	54730	Nenthead
NE-02-49	18.3944	15.6230	38.3933	0.8493	2.0872	NY	39266	54750	Hunstanworth
NE-02-50	18.4454	15.6312	38.4391	0.8474	2.0839	NY	39590	55102	Blanchland
NE-02-51	18.3062	15.4938	38.2714	0.8518	2.0906	NY	37775	54525	Nenthead
NE-04-02	18.3247	15.5807	38.2477	0.8503	2.0870	NY	3855	5688	Stonecroft
NE-04-03	18.3579	15.5999	38.3031	0.8498	2.0865	NY	3790	5420	Smallcleugh
NE-04-05	18.3858	15.6223	38.4008	0.8497	2.0886	NY	3954	5488	East Allendale
NE-04-06	18.3700	15.6152	38.3725	0.8500	2.0888	NY	3765	5452	Nentsbury
NE-04-07	18.4022	15.6225	38.3930	0.8489	2.0862	NY	3860	5455	Allenheads
NE-04-08	18.3788	15.6115	38.3648	0.8494	2.0873	NY	3915	5313	Flushiemere
NE-04-09	18.4064	15.6160	38.3791	0.8483	2.0846	NY	3808	5311	Cow Green
NE-04-11	18.4615	15.6364	38.4662	0.8469	2.0836	NY	3880	5445	Frazers Hush

NE-04-12 18.4258 15.6301 38.4528 0.8483 2.0870 NY 3900 5310 Pike Law

Carboniferous Coal and Shale: Durham-Northumberland Coalfield (Pearson & Worrall pers. comm.)

Sample no	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²⁰⁴ Pb	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	²⁰⁸ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	Pb ppm	Sample Type/Age
GP1	18.5773	15.6072	38.7031	0.8401	2.0834	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP2	18.6317	15.6376	37.4515	0.8393	2.0638	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP4	18.6511	15.6225	38.5512	0.8376	2.0670	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP8	18.4722	15.6036	38.4765	0.8447	2.0829	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP10	18.6379	15.6231	38.7396	0.8382	2.0785	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP14	18.8721	15.6304	38.8432	0.8282	2.0582	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP20	18.6116	15.6327	38.7576	0.8399	2.0824	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP21	18.7124	15.5946	38.5482	0.8334	2.0600	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP26	18.6489	15.6358	38.8328	0.8384	2.0823	nr	Shale (Westphalian)
GP5	18.5461	15.6121	38.3950	0.8418	2.0702	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP6	18.5787	15.6116	38.4594	0.8403	2.0701	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP9	18.5924	15.6340	38.4266	0.8409	2.0668	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP12	18.6467	15.6203	38.5249	0.8377	2.0660	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP13	18.5564	15.6196	38.4569	0.8417	2.0724	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP17	18.4302	15.6119	38.4217	0.8471	2.0847	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP18	18.4063	15.5973	38.3624	0.8474	2.0842	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP22	18.4323	15.5895	38.3415	0.8458	2.0801	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP24	18.5130	15.6019	38.3824	0.8428	2.0733	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP27	18.4495	15.5985	38.3527	0.8455	2.0788	nr	Coal (Westphalian)
GP29	18.4682	15.5832	38.3781	0.8438	2.0781	nr	Coal (Westphalian)

nr not reported.

Further details relating to all samples can be obtained from the Corresponding Author.