

Early hominins in north-west Europe: a punctuated long chronology?

Article

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Table 1: Summarising the long, short and modified short chronologies, as originally proposed (Carbonell et al., 1996; Dennell and Roebroeks, 1996; Gamble, 1999; Roebroeks and van Kolfschoten, 1994).

Model	Long Chronology (Carbonell et al., 1996)	Short Chronology (Roebroeks and van Kolfschoten, 1994)		Modified Short Chronology (Dennell and Roebroeks, 1996)
Summary	Europe occupied in the Early Pleistocene, and in some cases before c. 1.5 mya	“No undisputable proof for human occupation of Europe prior to about 500,000 years ago” (Roebroeks and van Kolfschoten, 1994: 500)		“Hominids might have occasionally moved into southern Europe well before 500,000 years ago, as and when conditions permitted” (Dennell and Roebroeks, 1996: 540)
Evidence				
Timeframe	Before 780,000 years ago (pan-Europe)	Before 500,000 years ago (pan-Europe)	After 500,000 years ago (pan-Europe)	Before 780,000 years ago (Southern Europe)
Archaeological signature	Small assemblages (typically 10s and 100s of artefacts)	Small series of isolated pieces selected from a natural pebble background	Large collections from excavated knapping floors with conjoinable material	Small assemblages (typically 10s and 100s of artefacts)
Context	Cave(?) and open-air sites (pan-Europe)	Disturbed secondary contexts	Primary context sites (fine-grained matrix)	Cave(?) and open-air sites (Iberia)

Assemblage character	Flake and pebble tools	Contested 'primitive' assemblages	Uncontested Acheulean and non-Acheulean industries	Flake and pebble tools
Human Remains	Occasional	No human remains	Human remains common	Occasional