

Ivory as a raw material during the Upper Palaeolithic of the northern edge of the Iberian Peninsula: personal ornaments and other artifacts

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This paper reports on the presence of ivory artifacts from Upper Palaeolithic sites of the northern edge of the Iberian Peninsula. In comparison to other European sites of the same period, tools made of mammoth ivory from Upper Palaeolithic sites in this territory are very rare. Ivory artefacts are known from the Aurignacian (La Viña, El Pendo), the Perigordian (La Viña, Cueto de la Mina), the Solutrean (La Viña, Las Caldas, Cueto de la Mina, La Riera, Llonín, Chufín, Altamira), the Magdalenian (Cueto de la Mina, Llonín,

Altamira, Jarama II). In contrast, only a single ivory tool is known from the Azilian (La Riera). Sagaies, awls and shafts predominate among the artifacts that are made from this raw material, and there are also some ivory ornaments. The presence of an ivory figurine of an animal from Jarama II is noted. By referring to mobiliary art, and paintings and engravings in caves, a comparison is made between sites in this territory with ivory artifacts and those with mammoth representations.