

# **The hunting of mammoth and the utilisation of mammoth bones and ivory in the Rhône basin**

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Numerous remains of mammoth, in particular tusks and molars, have been recovered from sites in the Rhône basin. These localities comprise open sites in the loess deposits of the Gard and the Ardèche, open sites, caves and abris dating to the Middle Palaeolithic, and sites dating to the Upper Palaeolithic. Generally the remains of young individuals have been found, since these could be hunted. There are very few postcranial elements. These may have been utilised after the meat had been removed as a source of fuel, as observed at

Central and Eastern European sites. During the Aurignacian, Solutrean and Magdalenian ivory was used as a raw material for pendants and for sagaies. Traces of use on the occlusal surfaces of the molars indicate that the teeth served as scapers. At Solutré (Middle Magdalenian) a mammoth humerus which had been truncated by an adze and probably served as a “support for cutting meat” was recovered amongst the butchered horse bones. The humerus displayed traces originating from the use of several flint tools.