



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Quaternary International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/quaint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/quaint)

# Les Bossats (Ormesson, Paris basin, France): A new early Gravettian bison processing camp



Jessica Lacarrière <sup>a, \*</sup>, Pierre Bodu <sup>b</sup>, Marie-Anne Julien <sup>c</sup>, Gaëlle Dumarçay <sup>b</sup>,  
Nejma Goutas <sup>b</sup>, Mathieu Lejay <sup>a</sup>, Caroline Peschaux <sup>b</sup>, Henri-Georges Naton <sup>d</sup>,  
Isabelle Théry-Parisot <sup>e</sup>, Ligia Vasiliu <sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> TRACES UMR 5608, 5 allées Antonio Machado, Toulouse, France

<sup>b</sup> UMR 7041 – Equipe d'Ethnologie préhistorique MAE, 21 allée de l'Université, 92023 Nanterre Cedex, France

<sup>c</sup> University of Southampton, Archaeology Department, Building 65A, Avenue Campus, Southampton SO17 1BF, UK

<sup>d</sup> GéoArchéon SARL, 30, rue de la Victoire, F-55210 Viéville-sous-les-Côtes, France

<sup>e</sup> CEPAM-CNRS, UMR 7264, Campus Saint-Jean-d'Angély 3, Université Nice Sophia Antipolis, 24, Avenue des Diables Bleus, 06357 Nice Cedex 4, France

<sup>f</sup> Université de Paris I, France

## ARTICLE INFO

### Article history:

Available online 8 December 2014

### Keywords:

Gravettian  
Archaeozoology  
Geomorphology  
Lithic and bone industry  
Shell beads  
Hearths

## ABSTRACT

In the Paris Basin, the Gravettian techno-complex is documented by a limited number of sites, and radiocarbon dates are available for only three locations: Arcy-sur-Cure (Grande Grotte and Grotte du Renne, Yonne), La Pente-des-Brosses (Montigny-sur-Loing, Seine-et-Marne) and Chamvres (Yonne). This period of human prehistory is poorly known in the region. The recently discovered open-air site of Les Bossats at Ormesson (Seine-et-Marne) includes an early Gravettian occupation with well-preserved faunal remains; this allows for radiocarbon dating and provides information on the ecological context that was previously inaccessible. Located on the southern limit of the maximum extension of loess deposits, Ormesson also provides a well-developed Pleistocene sedimentary sequence. The peculiar geomorphological context of the Gravettian occupation opens new avenues of investigation regarding taphonomy and the possible anthropogenic intra-site spatial organisation.

Here we present the primary results of excavations that began in 2009. The strategic location of the site, the richness of the lithic industry, the presence of two well-preserved hearths and associated maintenance features (near which were found both perforated and non-perforated shells), as well as the few elements of bone technology, all suggest that the site was occupied for a relatively long period of time.

Flint nodules are primarily obtained from local sources and were used to produce blades and bladelets. The tool kit is, however, dominated by blades likely used in butchering activities, as well as armature and burin production. The occupants of Ormesson seem to have killed and butchered bison near site and imported the most nutritious parts. Portions of reindeer and horse were also imported. The Gravettian occupation at Ormesson thus appears to have been a medium to short-term multi purpose campsite, likely occupied for the time it took to process imported bison carcasses.

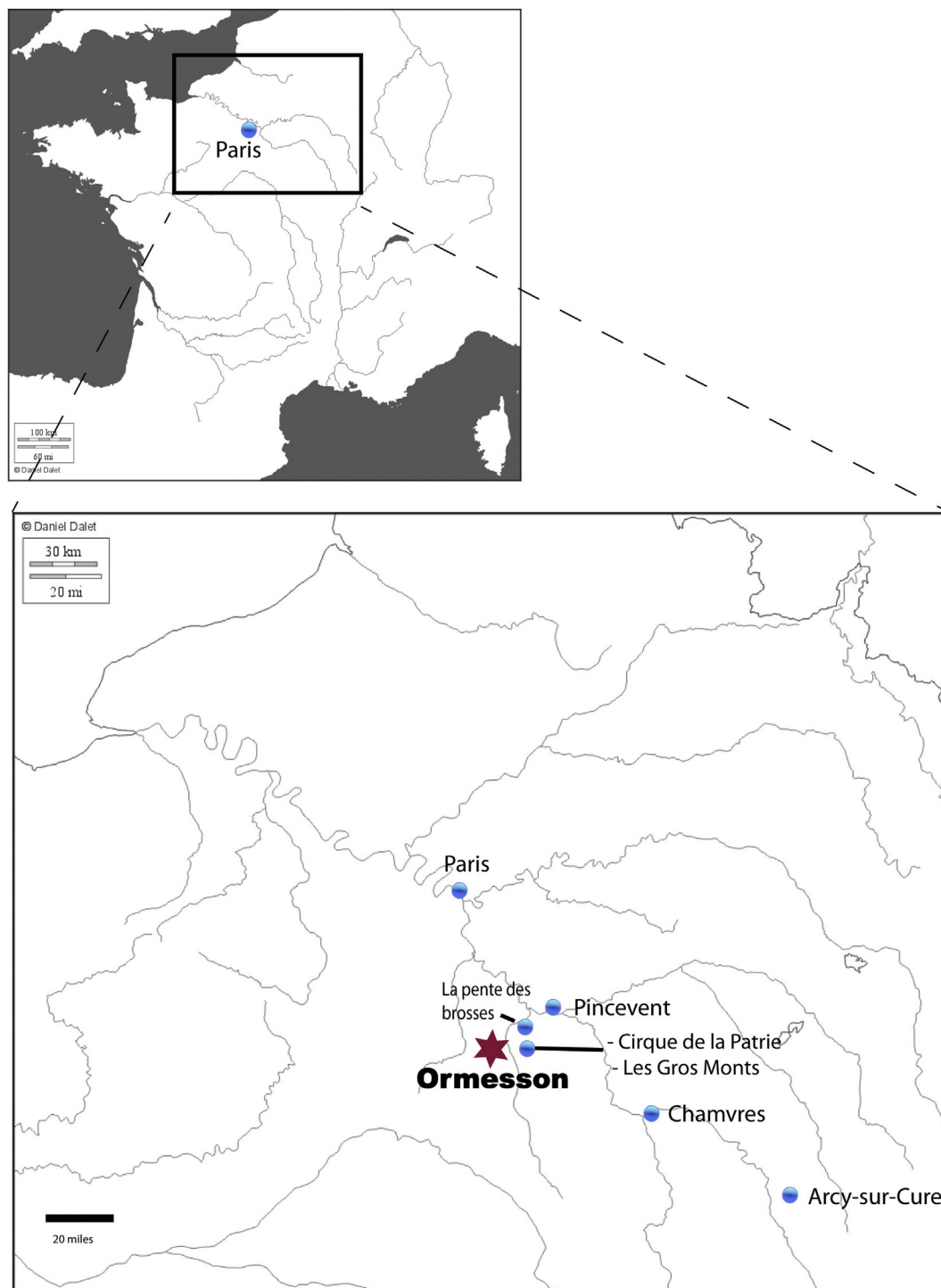
© 2014 Elsevier Ltd and INQUA. All rights reserved.

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: [jessica.lacara@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.lacara@gmail.com) (J. Lacarrière), [pierre.bodu@mae.u-paris10.fr](mailto:pierre.bodu@mae.u-paris10.fr) (P. Bodu), [m.a.julien@gmail.com](mailto:m.a.julien@gmail.com) (M.-A. Julien), [gaelle.dumarcay@mae.u-paris10.fr](mailto:gaelle.dumarcay@mae.u-paris10.fr) (G. Dumarçay), [nejma.goutas@mae.u-paris10.fr](mailto:nejma.goutas@mae.u-paris10.fr) (N. Goutas), [lejay.m@gmail.com](mailto:lejay.m@gmail.com) (M. Lejay), [caroline.peschaux@mae.u-paris10.fr](mailto:caroline.peschaux@mae.u-paris10.fr) (C. Peschaux), [geoarcheon@laposte.net](mailto:geoarcheon@laposte.net) (H.-G. Naton), [isabelle.thery@cepam.cnrs.fr](mailto:isabelle.thery@cepam.cnrs.fr) (I. Théry-Parisot), [ligia\\_vasiliu@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ligia_vasiliu@yahoo.co.uk) (L. Vasiliu).

## 1. Introduction

The Gravettian occupation of Les Bossats at Ormesson is an open-air site located in the Paris Basin, a region known for its rich record of late Palaeolithic sites, such as the famous Upper Magdalenian campsite of Pincevent (La Grande Paroisse, Seine-et-Marne), located about thirty kilometres away (Fig. 1). While the later Upper Palaeolithic has been studied intensively in the region for at least fifty years (Debout et al., 2012), the early Upper Palaeolithic is, to



**Fig. 1.** Localisation of the site of Les Bossats at Ormesson (Seine-et-Marne) and the main prehistoric sites mentioned in the text.

date, relatively poorly documented. This is largely due to the small number of preserved and excavated sites for this period. Following the example of [Schmider \(1971, 1986, 1996\)](#), a collaborative project was initiated in order to better characterize this period in the Paris Basin ([Bodu et al., 2001](#)). The resulting reanalysis of known Paris Basin collections dated to the Early Upper Palaeolithic led to the conclusion that a significant reinvestment into survey for datable sites in the region is of utmost importance.

To date, only three Gravettian localities from the Paris Basin have contained preserved organic remains (mainly bones and charcoal) allowing radiocarbon dating ([Fig. 1](#) and [Table 1](#)):

- The caves at Arcy-sur-Cure: la Grotte du Renne (couches V–VI), la Grotte du Trilobite (old excavations with some stratigraphic uncertainty ([Roblin-Jouve, 2002](#); [Klaric, 2003](#); [Goutas, 2013](#)), and La Grande Grotte (chrono-stratigraphically sound data set),

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1041004>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1041004>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)