



Figure 2. La Boja: the site. Left: overview of the Rambla Perea gorge, showing the escarpment with the rockshelter (top), and the sites seen from the opposite slope (bottom) (Finca Doña Martina, FDM; La Boja, ADB). Right: the excavation trench at the end of the April–May 2017 field season (collapsed boulders sealing the Aurignacian and the Mousterian are visible in T-U/1-2 and T-U/3-5, respectively; grid units are 1m<sup>2</sup>). Original photographs and figure preparation by João Zilhão.

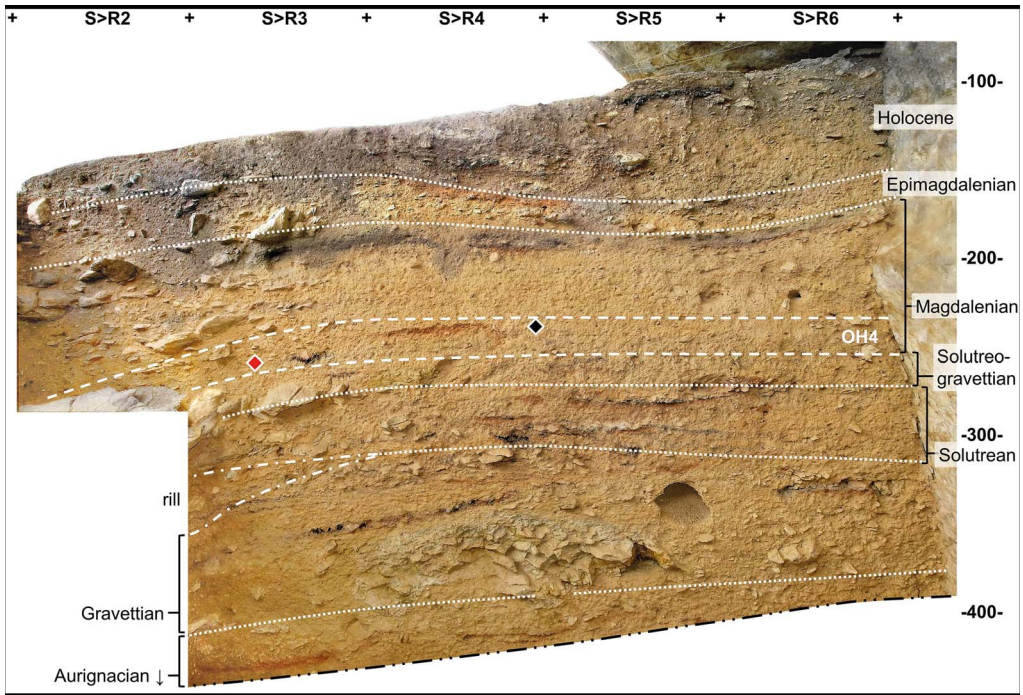


Figure 3. *La Boja*: stratigraphy. Profile along the intersection between the S and R rows of the grid at the end of the 2014 field season. The red and black diamonds indicate the projected position of, respectively, the piece-plotted obsidian core (ID number 2014-850) and the radiocarbon sample VERA-6469. Elevations are in centimetres below datum. Original photographs, orthorectification and figure preparation by João Zilhão.

OH4 is the Early Magdalenian horizon (Figure 4 & Tables 1–2). A sterile lens—intermediate level (IL) 1b—separates OH4 from the overlying OH3. The latter comprises a thin lithic scatter associated with an eroded hearth dated by a sample of juniper charcoal to  $13\,290 \pm 40$  BP (VERA-5937;  $15\,800$ – $16\,132$  cal BP,  $2\sigma$ ), at the onset of Iberia’s Upper Magdalenian (all radiocarbon dates herein are calibrated with Calib 8.1.0 against the IntCal20 curve; Stuiver & Reimer 1993; Reimer *et al.* 2020). OH4 is approximately 0.2m thick and subsumes two occupation events, represented by the hearth in grid squares R-S/4 and, around 0.1m below, the hearth in grid square T4. Samples of juniper charcoal from these features have yielded statistically identical radiocarbon ages:  $15\,570 \pm 82$  BP (VERA-6469;  $18\,714$ – $19\,008$  cal BP,  $2\sigma$ ) for the R-S/4 hearth, and  $15\,390 \pm 50$  BP (VERA-6080;  $18\,371$ – $18\,831$  cal BP,  $2\sigma$ ; replicated on a sub-sample dated to  $15\,320 \pm 45$  BP by ABOx) for the T4 hearth. A sedimentation hiatus of around a millennium separates OH4 from the underlying OH5. The latter yielded a Solutreo-Gravettian lithic assemblage in association with several hearths, two of which were dated using juniper charcoal to  $16\,580 \pm 70$  BP (VERA-5788;  $19\,844$ – $20\,271$  cal BP,  $2\sigma$ ) and  $16\,599 \pm 70$  BP (VERA-6470;  $19\,866$ – $20\,277$  cal BP,  $2\sigma$ ).

The horizontal distribution of the finds is consistent with a drip line located along row three of the grid (Figure 4), affording a strip of about 3m of sheltered space where knapping