

Oldest human face in Western Europe

Scientists in Spain have discovered facial bones from a hominin dating to between 1.1 and 1.4 million years ago that represents the earliest human face identified in Western Europe to date

400km
250 miles



Fossil, dubbed ATE7-1: Found at *Sima del Elefante* archaeological site, Atapuerca, Spain



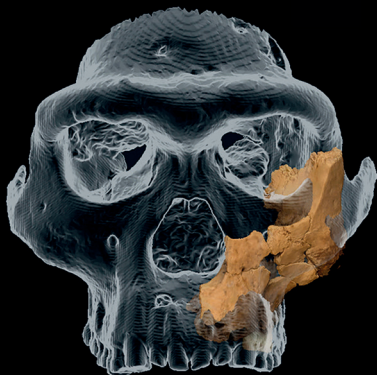
Georgia: Fossils found at *Dmanisi* site suggest Eurasia was settled after first expansion of hominins out of Africa, at least 1.8 million years ago

ATE7-1: Fragments reconstructed using physical evidence and 3D imaging techniques



2.5cm
1 inch

Molar



ATE7-1 does not belong to *Homo antecessor* – species identified in neighbouring site and estimated to be around 860,000 years old – but to more primitive hominin resembling *Homo erectus*

ATE7-1 belongs to population that arrived in Europe during migration wave predating that of *H. antecessor*, confirming that Western Europe was inhabited by at least two different species of hominins during Early Pleistocene

▲ Superimposition of virtual reconstruction of ATE7-1 with *Dmanisi D4500* cranium, believed to be specimen of *H. erectus* adult male found at *Dmanisi* site

