



BRADSHAW FOUNDATION  
**ORIGINS**  
 Exploring The Fossil Record



- Bradshaw Foundation
- Latest News
- Travel \* NEW \*
- iShop
- The Book Review
- Mailing List
- Donate | Help
- Rock Art Archives
- African Rock Art Archive
- South African Rock Art
- American Rock Art Archive
- Australia Rock Art Archive
- British Isles Prehistory Archive
- China Rock Art Archive
- France Rock Art Archive
- The Chauvet Cave
- India Rock Art Archive
- Scandinavian Rock Art Archive
- South America Rock Art Archive
- World Rock Art
- Ice Age Art
- Geometric Signs
- INORA Newsletter
- Human Migration
- Journey of Mankind
- Origins
- Migration Articles
- World Heritage Sites
- Easter Island
- Stonehenge
- The Pyramids of Egypt
- Temples of Malta and Gozo
- Tusheti - Georgia
- Motif: Eternal
- Contemporary Artists
- The Foundation
- Search | Site Map
- Glossary
- Podcast
- Research Papers
- Links
- Contact



2

THE RED LADY PAVILAND

THE OLDEST KNOWN BURIED REMAINS IN BRITAIN

Like 4 Tweet 0 0 2

The oldest known buried remains in Britain are 29,000 years old, 4,000 years older than previously thought. The findings show that ceremonial burials were taking place in Western Europe much earlier than researchers had believed.

New dating techniques developed by Oxford University and British Museum researchers have pinpointed the age of the 'Red Lady' burial site in Wales, previously thought to be 25,000 years old, to 29,000 years old. Despite the name, the bones are actually those of a man, aged approximately 21 years old. He was in good health at the time of his death and the bone protein analysis indicates that he lived on a diet that consisted of 20% fish, balanced by other foods such as horse, reindeer, roots, acorns and berries. Paviland, on the Gower Peninsula, now looks over the Bristol Channel, but 30,000 years ago the sea level would have been 250 feet lower, so the view was of a richly pastured 70-mile wide plain that was full of grazing animals. In 1823 the remains of **The Red Lady of Paviland** were discovered by palaeontologist and clergyman Reverend William Buckland, who removed them from the Goat's Hole cave on Gower. He mistakenly assumed the skeleton was female - as its bones were dyed red - and he identified it as being from Roman times.



THE 'RED LADY' BURIAL SITE IN WALES  
click photo for enlargement

Finds in the Paviland Caves include over 4000 worked flints, necklace bones, stone needles and mammoth-ivory bracelets. Also found buried with the young man were perforated seashell necklaces identical to the 75,000 year old shells discovered at the Blombos site in South Africa.

According to the researchers at Oxford University and the British Museum, the finding suggests that the origins of human burial may be found in Western Europe, and perhaps Britain, rather than elsewhere, although further dating work is required.

This, however, is highly speculative. And the larger question it raises is, what did Prehistoric cultures do with their dead? Surely they would have treated the remains of bodies with great reverence. For example, the women of the Unambal tribe of northern Kimberley, Australia, carried the bones of their dead until they could leave them at the 'spirit waterhole' of the deceased. **'The Red Lady of Paviland'** represents a ceremonial burial in a shallow grave behind a mammoth's skull, presumably with the bones being buried after they had been rubbed with red ochre.



Mailing List

Email Sign-Up website updates

Email

First Name

Last Name

Country

Submit



iShop



0  
Tweet

SHARE   



THE RED LADY PAVILAND  
click photo for enlargement



THE RED LADY PAVILAND  
click photo for enlargement



THE RED LADY PAVILAND  
click photo for enlargement



THE RED LADY PAVILAND  
click photo for enlargement

Bradshaw Foundation  
**ANCIENT ROCK ART  
OF THE WORLD**

DVD



ANCIENT ROCK ART  
OF THE WORLD

NOW AVAILABLE  
Click here to buy



- Images from [National Museum Wales, Cardiff](#)
- [The United Kingdom Archive](#)

If you have enjoyed visiting this section of the website please consider adding a link  
[Bradshaw Foundation](#) © MMXI

Tweet 0

SHARE   