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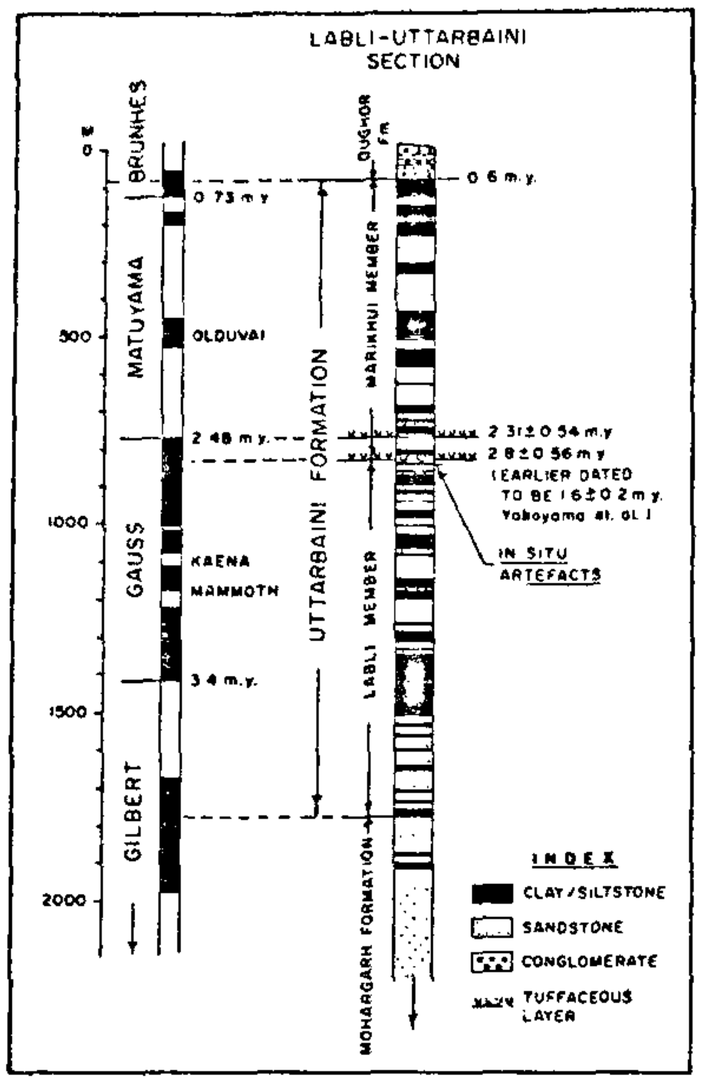
Siwalik Stone Age culture

Sites associated with the Siwalik Stone Age[1] culture (Early Palaeolithic tool types) are known to occur all along the Himalayan foothills extending from Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir) to Nepal, as well as the Trans-Himalayan region of Ladakh[2–7].

A site near Uttarbaini (J & K) yielded artefacts of this culture below a tuffaceous layer in the Upper Siwalik (see figure). This layer was earlier dated by the fission-track method to 1.6 ± 0.2 million years before present (Myr BP)[8,9]. Ranga Rao *et al.*[10] dated the same tuffaceous layer to 2.8 ± 0.5 Myr BP by the same fission-track method. This date appears to be compatible with the regional palaeomagnetic profiles of the Upper Siwalik of both India and Pakistan. As the revised age for the tuffaceous layer has a direct bearing on the age of the associated stone artefacts, it necessitates a revision of the dates of the Siwalik Stone Age culture also. The revised temporal range of the Siwalik Stone Age culture is between 2.8 ± 0.56 Myr and 0.5 Myr BP, making this culture the oldest known so far from the Indian subcontinent.



Relationship of Uttarbaini Formation with Standard Magnetic Time Scale and the level of the dated tuffaceous layers and the recorded artefacts, Uttarbaini section, J & K (palaeomagnetic and age data from ref. 10).

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