Zarzi chronology check

The source check of 5 October 2026 confirmed that Frahm and Tryon (2018: 476) distinguish an inferred age of approximately 18,000–16,000 years ago for Zarzi Cave from the wider Zarzian cultural interval of approximately 18,000–14,000 years ago. The cave estimate rests on regional radiometric, technological and environmental comparisons. The publication reports no radiocarbon dates from Garrod's 1928 or Wahida's 1971 excavations.

The cave estimate and wider cultural interval are expressed in years ago, not BCE. The Site_Context_Core worksheet states: "Epipalaeolithic; c. 18,000–16,000 years ago by regional comparison; the excavated layer is not directly radiocarbon-dated." Its start_bce and end_bce cells are blank because the publication does not provide those bounds. Blank cells mean that BCE bounds are not supplied; they do not represent zero.

Zarzi is a background case, not one of the modelled endpoints or mapped regional comparators. The original publication was checked in text and as a rendered page. Its PDF is retained privately and is not redistributed.

Reference: Frahm, E. and Tryon, C. A. 2018. Origins of Epipalaeolithic obsidian artifacts from Garrod's excavations at Zarzi Cave in the Zagros foothills of Iraq. Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports 21: 472–485. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2018.08.001

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