

# “Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido, Northern Tohoku” Summary

## 1. Name of Property

“Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku”

## 2. Location

Hokkaido Prefecture: Chitose City, Date City, Hakodate City, Toyako Town, and Mori Town

Aomori Prefecture: Aomori City, Hirosaki City, Hachinohe City, Tsugaru City, Sotogahama City, and Shichinohe Town

Iwate Prefecture: Ichinohe Town

Akita Prefecture: Kazuno City and Kitaakita City

## 3. Year of Addition to the Tentative List of Japan

2009

## 4. Description and Outstanding Universal Value

Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku are a group of 18 representative archaeological sites of Japan that give concrete testimony to the Jomon culture, which was born on the Japanese archipelago ca. 13,000 BC and flourished for around ten thousand years.

They consist of **archaeological sites** showing the early stages of the Jomon culture characterized by the use of pottery, **settlement sites** eloquently and concretely illustrating the maturity of the prehistoric society as well as its lifeways, **shell middens** providing detailed information about the environment and livelihood activities, **stone circles** and **earthwork burial circles** that provided stages for rituals and other spiritual activities, and **wetland sites** in marshy lowland retaining organic materials underground in good condition; inclusive of all the outstanding archaeological remains and artifacts of the Jomon culture.

In addition, being situated in various types of location such as seacoast, inland hill, lake shore, and river basin, they represent the history of adaptations to diverse environments and symbiotic co-existence with nature.

### Outstanding Universal Value of “Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku”

Criterion (iii) Bear a unique testimony to a prehistoric culture that achieved sedentism based on hunting, gathering, and fishing and developed into the mature Jomon culture.

- In contrast to the other contemporaneous regions of the world, sedentism was achieved based on hunting, gathering, and fishing, without opting for agriculture and animal husbandry.
- Pottery by one of the world’s earliest pottery-making people, lacquer crafts, basketry techniques unique to Japan, pit dwelling structures that inspired the periods following the Jomon period, large-scale pit dwellings emerged in Hokkaido and northern Tohoku, development of storage pits, appearance of “Dogu” clay figurines, and active construction of monumental structures are evidence of materially and spiritually mature Jomon culture.
- The formation and continuation of cooperative, open societies without moats or defense facilities shows the social maturity of the Jomon culture.

Criterion (v) Be an outstanding example of human interaction and co-existence with the environment as well as human land-use representative of a culture that, for as long as ten thousand years, adapted to climate changes and other environmental changes, achieving sustainable sedentism.

- In a warm and wet climatic condition of the Holocene, some 10,000 year-long sustainable sedentism was achieved through adaptation to ecosystems boasting of globally rare biodiversity.
- In the natural environment in which deciduous broad-leave trees dominated by beech trees (*Fagus crenata*) prevailed, livelihoods were maintained by making man-made ecosystems, called *Jomon Satoyama* (urban-rural landscape of the Jomon period), consisting of useful plants such as chestnuts, walnuts, and Japan.
- In contrast to the sedentism based on agriculture and animal husbandry characterized by large-scale alteration of the nature by humankind to secure the constant crop of specific cultigens, a sustainable sedentism characterized by the creation of *Jomon Satoyama* (urban-rural landscape of the Jomon period) and the wise use of natural resources thereby was achieved.

## 5. Component Parts

- (1) **Kiusu Earthwork Burial Circles** (Historic Site / Hokkaido Prefecture (Chitose City) / ring-walled burial site / Late Jomon period)
- (2) **Kitakogane Shell Midden** (Historic Site / Hokkaido Prefecture (Date City) / shell midden / Early Jomon period)
- (3) **Irie-Takasago Shell Midden** (Historic Site / Hokkaido Prefecture (Toyako Town) / shell midden / Early to Final Jomon period)
- (4) **Washinoki Site** (Historic Site / Hokkaido Prefecture (Mori Town) / stone circle / Late Jomon period)
- (5) **Ofune Site** (Historic Site / Hokkaido Prefecture (Hakodate City) / settlement site / Middle Jomon period)
- (6) **Kakinoshima Site** (Historic Site / Hokkaido Prefecture (Hakodate City) / settlement site / Initial to Late Jomon period)
- (7) **Odai-Yamamoto Site** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Sotogahama Town) / origin of the Jomon period / Incipient Jomon period)
- (8) **Tagoyano Shell Midden** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Tsugaru City) / shell midden / Early to Middle Jomon period)
- (9) **Kamegaoka Stone Age Site** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Tsugaru City) / waterlogged site / Final Jomon period)
- (10) **Sannai-Maruyama Site** (Special Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Aomori City) / settlement site / Early to Middle Jomon period)
- (11) **Futatsumori Shell Midden** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Shichinohe Town) / shell midden / Early to Middle Jomon period)
- (12) **Komakino Site** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Aomori City) / stone circle / Late Jomon period)
- (13) **Omori Katsuyama Site** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Hirosaki City) / stone circle / Final Jomon period)
- (14) **Choshichiyachi Shell Midden** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Hachinohe City) / shell midden / Initial Jomon period)
- (15) **Korekawa Stone Age Site** (Historic Site / Aomori Prefecture (Hachinohe City) / waterlogged site / Final Jomon period)
- (16) **Oyu Stone Circles** (Special Historic Site / Akita Prefecture (Kazuno City) / stone circle / Late Jomon period)
- (17) **Isedotai Site** (Historic Site / Akita Prefecture (Kitaakita City) / stone circle / Late Jomon period)
- (18) **Goshono Site** (Historic Site / Iwate Prefecture (Ichinohe Town) / settlement site / Middle Jomon period)

## 6. Integrity

Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku include all elements necessary to express Outstanding Universal Value and the property's integrity is thereby secured. The property is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance.

## 7. Authenticity

The attributes of Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku that are necessary for the expression of Outstanding Universal Value have been confirmed based on archaeological excavations and so forth, in terms of form, design, materials, substance, use, function, spirit, feeling, etc. Authenticity is therefore guaranteed with certainty.

## 8. State of Conservation and Factors Affecting the Property

As regards Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku, control measures against development pressures, environmental pressures, natural disasters and risk preparedness, and negative impacts of visitation to the property are provided through the implementation of archaeological site interpretation and presentation projects and the appropriate management based on relevant laws and regulations.

## 9. Protection and Management of the Property

Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku and the buffer zones are subject to appropriate protection and management by management systems established by relevant local governments under relevant laws and regulations.

In addition, a comprehensive preservation and management system is to be set up, consisting of the four prefectural governments and relevant municipal governments, so as to promote an overarching preservation and management of the whole 18 component parts.

## 10. Monitoring

Monitoring indices for the measurement of the state of conservation are to be set out in the Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan; local governments are to implement the monitoring of the individual component parts within their jurisdiction.

## 11. Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan (Attached)

The 18 component parts of Jomon Archaeological Sites in Hokkaido and Northern Tohoku are historic heritages themselves

individually and they collectively compose a serial property exhibiting Outstanding Universal Value. In light of this, buffer zones have been defined to surround these component parts and appropriate conservation measures have been set out to meet the specific conditions of the buffer zones, with a view to identifying the concrete measures for the comprehensive preservation and management of the property as a whole and ensuring the appropriate preservation and management of the Outstanding Universal Value as a serial property.

## 12. Brief Descriptions of Individual Component Parts

### 1. Kiusu Earthwork Burial Circles (Chitose City; Late Jomon period)

This is a communal cemetery primarily built in the late phase of the Late Jomon period. It is characterized by earth embankment surrounding a circular moated tomb, where bodies were buried. The designated historical site encompasses eight burial mounds and is uniquely large in size because its external diameter ranges from 45 to 75 meters.



### 2. Kitakogane Shell Midden (Date City; Early Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site showing evidence of typical Jomon culture and adaptation to the seaside environment after marine transgression in the postglacial age. It exemplifies the ritual/monumental nature of shell middens and mounds.



### 3. Irie-Takasago Shell Midden (Toyako Town; Early to Final Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site specifically illustrating adaptation to environmental changes and livelihood evolution. The numerous human bones unearthed here highlight the existence and lifestyles of the Jomon people.



4. Washinoki Site (Mori Town; Late Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site featuring the completed stage of a stone monument separated from cutting and banking work during the stone circle development process.



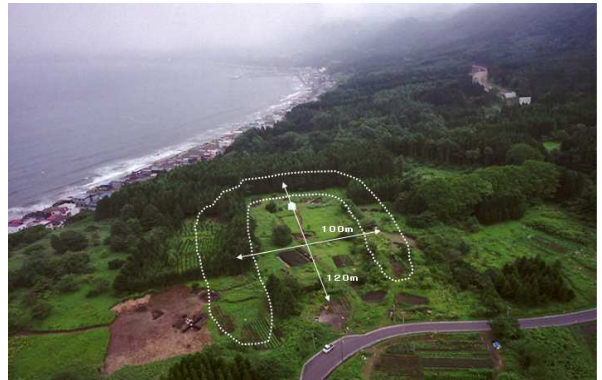
5. Ofune Site (Hakodate City; Middle Jomon period)

This is an archaeological site with outstanding and specific evidence of the development of dwellings in Jomon culture. A high level of symbolism is acknowledged in its building structures and the composition of its indoor facilities.



6. Kakinoshima Site (Hakodate City; Initial to Late Jomon period)

This site contains the remains of a village from the initial to late Jomon period. The 120-meter-long U-shaped mound was created from the end phase of the middle Jomon period to the early late Jomon period and is one of the largest of its kind in Japan. Many valuable artifacts indicating spiritual culture in those days have been unearthed here, including a clay tablet with a footprint and extraordinary shaped pottery seen to have been used for rituals of scrapping dwellings.



7. Odai-Yamamoto Site (Sotogahama Town; Incipient Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site highlighting the origins of Jomon culture, as it illustrates aspects of the transition from the Paleolithic to the Jomon periods on the Japanese archipelago.



8. Tagoyano Shell Midden (Tsugaru City; Early to Middle Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site providing evidence of the environment, livelihoods and production activities of the early Jomon Period. Artifacts including shells and bones from fish, birds and large mammals (e.g., whales) have been found. Particular evidence of *glycymeris albolineata* shell bracelet production has also been unearthed.



9. Kamegaoka Stone Age Site (Tsugaru City; Final Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site illustrating the environment and human exchanges of the final Jomon Period. Organic materials such as plant residues, pollen and insect remains have been unearthed in favorable condition from the swampy lowland, and jade beads, lacquerware and other items have also been excavated.



10. Sannai-Maruyama Site (Aomori City; Early to Middle Jomon period)

This is an archaeological site of high academic value providing comprehensive elucidation of aspects of Jomon culture. It contains the remains of a large settlement with planned arrangement of pit dwellings, pillar-supported structures, aligned graves, mounds, storage pits, roads and other artifacts. Organic materials found there are also in favorable condition.



11. Futatsumori Shell Midden (Shichinohe Town; Early to Middle Jomon period)

This site contains the remains of a village with a large shell mound where shells and bones from fish, deer, wild boar and other animals have been excavated. It provides specific evidence of the environment, livelihoods and coexistence with animals of the early-to-middle Jomon Period, as exemplified by the detection of buried dog bones.



12. Komakino Site (Aomori City; Late Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site illustrating the spiritual life, the grave system and other aspects of the Jomon Period. It is centered around a stone circle whose creation involved large-scale civil engineering work and orderly stone arrangement based on land development and delivery/placement of large stones.



13. Omori Katsuyama Site (Hirosaki City; Final Jomon period)

This stone circle was built from the early to middle phase of the final Jomon period. It is different from a stone circle from the late Jomon period in various aspects, such as having few stones from the late phase of the final Jomon period, component stones forming the stone circle and no earthen pits existing under the stones.



14. Choshichiyachi Shell Midden (Hachinohe City; Initial Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site providing information on the natural environment, fishing-based livelihoods and diets of about 7,000 years ago. Many bones from fish, birds and mammals as well as bone/horn implements (e.g., fishhooks, harpoon heads) have been excavated here.



15. Korekawa Stone Age Site (Hachinohe City; Final Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site providing evidence of eating habits and skills related to craftwork (e.g., lacquerware and woodwork) in the final Jomon Period. Red-lacquered wooden artifacts, buckeyes (*Aesculus turbinata*), walnuts and other items have been excavated in favorable condition from the site's swampy lowland, and a water setup designed to draw out overpowering flavors in certain vegetables has also been found in the swamp.



16. Oyu Stone Circles (Kazuno City; Late Jomon period)

This is an important archeological site with evidence of relations to the sun's movement. It consists of Japan's largest stone circles: the Manza Stone Circle (diameter: 52 m) and the Nonakado Stone Circle (diameter: 44 m).



17. Isedotai Site (Kitaakita City; Late Jomon period)

This is an important archaeological site highlighting rituals performed in the late Jomon Period. It is based on four stone circles with diameters exceeding 30 meters. Along with these circles, evidence of pillar-supported structures and grave pits has been found, and a variety of earthenware/stoneware used in rituals has been excavated.



18. Goshono Site (Ichinohe Town; Middle Jomon period)

This is an important archeological site highlighting the upper structures of pit dwellings. It contains the remains of a large village with many burned-out dwellings, and previous surveys have confirmed the existence of mud-roofed houses there.

