

Tokyo Metropolitan Government designated Historic Site

The Noge Otsuka Burial Mound



Fence shaped
Haniwa



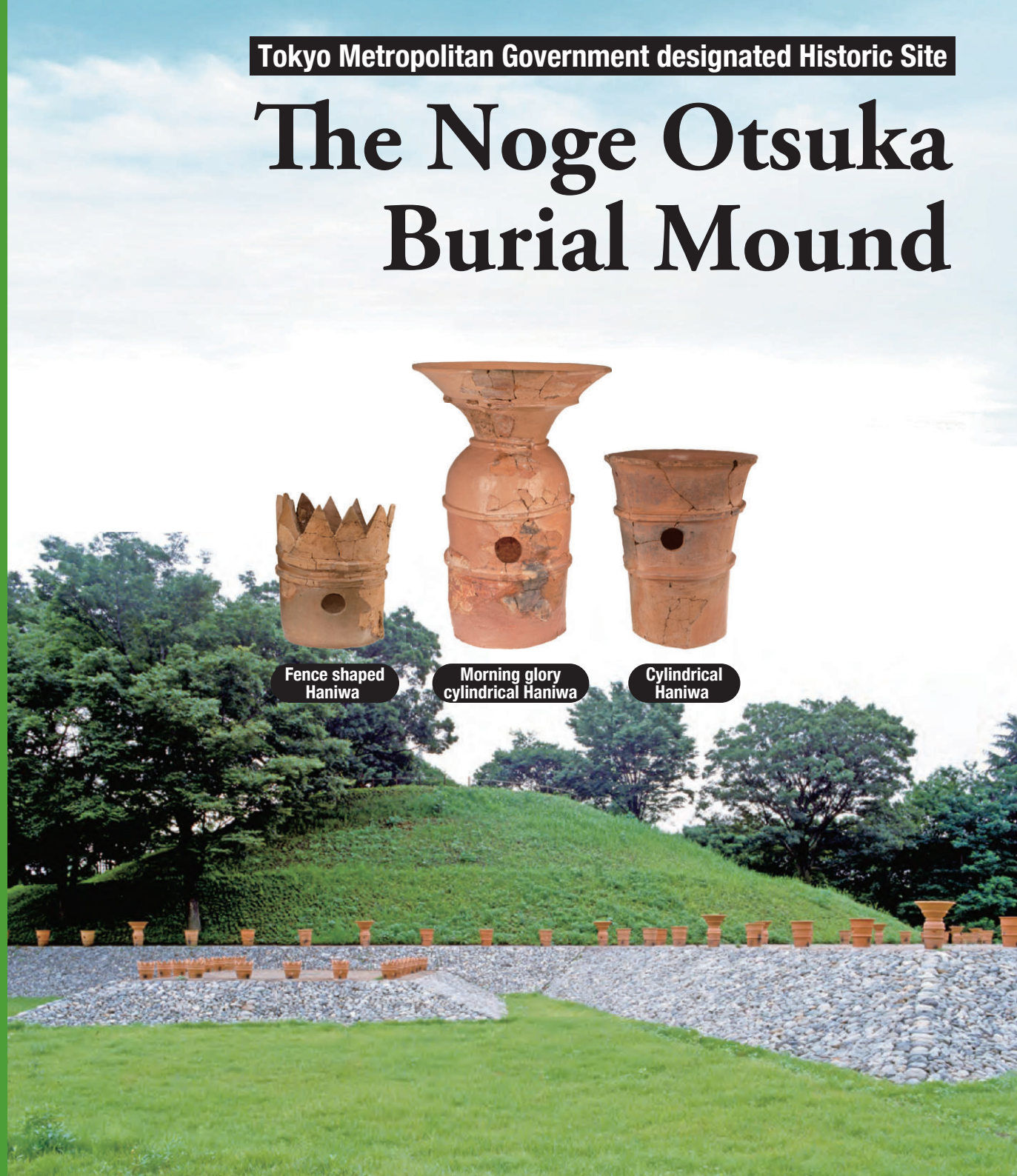
Morning glory
cylindrical Haniwa



Cylindrical
Haniwa

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Excavated artifacts are designated important cultural properties (archeological materials)

Burial mound shape

The mound is a scallop shaped structure. The moat forms a horseshoe shape surrounding the mound. Additionally, off to the side of the front square section, the small rectangular area known as the "protruding section" is featured.

Burial mound size

One of the largest burial mounds of its kind in Japan, this "scallop-shaped" tomb measures 82m by 104m. The rear circular section measures 68m in diameter and is 11m high, while the front square section is 15.5m in length with a width of 28m. The protruding section is 7.5m long by 10m wide.

Decorative features on burial mounds.

Haniwa are the shaped artifacts of clay arranged about the burial mound to protect it. There are three layers of haniwa on the flat surface of the burial mound, comprised of the cylindrical Haniwa, and the morning glory cylindrical Haniwa, while the protruding section features only the fence-shaped type.

Chickens, waterfowl, houses, and vases comprise the other haniwa types.

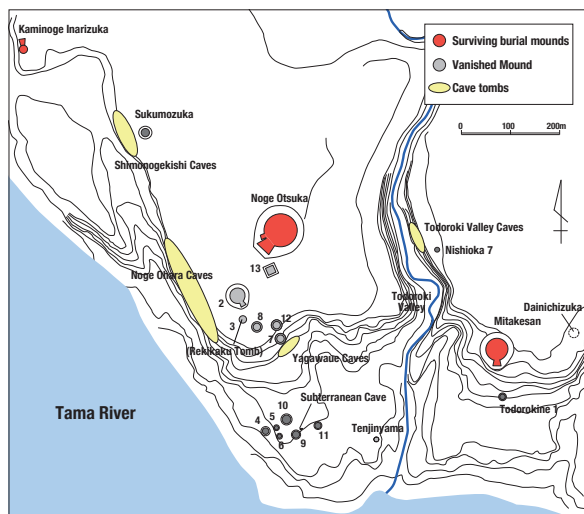
The whole of the burial mound's surface is covered with natural stones from the Tama River.

Burial mounds age

The burial mound itself is estimated to be 1,600 years old (circa 400 AD) early in the middle Kofun period.

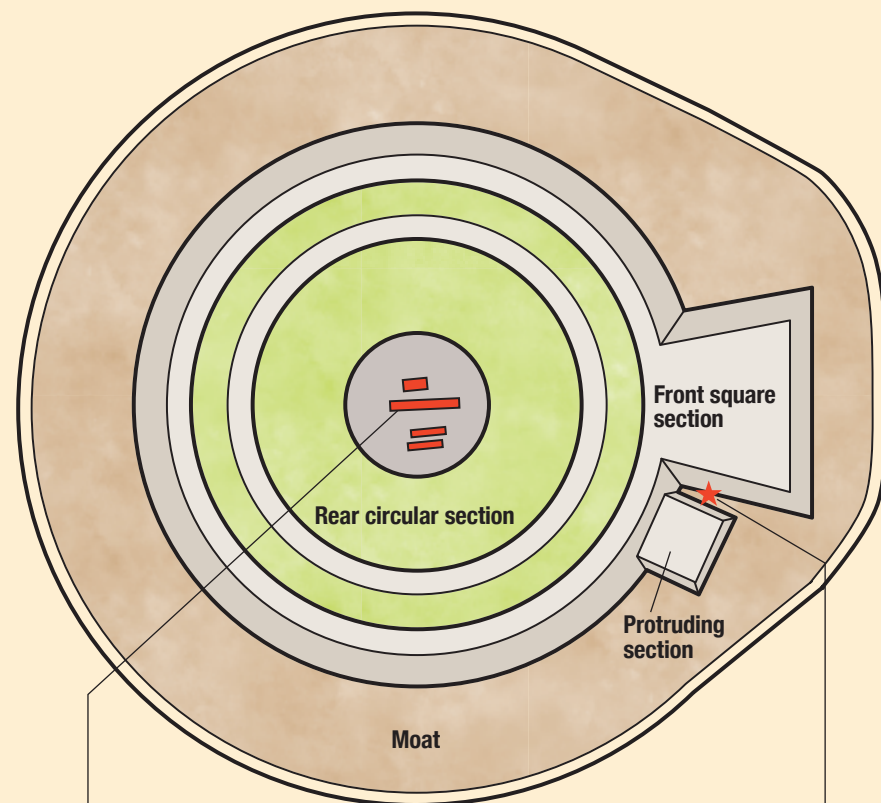
Neighboring burial mounds and cave tombs

Many ancient burial mounds and cave tombs once existed around the Noge-Otsuka Tomb, however few remain to this day.



Area map of the Noge Otsuka Burial Mound and its surroundings ▲

Reconstruction of the Noge Otsuka Burial Mound



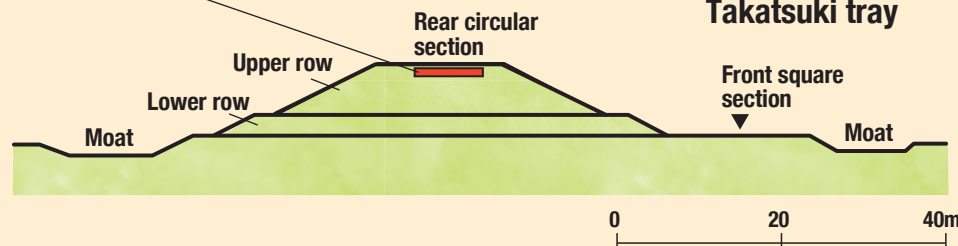
Main
burial chamber

Pottery

Sue (high fired) and haji (unglazed) wares were found at the top-rear circular section of the mound. Haji wares (Takatsuki) were excavated from the gap between the front and protruding section.



Takatsuki tray



The artifacts excavated from the site have been designated "important cultural properties"

The style of these artifacts is representative of eastern Japan of the mid-Kofun (5th century) period. They provide valuable evidence of the relationship between the Kinai (various countries near present-day Kyoto region) and the eastern provinces. In 2016, they were designated "important cultural properties."

Additionally, in 2017, artifacts excavated from the sarcophagus in 1897 (now at the Tokyo National Museum) were also added.

A Bronze mirror

Bronze mirror excavated from the first main burial chamber. The diameter is 11.5 cm. The inscription reads: "*chogishison* for the prosperity of our descendants"

C Beads

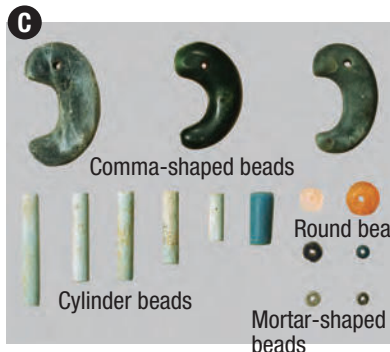
Various jewelry pieces found from the 1st to the 4th main burial chambers.



Bronze mirror
(with inner floral pattern)



Iron armor
(reconstruction)



Beads

B Armor

This is a armor excavated from the first main burial chamber.

D Iron weapons

Numerous iron weapons excavated from the 1st to the 4th main burial chambers, include 10 swords, 33 knives, 14 spears, 4 lances, and 243 arrowheads.



Stack of iron weapons
(third main burial chamber)

Inside the burial mound

Judging from the interred items found, it seems that the deceased had direct ties with the king of Kinai (the highest-ranking political leader of the time). He must have been a high chieftain of southern Musashi (present-day Tokyo, Kawasaki City, and northern Yokohama City).

E Lacquerware

More than 40 vertical ornamental combs were excavated from the first main burial chamber.

F Bronze bracelet

A bronze bracelet was found on the remains of the subject in the first main burial chamber.

G Iron replica tools

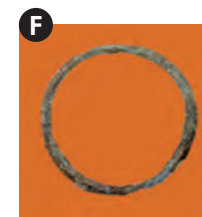
Excavated from the third main burial chamber, these miniature iron tools were made for ritual use

H Stone replica tools

Approximately 290 of these stone replica tools made of soft minerals (e.g., talc) and representing actual working implements, have been excavated from three of the main burial chambers but not the fourth.



Vertical ("pick")
comb



Bronze bracelet



Knife shape

Sickle shape



Main burial chambers and artifacts

Four burial sites called the "main burial chamber" have been discovered at the top of the rear circular section.

These sites were constructed at different times, but were built over the course of 50 years with burials performed in this order: 1st, 3rd, 2nd, and 4th.



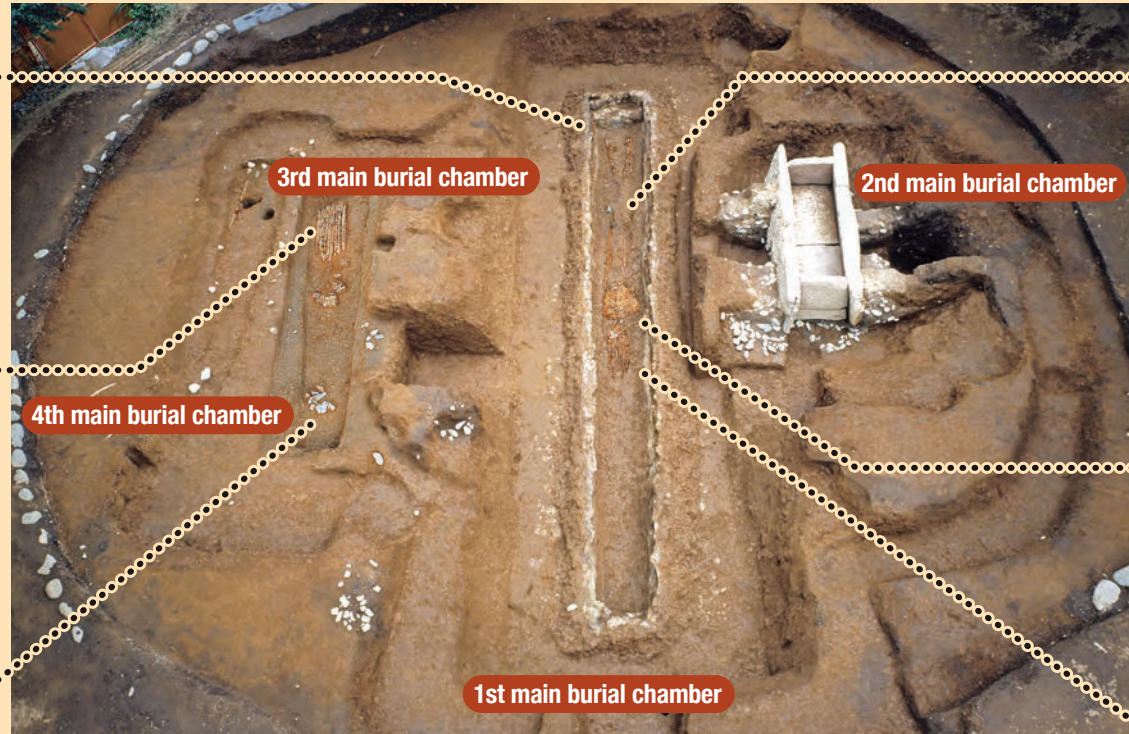
▲ Iron swords, Comma-shaped beads, knives



▲ Bundle of iron swords and arrowheads



▲ Talc and iron artifacts



The long, 8-meter, split bamboo-shaped coffin of the tomb's builder was found wrapped in clay in the center of the first main burial chamber. Excavated items included the latest armor, swords, arrowheads, and other iron weapons and military equipment of that age, also, bronze mirrors, talc carvings and beads.

In the third main burial chamber is a 4.2-meter wooden coffin in a box shape, containing even more iron weapons, armors and talc carvings than what was found in the first main burial chamber.

Differing from the other main sections, the second main burial chamber held a 2.7-meter "box-shaped" coffin, which was excavated in 1897 and found to contain iron weapons, armor, and talc carvings.

The fourth and final main burial chamber houses a 3.2-meter "box-shaped" coffin, containing the fewest artifacts of all the other main chambers.



▲ Bronze mirrors, bronze bracelets, and beads



▲ Armor



▲ Talc artifacts, iron swords, iron arrowheads