

国指定史跡 Historic Site



しろとりたていせき

白鳥館遺跡

Shirotoritata Iseki



白鳥館遺跡は、北上川の地理的な要害の場所にあり、
古代末期から中世にかけての北上川交通の要衝地としての様相を示す貴重な遺跡です

Shirotoritata Iseki (Shirotoritata Mansion Remains) on a loop of the Kitakamigawa River. From the end of the ancient period and throughout the medieval period this was a strategic point for monitoring all forms of river transport.

岩手県奥州市
Oshu City

遺跡の概要 Outline of Site

The site, Shirotoritate Iseki (Shirotoritate Mansion Remains), is 5km northeast of the centre of Hiraizumi on the west bank of the Kitakamigawa River. It is situated on a rocky peninsula that juts out into a loop of the river. The site is believed to have been the 12th century residence of *Shirotori Hachiro Norito*, (also known as *Yukito*) younger brother of *Abe no Sadato* who fought against *Minamoto no Yoriyoshi* and his son *Yoshiie* in the Former Nine Years' War (between 1051 and 1062).

Remains of a moat, a compound and earthen walls from a 15th century fortified residence have been found at the site. Through excavation and research it has been confirmed that this area was in continual use from the 10th to the 16th century. First a village, between the 14th and 15th centuries it was developed into a fortified residence, then in the 16th century it reverted to being a village. It is believed that from the 12th to the 15th centuries this site functioned as an important point from which to control transport on the Kitakamigawa River.

The Kitakamigawa River played a vital role in the development of Hiraizumi as a political centre. The Oshu Fujiwara family used the Kitakamigawa River waterway to import porcelain from Tokoname and Atsumi in the Tokai area, 2.7m tall Buddhist statues from Kyoto, and garden stones for Mitsu-ji's Pure Land Garden. They also sent valuable goods such as gold to the capital Kyoto. Shirotoritate Iseki was the best place from which to monitor river traffic since it was perched high above the Kitakamigawa River. The scenery on the east shore where the Kitakamigawa River is close to the mountains has hardly changed over the centuries.

Shirotoritate Iseki (Shirotoritate Mansion Remains), is a site which functioned as a strategic point on the Kitakamigawa River, the same river that supported the existence of Hiraizumi, the city built on Buddhist Pure Land belief.



対岸から見た白鳥館遺跡 Shirotoritate Site from the opposite bank

④ 遺跡の東斜面 Eastern slope of site

On the eastern slope facing the Kitakamigawa River, remains of 10th and 11th century buildings and other items have been excavated. It was originally a natural slope serving as access to the river, but when the fortified residence was built, the area was terraced into steps.



④ 発掘された^{たてあなしきりょうきよあと}竪穴式住居跡 (10c) Excavated pit house

⑤ 12世紀の遺構 12th century remains

The 12th century remains, such as the remains of L-shaped building pillars dug into the ground, wells, handicraft production for steel, pottery, tools used to forge bronze and other metals, the road that stretches to the Kitakamigawa River, and structures thought to be religious facilities, are all deployed in the lowlands. These structures were maintained even after the downfall of the Oshu Fujiwara family without interruption, and managed in the lowlands until the middle of the 14th century with relocations of central areas. The majority of the ruins were moved into the hilly areas in the mid-14th century, where they functioned as a medieval castle until the middle of the 15th century.



⑤ 発掘された^{かまあな}かわらけ窯跡 (12c)
Excavated *Kawarake* (earthenware cups) kiln

① 郭Ⅰ Remains of first compound of Fort

This compound was built in about the 15th century. The highest area extended to the river and provided a good vantage point from which to look out over the surrounding river and countryside. From the 11th to the 15th centuries, Shirotoritate was believed to have been a strategic point for monitoring all forms of river transport. The meandering of the Kitakamigawa River to the west of Shirotoritate Remains settled into its present course in the 18th century.



A遺跡から西の風景 The view from the Site to the northwest

② 郭Ⅱ Remains of second compound of Fort

In the 15th century, this area was levelled to form the main compound. It was protected by earthen embankments on the north and west sides, as well as a cliff and a moat. The huge stone on the east side of the level area marks the site of the original entrance.



B発掘された通路跡 (15c) Excavated entrance

⑥ 出土した遺物 Excavated Remains

Large amounts of earthenware and porcelain from the 10th to the 15th century have been excavated from this site. From this evidence it is believed that the site was in continual use for 600 years. Among the remains there were rare items like *Kawarake* (earthenware cups) dating from the 14th to the 15th century, decorated with flower patterns in three colours; red, black and white.



水晶製数珠玉母珠未成品 (12c)
12th century An unfinished
crystal bead



花の絵が描かれたかわらけ (15c)
15th century earthenware cup
with drawing of flower

③ 堀跡 Remains of Moat

The remains of the moat partially surrounding the *Kuruwa I* (first compound of fort) and the *Kuruwa II* (second compound of fort) are now mostly buried, but in the 15th century the moat was 6m wide and 2m deep.



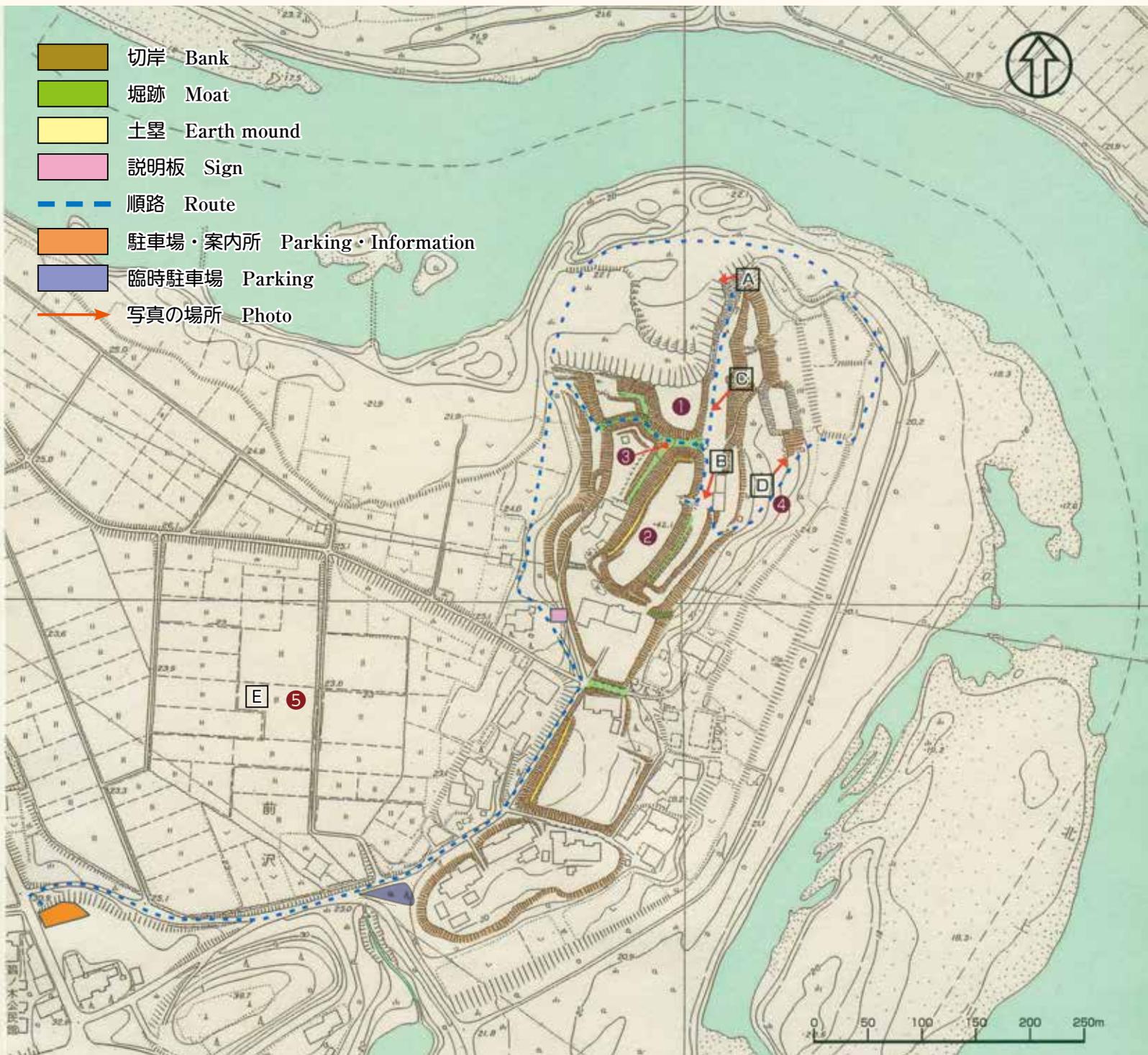
C発掘された堀跡 (15c) Excavated moat

⑦ 北上川 Kitakamigawa River

The Kitakamigawa River now curves around the Shirotoritate Site, but around 1700 the course of the river was different. At that time, the Kitakamigawa River was joined by the Shiroorigawa River north of the site and then flowed directly to the south. Later, the river shifted to flow in a wide loop around the site from the northwest, however on the narrow eastern side, the course of the river and the scenery remain unchanged.



北上川しもいさわぐんおおえすの古絵図(下胆沢郡大絵図)(1699) 1699 map of Kitakamigawa River



史跡ガイド (奥州市世界遺産登録候補地ガイドの会) 問い合わせ 奥州市商業観光課 TEL 0197-24-2111 (代)

周辺施設のご案内 Information about facilities area

・名所・旧跡 Landmarks / Historic spots

長者ヶ原廃寺跡 Chojagaharahaiji Ato	平泉前史を示す 11 世紀の寺院跡 Remains of 11th century temple	奥州市衣川田中西 55
接待館遺跡 Settaidate Iseki	12 世紀の大規模な遺跡 12th century archeological remains	奥州市衣川七日市場 10-1

周辺の博物館など Area Museum / Area Cultural Artifact Museum

牛の博物館 (白鳥館遺跡出土品展示施設) The Cattle Museum (Facilities for exhibition of items excavated from Shirotoritate Site)	奥州市前沢字南陣場 103-1	0197-56-7666	www.city.oshu.iwate.jp/hm/ushi/
奥州市 web 博物館 Oshu City Web Museum			https://www.city.oshu.iwate.jp/site/webmuse/

問い合わせ Information

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2021 年 3 月 改訂

- 見学に際しては**
Visitors are requested to observe the following
- ⚠️ 遺跡は私有地です。住民の方の生活にご配慮ください。
Please do not disturb local residents
 - ⚠️ 史跡内は禁煙です。 Please do not smoke
 - ⚠️ ゴミはお持ち帰りください。 Please take litter home
 - ⚠️ 草木を折ったり採取したりしないでください。
Please do not damage or remove plants