

“Jomon no Manabiya / Komakino Kan” Komakino Site Preservation Museum

Illustration of the Facility

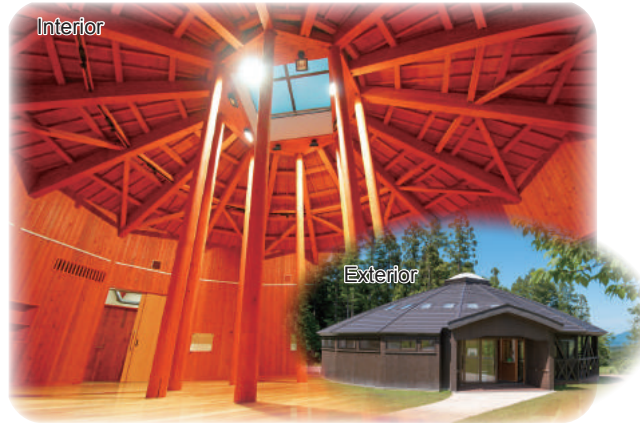


In 2012, Nozawa Elementary School, located just 1.5 kilometers from the Komakino Site was closed down. The building was renovated and now operates as the Komakino Site Preservation Museum: a center for providing information, displaying exhibits, and safekeeping artifacts excavated from the nearby Komakino site.

- Open: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Closed: The year-end and New Year period
- Entrance Fee: Free
- Address: 030-0152 Aomori City, Ooaza Nozawa, Aza Sawabe 108-3
- Parking: Available (including space for large-sized buses)
- Access:

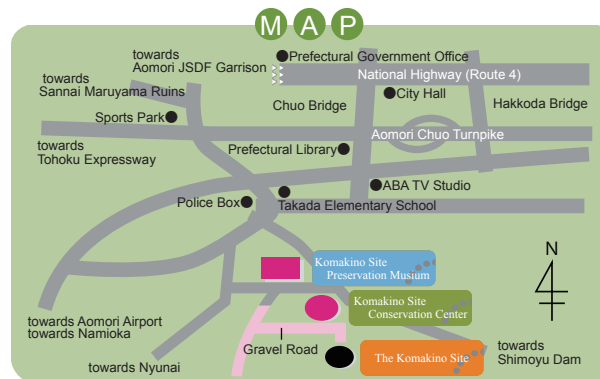
From Aomori Station.....about 30 minutes by car
 From Shin-Aomori Station.....about 30 minutes by car
 From Aomori Airport.....about 15 minutes by car
 From Aomori Chuo Turnpike.....about 20 minutes by car
 From the Sannai-Maruyama Site.....about 20 minutes by car

“Komakino no Mori / Donguri no Ie” Komakino Site Conservation Center



The Komakino Site Conservation Center is located adjacent to the Komakino Site. Commentary about the Komakino Site, a rest area, restrooms, parking, and other amenities are available for visitors.

- Open: May 1 - Sep 30 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)
Oct 1 - Nov 15 (9:00 am - 4:00 pm)
- Closed: Nov 16 - Apr 30 (closed for the winter)
- Entrance Fee: Free
- Address: Aomori City, Ooaza Nozawa, Komakino 41
- Parking: Available (maximum of two large buses)



*The road leading up to the Komakino Site is made of gravel. Trees next to the road may have grown to form a tunnel-like structure.
 *Operators of large buses: please contact us in advance. Routes and parking may be designated, and regulations related to the type of bus may apply.

National Historical Site of Japan The Komakino Site



Introduction

The core of the Komakino Site is a large-scale stone circle that features a unique stone distribution pattern. It was constructed by the Jomon people roughly 4,000 years ago during the former half of the Late Jomon Period. In addition to shedding light on the spiritual life, social structures, and burial systems of the Jomon people, the site is equally important for understanding the capacity of civil engineering during the period by observing land development and stone transportation techniques and capabilities.

Contact Us
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 (“Jomon no Manabiya / Komakino Kan”)
 E-mail: info@komakinosite.jp

Construction and Size of the Stone Circle

The stone circle of the Komakino Site, with a diameter of 55 meters, is a large monument whose construction required an enormous concentration of labor. The stone circle has three complete rings: the outer ring has a diameter of 35 meters; the inner ring has a diameter of 29 meters in diameter; and the center ring has a diameter of 35 meters. Portions of a fourth ring as well as an additional stone circle with a diameter of about 4 meters that surrounds the outer ring have also been discovered.



Komakino style of stone arrangement



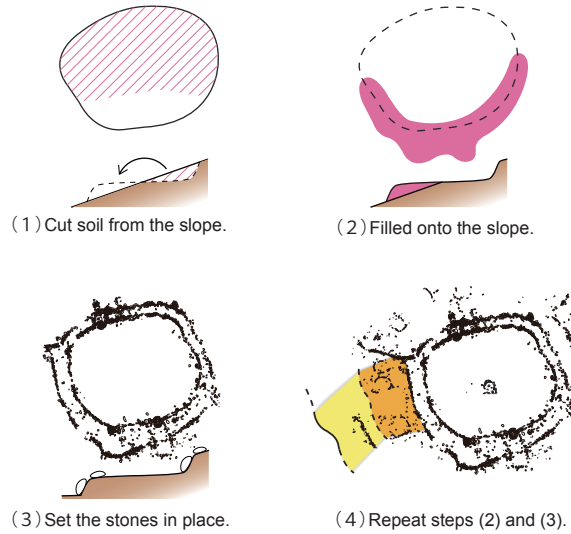
Stone Placement

The outer and inner rings were constructed by first placing oval-shaped stones vertically and stacking flat stones in between them to form a fence-like structure. This method of arrangement is very rare, not just for Aomori, but for the whole of Japan and has been called the 'Komakino-style' of stone arrangement.

The Stone Circle and Civil Engineering

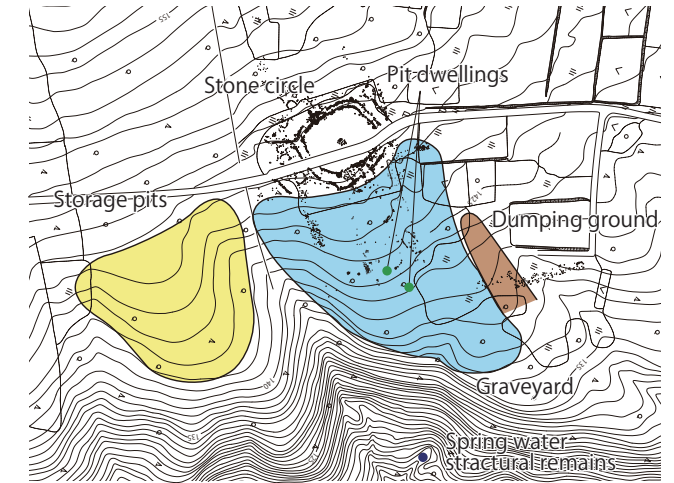
The land on which the stone circle would come to be constructed was originally on a slight gradient. The Jomon people first leveled off the higher end of the slope (1) and used the soil to fill the lower end (2). Afterwards, they carried stones from the river and arranged them to form the stone circle (3).

The stones formed a three-dimensional structure due to the stone circle being built on land of differing elevations resulting from the partial leveling off and filling work. Construction of the stone circle took place over a long period of time.



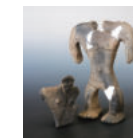
Discovered remains

In addition to the stone circle, the excavations revealed the remains of structural remains as well as those necessary for burial, including pit graves and earthenware burial coffins.



Artifacts unearthed

Apart from pottery and stone implements used in everyday life, artifacts with strong religious overtones, have also been unearthed around the graves adjacent to the circle and dumping grounds.



Clay figurines
Most of the clay figurines have heads jutting out from flat torsos, while some are more three-dimensional with arms and legs represented.



Triangular stone plates
These stone plates are one of the most important finds of the Komakino Site. More than 400 have been unearthed to date.

Viewing Area

From here, you can get an unobstructed view of the stone circle in all its glory. On days with good weather, you can even see as far as Mutsu Bay.

*This hill was made using the dirt dug up during onsite excavations.



Pit Graves

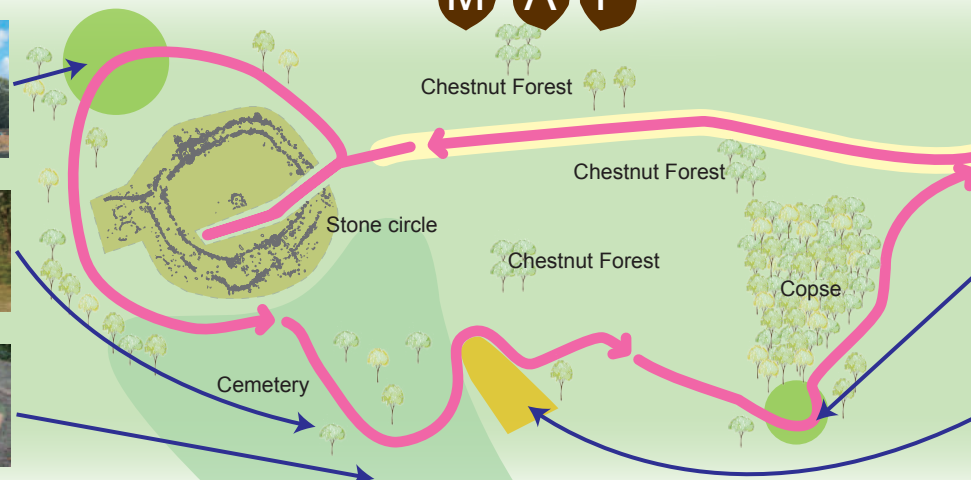
There were over 100 pit graves discovered in a cemetery-like area to the east of the circle.

All kinds of graves were found: circular graves, elliptical graves and graves made from reused storage pits.



Pit Dwellings

Remains of two pit dwellings contemporary with the stone circle have been found to date. Both were located in the middle of the cemetery area.



"Komakino no Mori / Donguri no Ie"
Komakino Site Conservation Center

Sight from the Viewing Area



From here you can see the Shimokita and Tsugaru Peninsulas, weather permitting. The Arakawa River, which Jomon people are believed to have used to transport stones for the circle, can be seen from this area as well.

Dumping Ground



The dumping grounds were located in an area where the marsh lands gradually begin to slope. Various items have been unearthed here including: earthenware, stone tools, clay figures and triangular rock plates.