



# Odai-Yamamoto Site

Sotogahama Town/About 15,000 years ago  
Historical Site Designated in 2013



A view from the sky (The circular mark shows the location of the site)



Stone arrowhead



The oldest class clay pottery fragment in Japan

## Japan's oldest clay pottery fragment unearthed

Japan's oldest clay pottery fragment and arrowhead as well as stone tools with special characters of Paleolithic Age have been unearthed.

Checking the cooking scar (carbide) sticking to the fragment, it is pointed that it was probably used about 16,500 years ago. The fragment was a part of a pottery with no straw-rope pattern. We can say that's the character of the oldest clay pottery.



The discovery of an arrowhead at Odai-Yamamoto Site let us know that the appearance of bow and arrow dated back to the same period when clay pottery appeared.

## Q&A

### Q What shape did Japan's oldest pottery have?

A As unearthed fragments of clay pottery were just a few, we don't know its accurate shape. But it's considered that it was a small-sized and flat-bottom pottery.

### Q What kind of houses did they live in?

A It's considered that as there were no posthole and hollow in the space where people lived, the dwelling must have the structure without digging down the ground unlike a pit dwelling.



Scene of excavation

## Related Facilities

### Sotogahama town Oyama Furusato Museum



A museum making use of former Ohya Primary School building.3 exhibition rooms introducing folk materials of Sotogahama Town as well as an exhibition room showing unearthed remains at Odai-Yamamoto Site are prepared.

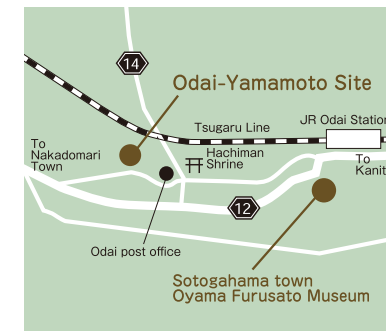
### Attention!!

Visitors can observe Japan's oldest pottery fragment with no straw-rope pattern. Soot and burnt rice remain black on the fragment.

**[Opening Hours]** 9:00am-4:00pm Mondays (if a Monday is a national holiday, then the next day)・New Year's holidays and the end of December Closed. Admission Free.

**[Address]** 34-3 Odaisawabe Kanita Sotogahama Town

**[TEL]** 0174-22-2577



### [Inquiry]

Social Education Department, Sotogahama Town  
Municipal Board of Education(TEL0174-31-1233)