

## National Natural Monument

### The Kioroshi shell beds

Designated on March 19, 2002

The Kioroshi shell bed's are widely distributed from northern Chiba Prefecture to southern Ibaraki Prefecture, and were first researched in Kioroshi, Inzai City, hence the name.

This shell bed's stratum is about 120,000 years old. At that time, the Kanto Plain, including Inzai City, was a large inland bay called "Ko Tokyo Bay (Paleolithic Tokyo Bay," and shells fossils were collected and deposited by the waves and currents of the sea.

The most common shell fossils found in this area are Clothed bittersweet clam, Surf-clam, Kioroshi-Japanese littleneck clam, Northern great tellin, and Nautius. In addition to these, Cake-urchin are also commonly found.

These and other identical species of shellfish can still be found on the coast or slightly offshore from the coast. The shell beds were designated as a natural monument not only because of the fossils and various sedimentary structures deposited in the shallow sea at that time, but also because of its geological importance as the beginning of geological research in the Kanto Plain.

- \* The Kioroshi shell beds are on display with detailed explanations and explained at the Kioroshi Koryu no Mori Historical Resource Center.
- \* Please do not enter the fence as it is dangerous. **The collection of shell fossils in designated areas is prohibited by law.**

August 2021

Inzai City Board of Education