

9_3_English_衣川廃寺跡

Kinugawa Temple Ruins

National Historic Site

The Kinugawa Temple Ruins are located on the eastern edge of a small hill overhanging Lake Biwa, and in a valley formed by the Tenjin River to the north, and the Ooto River to the south. From an excavation conducted in 1975, the remnants of a tile kiln, a tower on the east and a main hall on the north side of the temple grounds were discovered. On the northeast side, a pit believed to have been a workshop has also been discovered. The temple had a unique layout, in which the tower and main hall were not adjacent to one another. Based on the items excavated, it is believed that Kinugawa is the oldest temple constructed in Shiga prefecture, having been built in the mid-7th century and abandoned by the late 7th century.