



Tojin Kofungun
Tojin-maruru



Tsukazaki Kofungun
Tsuka-ji



Yokose Kofun
Romanto-kun

Ancient Kofungun at the southernmost tip of Japan

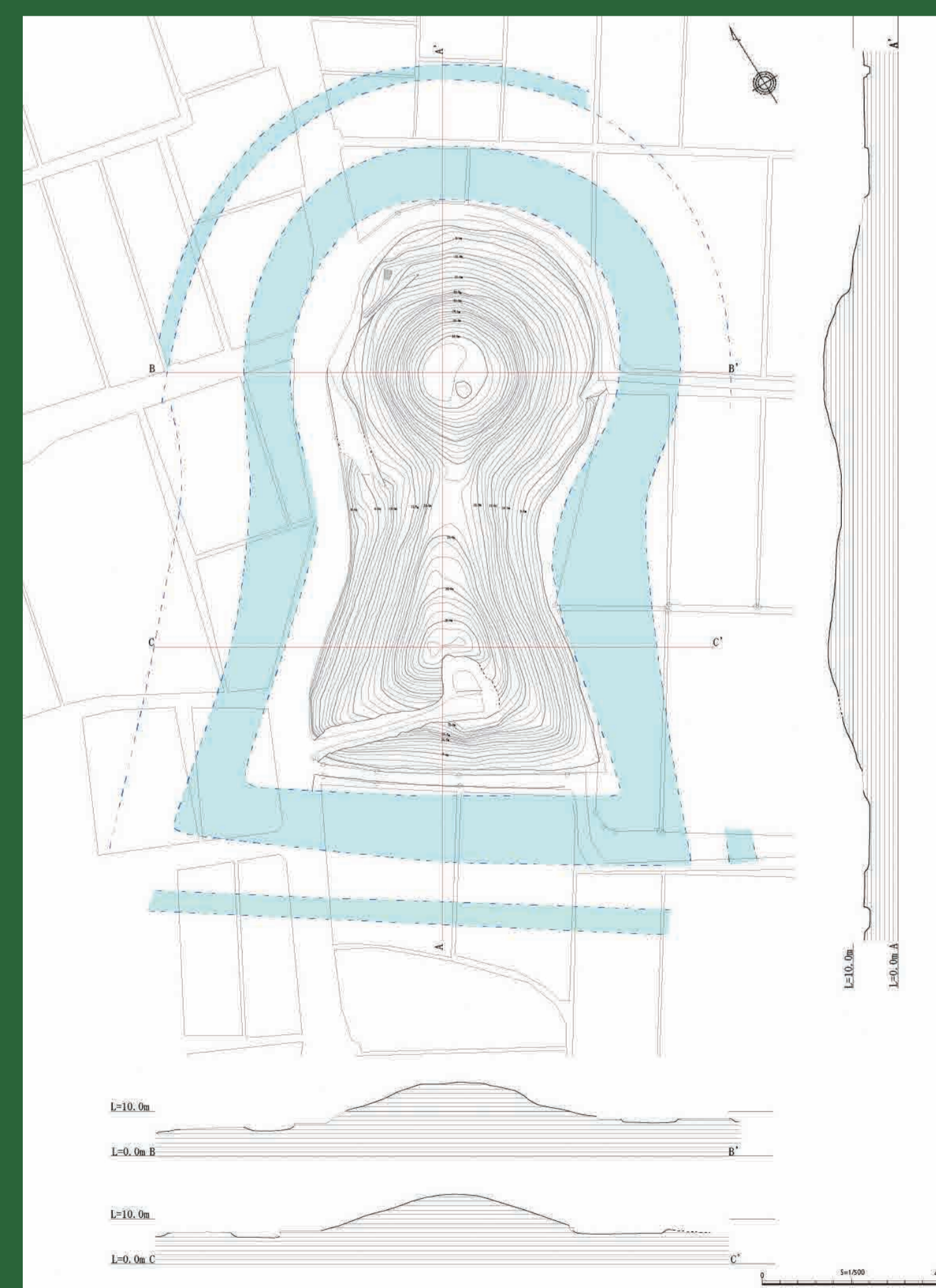
Yokose Kofun



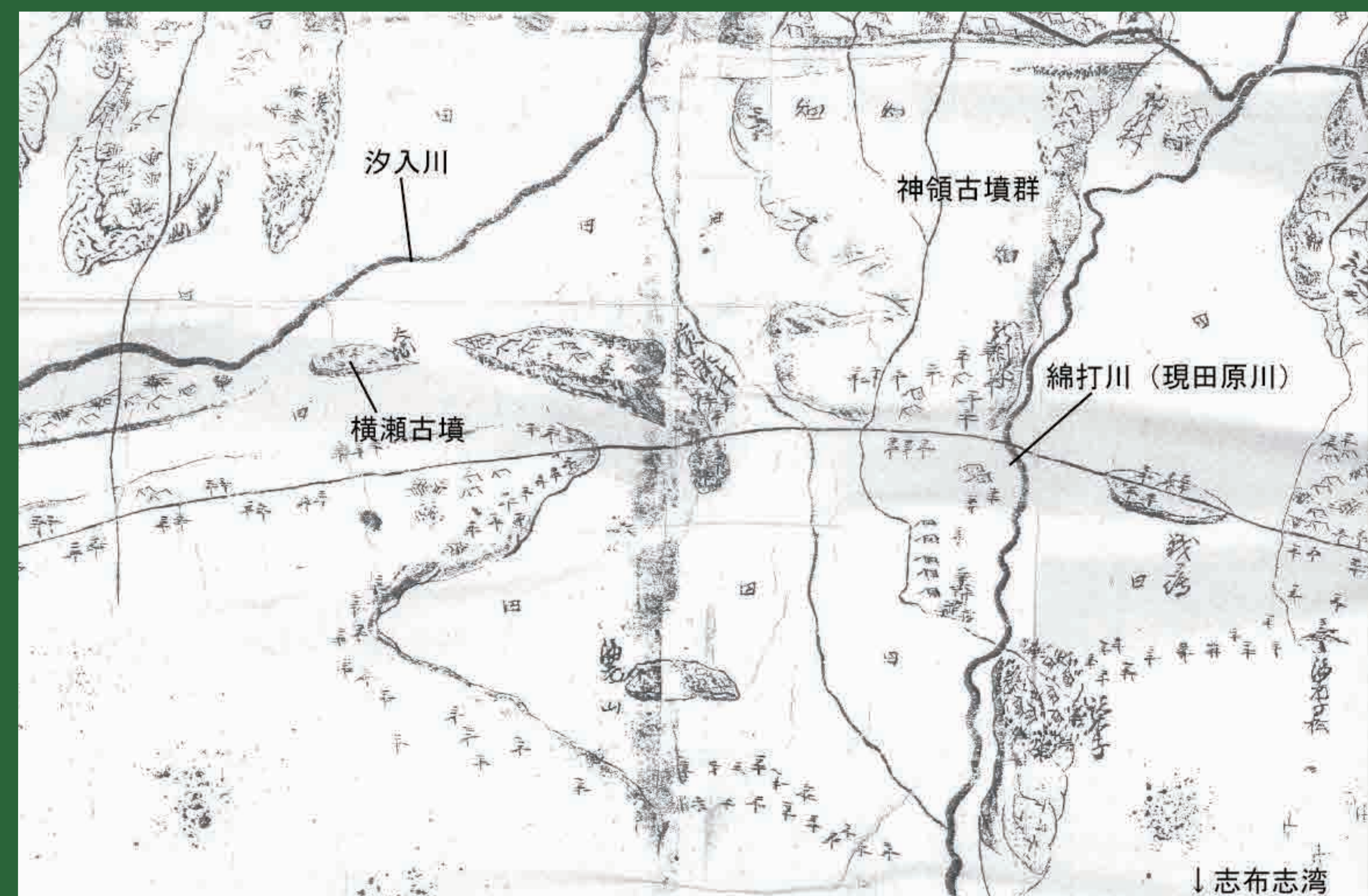
Crop mark surrounding the moat (vegetation difference)



Crop mark surrounding the moat (soil difference)



Cross section of survey plan



Topographical map of the surrounding area in 1824

Yokose Kofun is described in the “Osaki Meishoshi,” which was compiled in 1824 during the Edo period. The following extract describes the contemporary state of the mound: “There is a large sarcophagus on top of a mountain. Neither the date of burial nor the name of the person enshrined here is known. Ancient pottery pieces or tiles are collapsing even now.” This is the oldest extant description of Yokose Kofun in the literature. The expression “ancient pottery and tile pieces” imply that haniwa, hajiki and sueki pottery pieces were scattered around the mound. It is recognized that the cover stone of the stone chamber has been exposed since the recording in the Meishoshi was undertaken.

Two excavation surveys on Yokose Kofun have been conducted. The first one occurred in 1977 and 1978 by the Kagoshima Prefectural Board of Education, and the second one proceeded in 2010 and 2011 by the Osaki Municipal Board of Education. Both surveys focused on the moats, not the mounds. These excavation surveys have revealed that the Kofun moats are dual, the discovery of which was the first among the Kofun groups of Osumi region. In addition, it was confirmed that the shape of the surrounding moats closely resemble those of the Yamato Court. From the fact that Sueki pottery pieces have been excavated from the surrounding moats, it is possible that the site was used for certain rituals. Judging from excavated materials, it is considered that the Kofun had been made by the middle of the 5th century.

The Jinryo Kofun group is located on a plateau located to the north of Yokose Kofun. From No. 10 Jinryo Kofun, shield bearing clay figurines have been excavated. Because the construction period of Jinryo 10 Kofun and Yokose Kofun coincide, it is considered that figurative haniwa also existed in Yokose Kofun.

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