

Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region

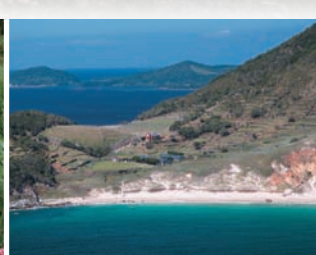
World Heritage Nomination 2017
JAPAN



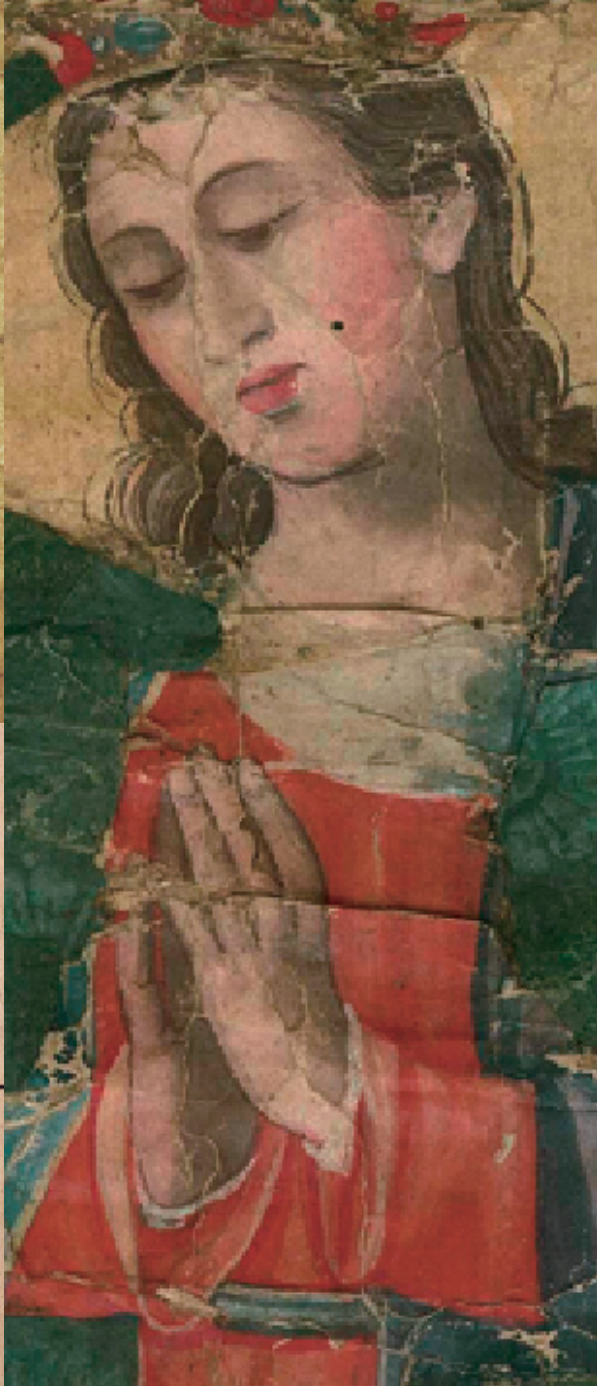


Executive
summary

Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region







[illegible]

State Party

Japan

State, Province or Region

Nagasaki Prefecture and Kumamoto Prefecture

Name of Property

Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region

Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

| No. | Name of the component | Regions / districts | Latitude | Longitude |
|-----|---|---|-------------|--------------|
| 001 | Remains of Hara Castle | Nagasaki Prefecture (Minamishimabara City) | N 32°37'44" | E 130°15'16" |
| 002 | Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado (Kasuga Village and Mt. Yasumandake) | Nagasaki Prefecture (Hirado City) | N 33°20'22" | E 129°26'38" |
| 003 | Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado (Nakaenoshima Island) | Nagasaki Prefecture (Hirado City) | N 33°22'25" | E 129°27'52" |
| 004 | Sakitsu Village in Amakusa | Kumamoto Prefecture (Amakusa City) | N 32°18'44" | E 130°1'33" |
| 005 | Shitsu Village in Sotome | Nagasaki Prefecture (Nagasaki City) | N 32°50'42" | E 129°42'2" |
| 006 | Ono Village in Sotome | Nagasaki Prefecture (Nagasaki City) | N 32°51'53" | E 129°41'9" |
| 007 | Villages on Kuroshima Island | Nagasaki Prefecture (Sasebo City) | N 33°8'21" | E 129°32'13" |
| 008 | Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island | Nagasaki Prefecture (Ojika Town) | N 33°11'13" | E 129°7'46" |
| 009 | Villages on Kashiragashima Island | Nagasaki Prefecture (Shinkamigoto Town) | N 33°0'44" | E 129°10'58" |
| 010 | Villages on Hisaka Island | Nagasaki Prefecture (Goto City) | N 32°48'8" | E 128°54'14" |
| 011 | Egami Village on Naru Island (Egami Church and its Surroundings) | Nagasaki Prefecture (Goto City) | N 32°47'26" | E 128°52'48" |
| 012 | Oura Cathedral | Nagasaki Prefecture (Nagasaki City) | N 32°44'3" | E 129°52'12" |

Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

The nominated property consists of 12 components that bear testimony to the unique cultural tradition nurtured by Hidden Christians in the Nagasaki region who secretly practised their faith despite a ban on Christianity. These components are located on the western coast of the Nagasaki region where Catholic missionaries from Europe established their bases in the 16th century, as well as on remote islands in the region to which Hidden Christians migrated during the ban on Christianity.

The boundaries of the Remains of Hara Castle and Oura Cathedral coincide with the areas nationally designated as Historic Sites under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The boundaries of the other components are delineated so as to include land use patterns dating back to the period of the ban on Christianity. These include sites of Hidden Christian leaders' houses, graveyards of Hidden Christian communities, and places that were venerated in secret. The areas within these boundaries are protected by national laws and regulations—including the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

Buffer zones are set in place for each component in order to prevent any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, and to maintain and develop favourable landscapes in harmony with the surrounding environment. The boundaries of these buffer zones are delineated to include the setting of the components and all other areas necessary for their protection—defined on the basis of the area visible from the components, natural landforms, boundaries reflecting land ownership or administration, and the like.

Maps of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone

See page 10 to page 35 of this executive summary.

Criteria under which property is nominated

Criterion (iii)

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a. Brief synthesis

The nominated property, ‘Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region’, bears unique testimony to the history of people and their communities who secretly transmitted their faith in Christianity during the time of prohibition spanning more than two centuries in Japan, from the 17th to the 19th century. Located in very remote areas including small islands at the westernmost edge of Japan, the property represents how the Christian communities survived in the midst of the conventional society and its religions, gradually transforming and ultimately ending their religious traditions and being assimilated into modern society after the prohibition was lifted.

The nominated property is comprised of 12 components located in the Nagasaki region of Japan, which lies at the far eastern edge of the area within Asia in which Christianity was introduced during the Age of Exploration. Since the Nagasaki region served as Japan’s gateway for exchange with foreign countries and as a place where missionaries settled from the latter half of the 16th century, people in the region could receive missionaries’ guidance extensively over a long period of time, and as a result, Catholic communities took root more firmly there than anywhere else in Japan. In this context, even after Japan banned Christianity in the 17th century and not a single missionary was allowed to remain in Japan, some Catholics in the Nagasaki region were left to maintain their faith and small religious communities by themselves, becoming Hidden Christians.

Hidden Christians survived as communities that formed small villages sited along the sea-coast or on remote islands to which Hidden Christians migrated during the ban on Christianity. Hidden Christians gave rise to a distinctive religious tradition that was seemingly vernacular yet which maintained the essence of Christianity, and they survived continuing their faith over the ensuing two centuries.

The nominated property as a set of the 12 different components provides a clear understanding of the tradition of Hidden Christians. The nominated property thus bears testimony to the distinctive way in which the Hidden Christians continued their faith during the ban on Christianity. As witness to this unique cultural tradition nurtured during the long ban on Christianity, the nominated property has Outstanding Universal Value.

b. Justification for Criteria

Criterion (iii)

The nominated property bears unique testimony to the distinctive religious tradition nurtured by the Hidden Christians in the Nagasaki region while they secretly continued their Christian faith during the ban on Christianity.

The Hidden Christians' unique religious tradition, from its origin and formation while they secretly transmitted the Christian faith by themselves during the ban, to the new phase triggered following the lifting of the ban on Christianity and the consequent transformation toward the ending of the tradition, is well demonstrated in the 12 components.

c. Statement of Integrity

The nominated property consists of 12 components, all of which bear testimony to the unique cultural tradition nurtured by Hidden Christians who secretly practised their Christian faith in the Nagasaki region despite a ban on Christianity. These 12 components not only include all of the elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property but are also of adequate size and in a good state of conservation.

Thorough and complete protection measures have been taken for each of the components in accordance with all relevant national laws and regulations—including the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. Within the buffer zones of the nominated property, appropriate protection is provided not only by the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, but also by the Landscape Act and other relevant laws and regulations. Therefore the nominated property does not suffer from any adverse effects of development or neglect, and it has been effectively conserved together with its surrounding landscape.

d. Statement of Authenticity

Each component of the nominated property maintains a high degree of authenticity based on the attributes selected according to its nature. The villages possess a high degree of authenticity based on their attributes of 'form and design', 'use and function', 'traditions, techniques and management systems', 'location and setting', and 'spirit and feeling'. The component, 'Remains of Hara Castle', has lost its authenticity related to 'use and function', as it is an archaeological site, but it retains a high degree of authenticity in regard to the other attributes. Oura Cathedral and the Egami Church in Egami Village on Naru Island possess a high degree of authenticity in terms of 'materials and substance' in addition to the other attributes as they are architectural works.

e. Requirements for Protection and Management

The nominated property and its buffer zones are properly conserved under various laws and regulations including the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. Furthermore, Nagasaki Prefecture, Kumamoto Prefecture and relevant municipalities have formulated a robust Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan from the perspective of safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property as a whole. As a framework for implementing this plan, they have organised a World Heritage Preservation and Utilisation Council in cooperation with the owners of the components and other stakeholders. The Council is operated for the appropriate protection, enhancement and utilisation of the nominated property. The Council receives guidance from and consults with experts comprising an academic committee (the Nagasaki World Heritage Academic Committee), as well as the Agency for Cultural Affairs, which is the principal agency in charge of protection of Japan's cultural properties.

Name and contact information of official local institution/agency

Agency for Cultural Affairs Cultural Properties Department Monuments and Sites Division

Address: 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 Japan

Tel: +81 (0)3 6734 2877

Fax: +81 (0)3 6734 3822

E-mail: w-isan@mext.go.jp

Web address: <http://www.bunka.go.jp/>

Nagasaki Prefecture Culture, Tourism and International Affairs Department World Heritage Registration Division

Address: 2-13 Edomachi, Nagasaki City, Nagasaki Prefecture 850-8570 Japan

Tel: +81 (0)95 824 1111

Fax: +81 (0)95 894 3485

E-mail: s38020@pref.nagasaki.lg.jp

Web address: http://www.pref.nagasaki.jp/s_isan/

Kumamoto Prefecture Promotion Policy Department Cultural Affairs and World Heritage Promotion Division

Address: 6-18-1, Suizenji, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto City, Kumamoto Prefecture 862-8570 Japan

Tel: +81 (0)96 383 1111

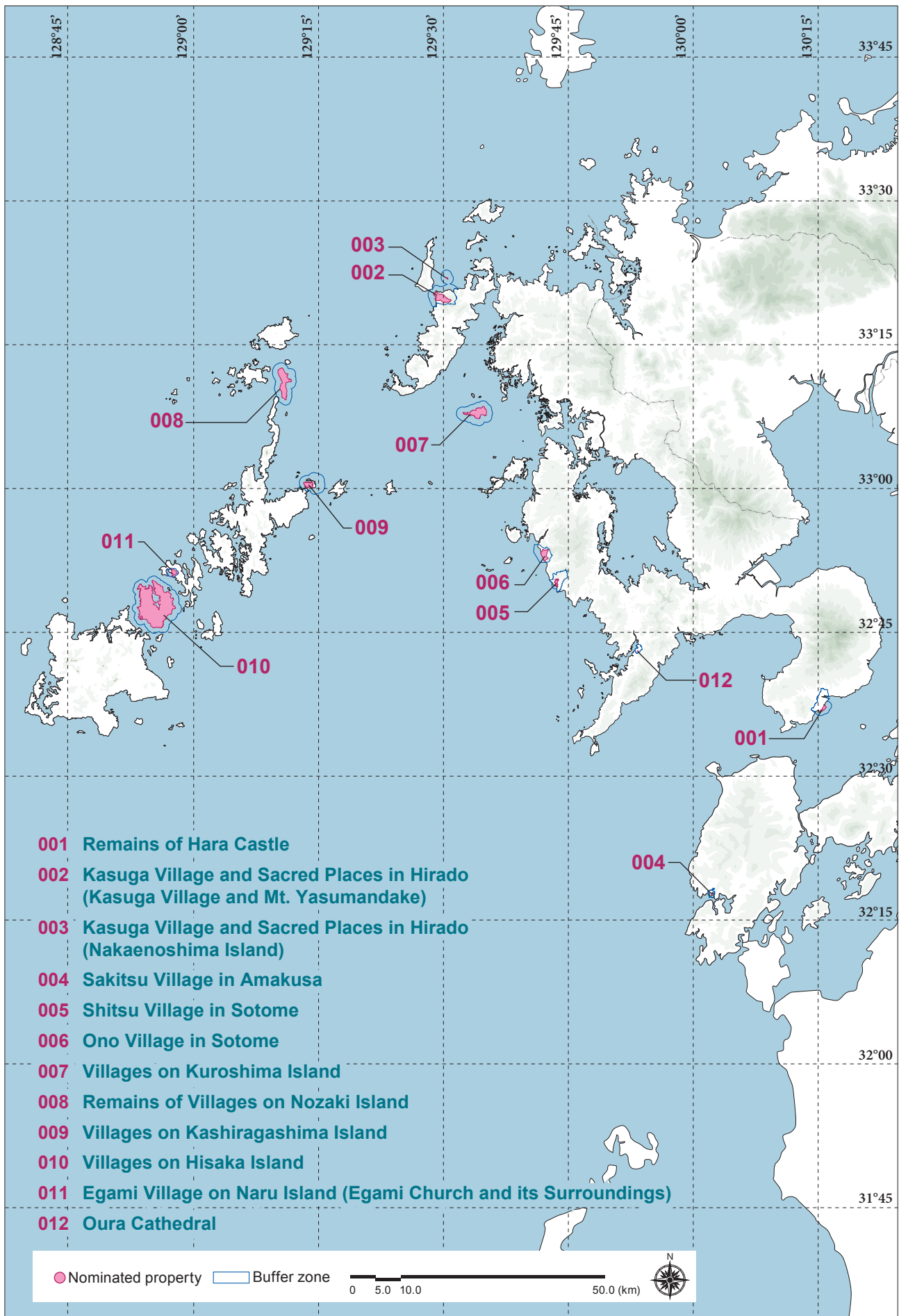
Fax: +81 (0)96 381 9829

E-mail: bunkasekai@pref.kumamoto.lg.jp

Web address: <http://www.pref.kumamoto.jp/>

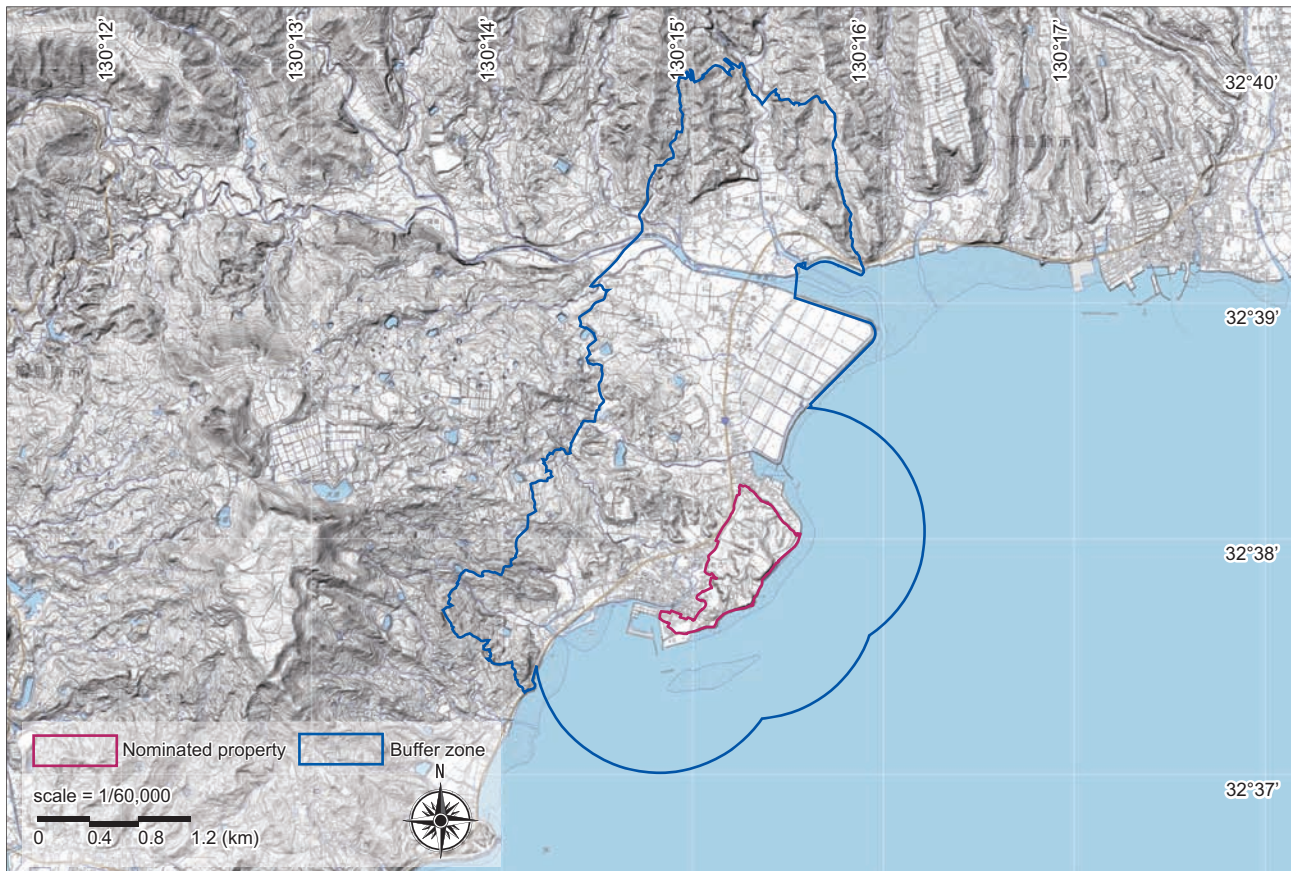


Map indicating the location in Japan



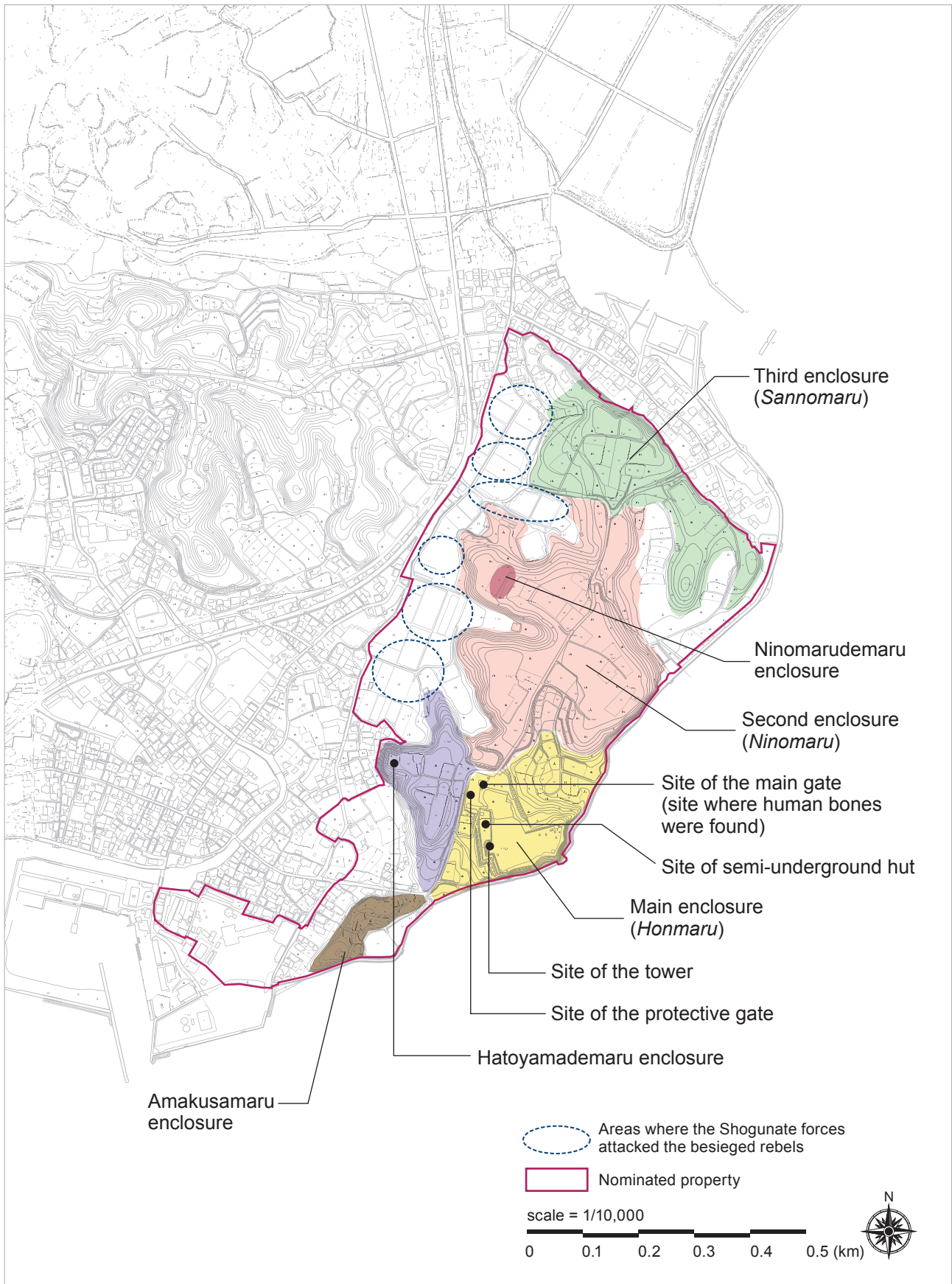
Map indicating the location of the nominated property and buffer zones

001 Remains of Hara Castle



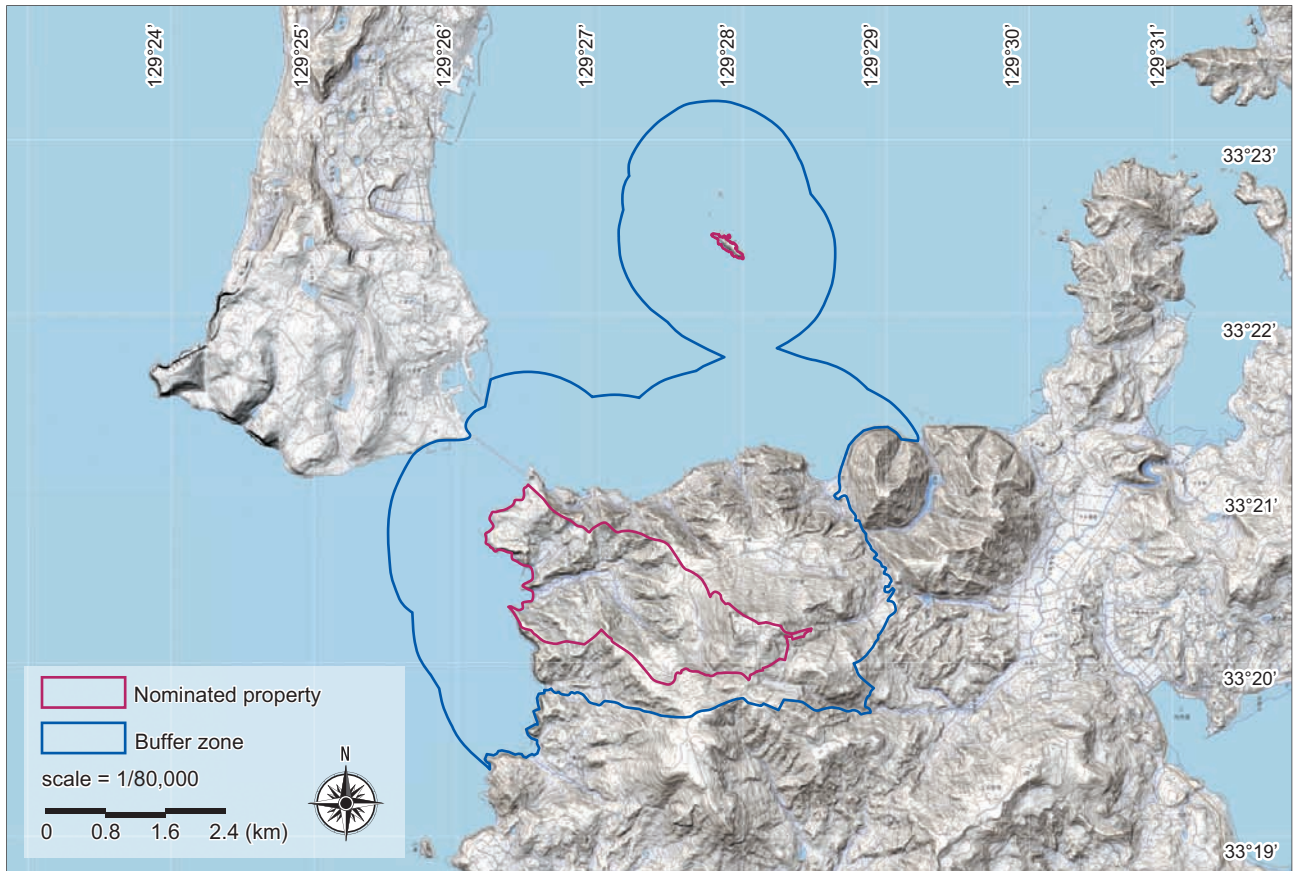
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone





Map indicating the extent of the Remains of Hara Castle

002, 003 Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado



Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone

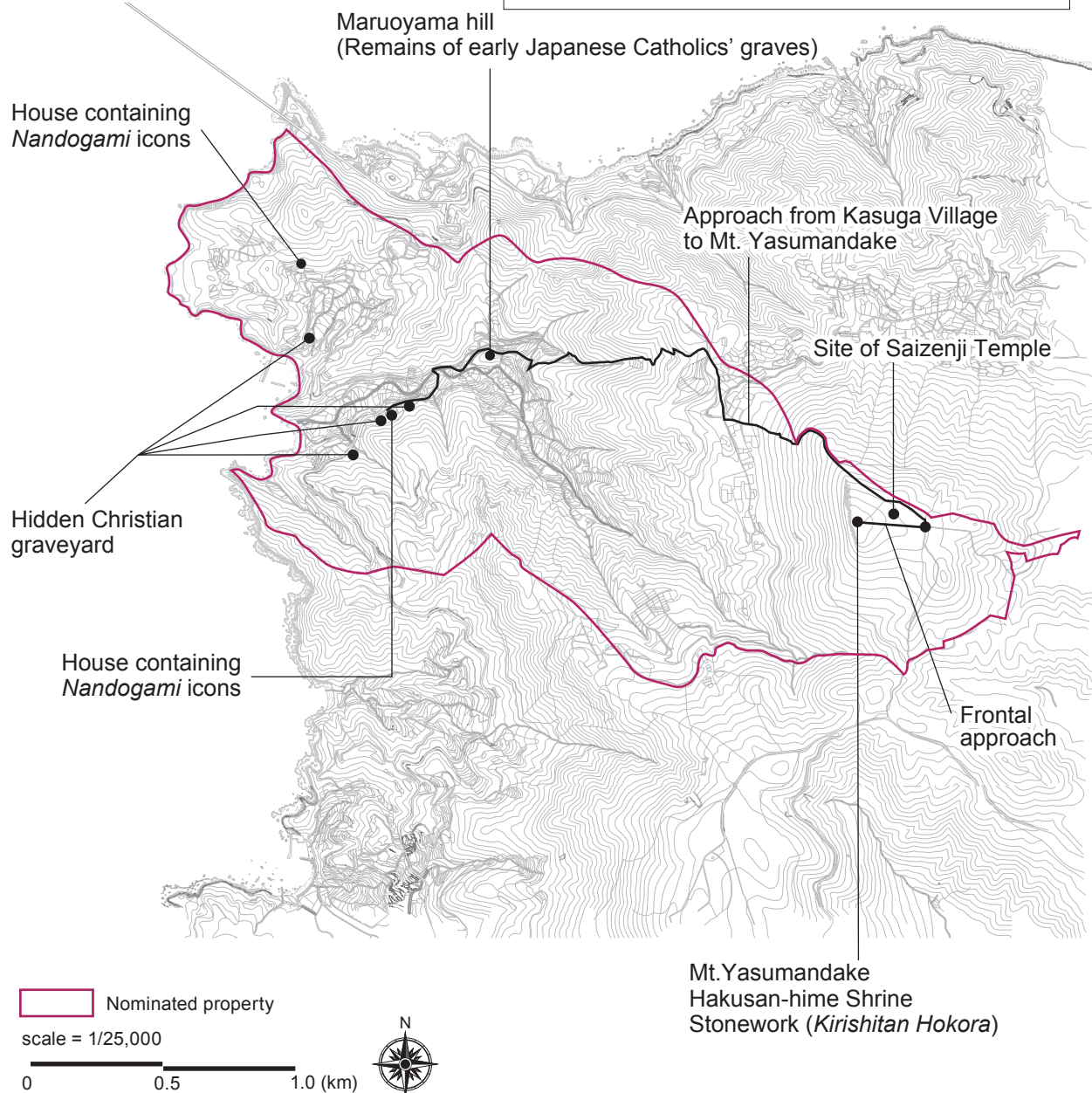


002

Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado (Kasuga Village and Mt. Yasumandake)

003

Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado (Nakaenoshima Island)



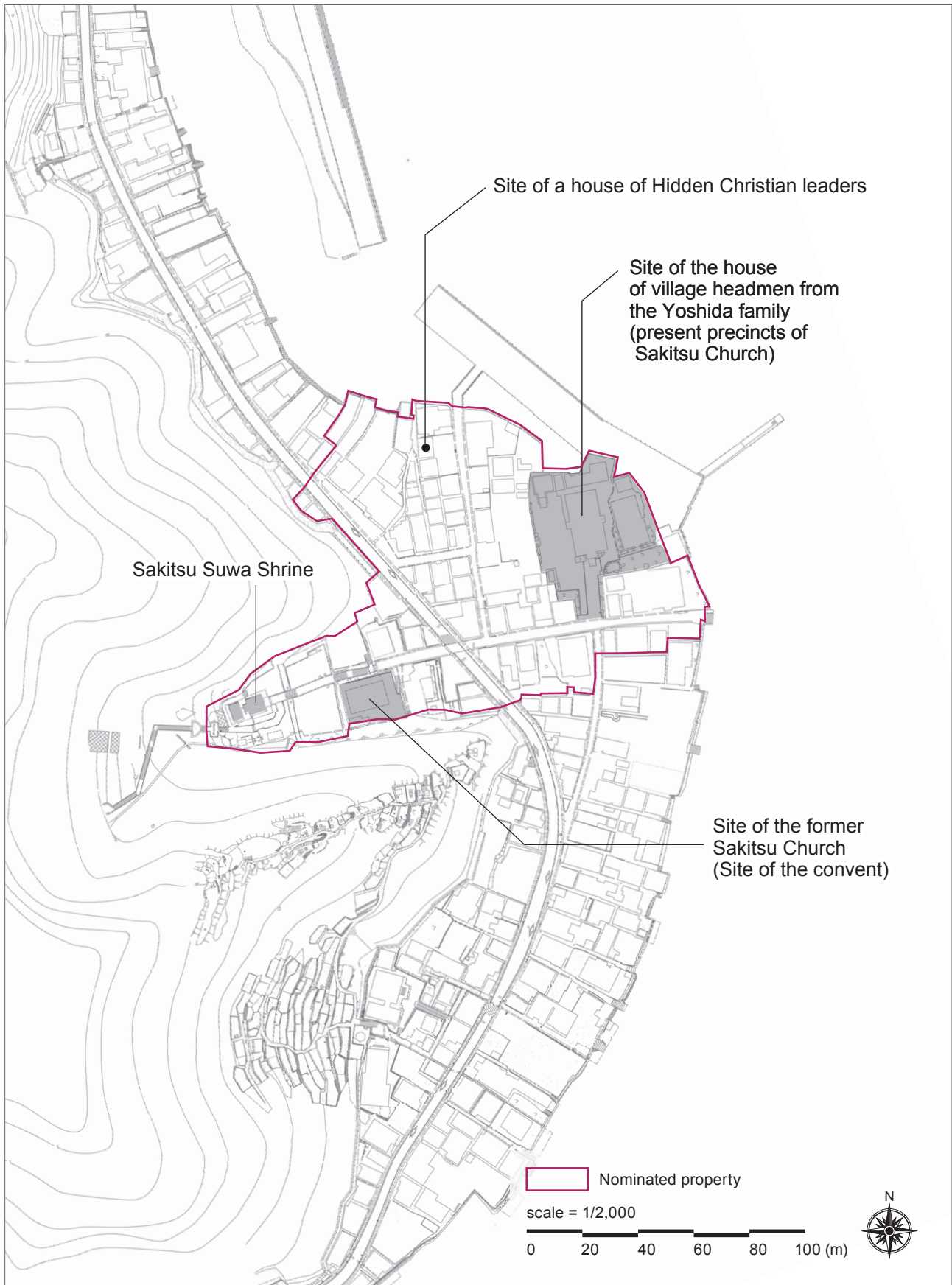
Map indicating the extent of Kasuga Village and Sacred Places in Hirado

004 Sakitsu Village in Amakusa



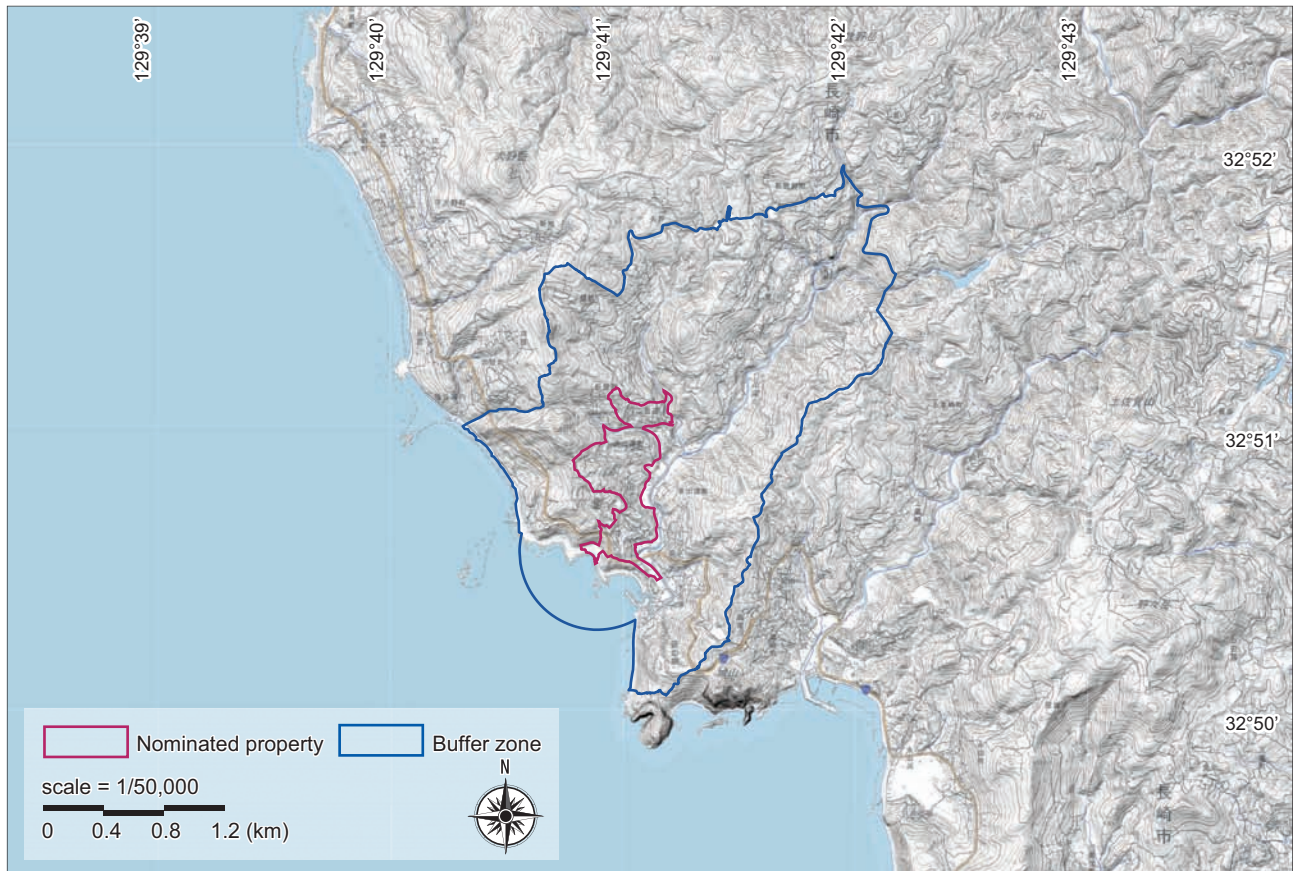
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone





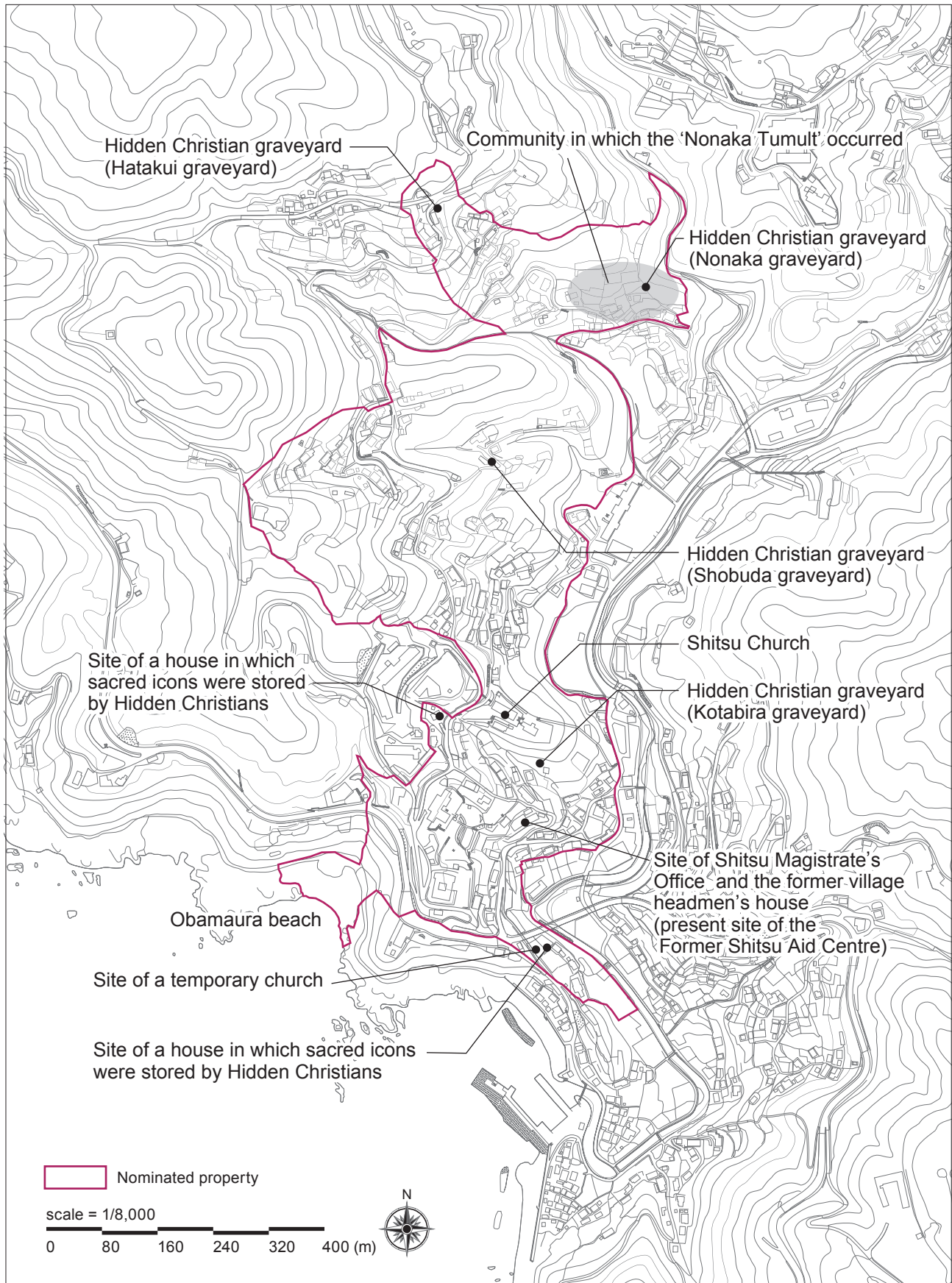
Map indicating the extent of Sakitsu Village in Amakusa

005 Shitsu Village in Sotome



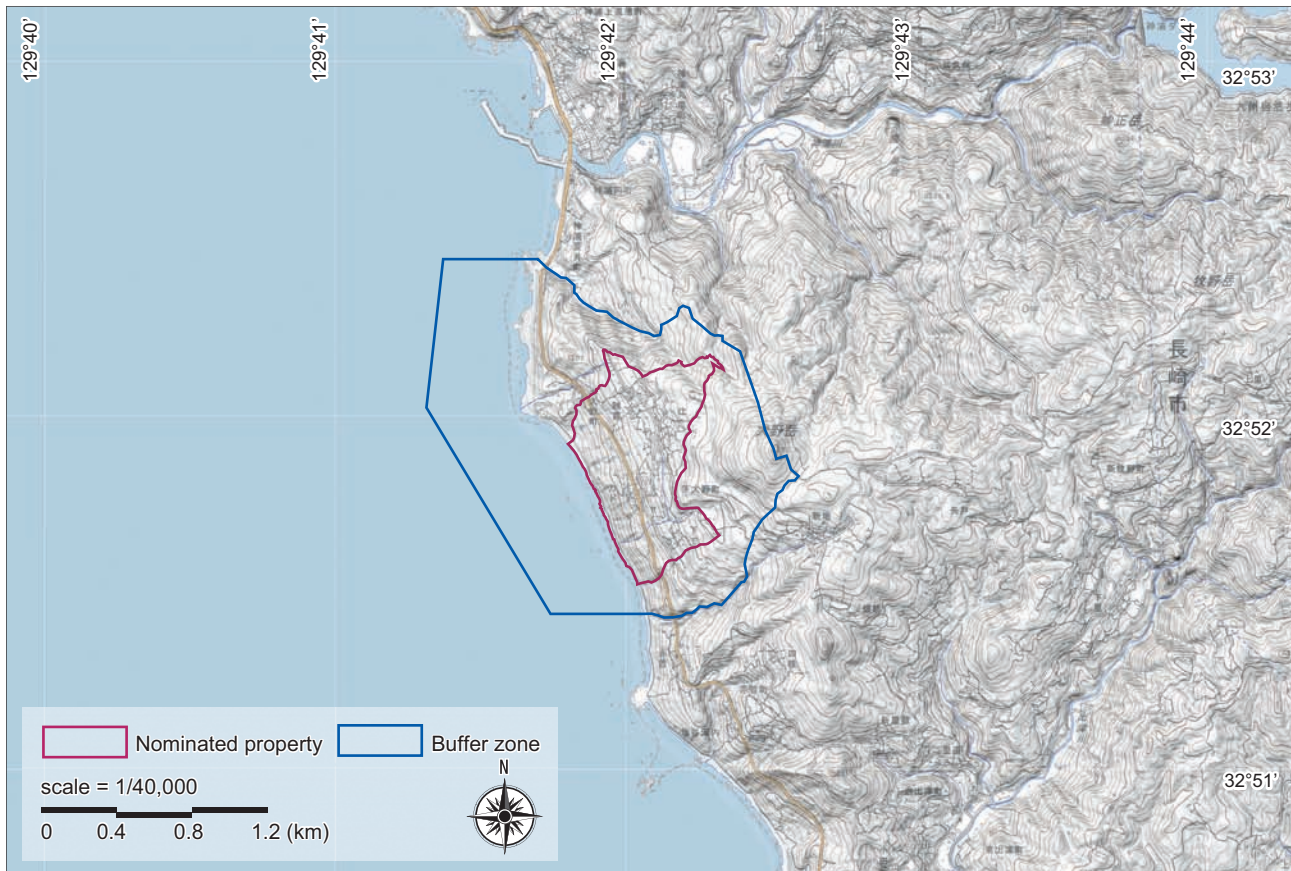
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone





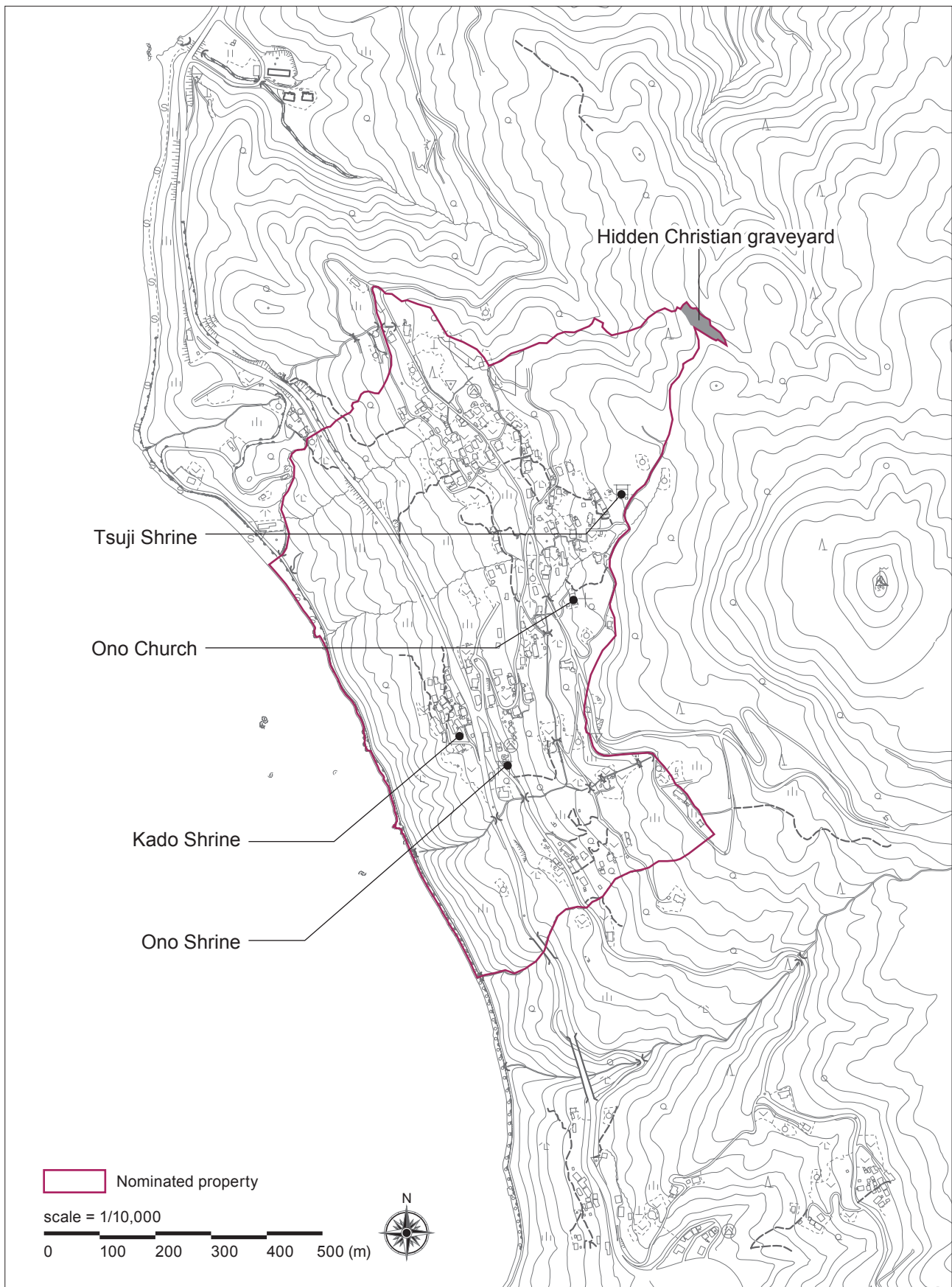
Map indicating the extent of Shitsu Village in Sotome

006 Ono Village in Sotome



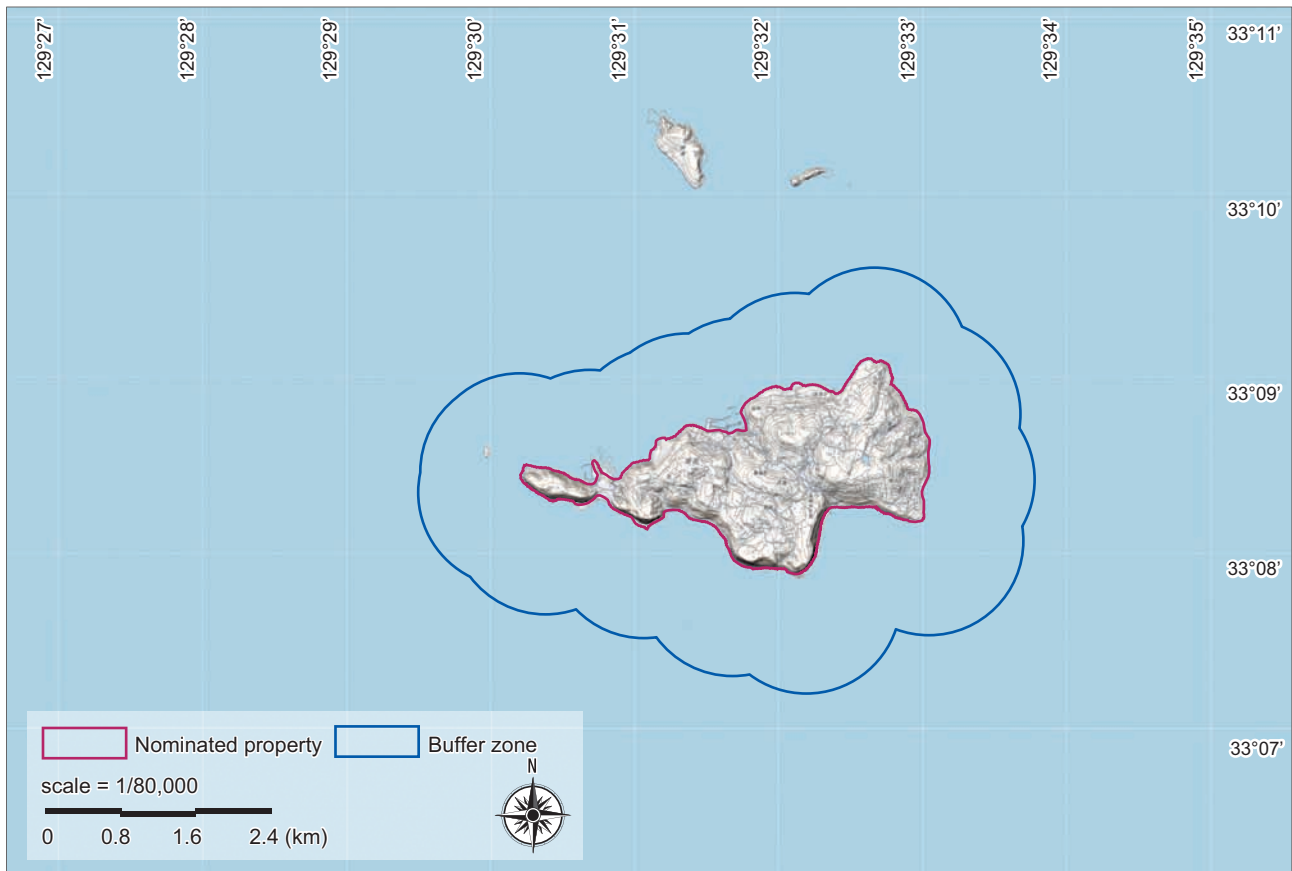
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone





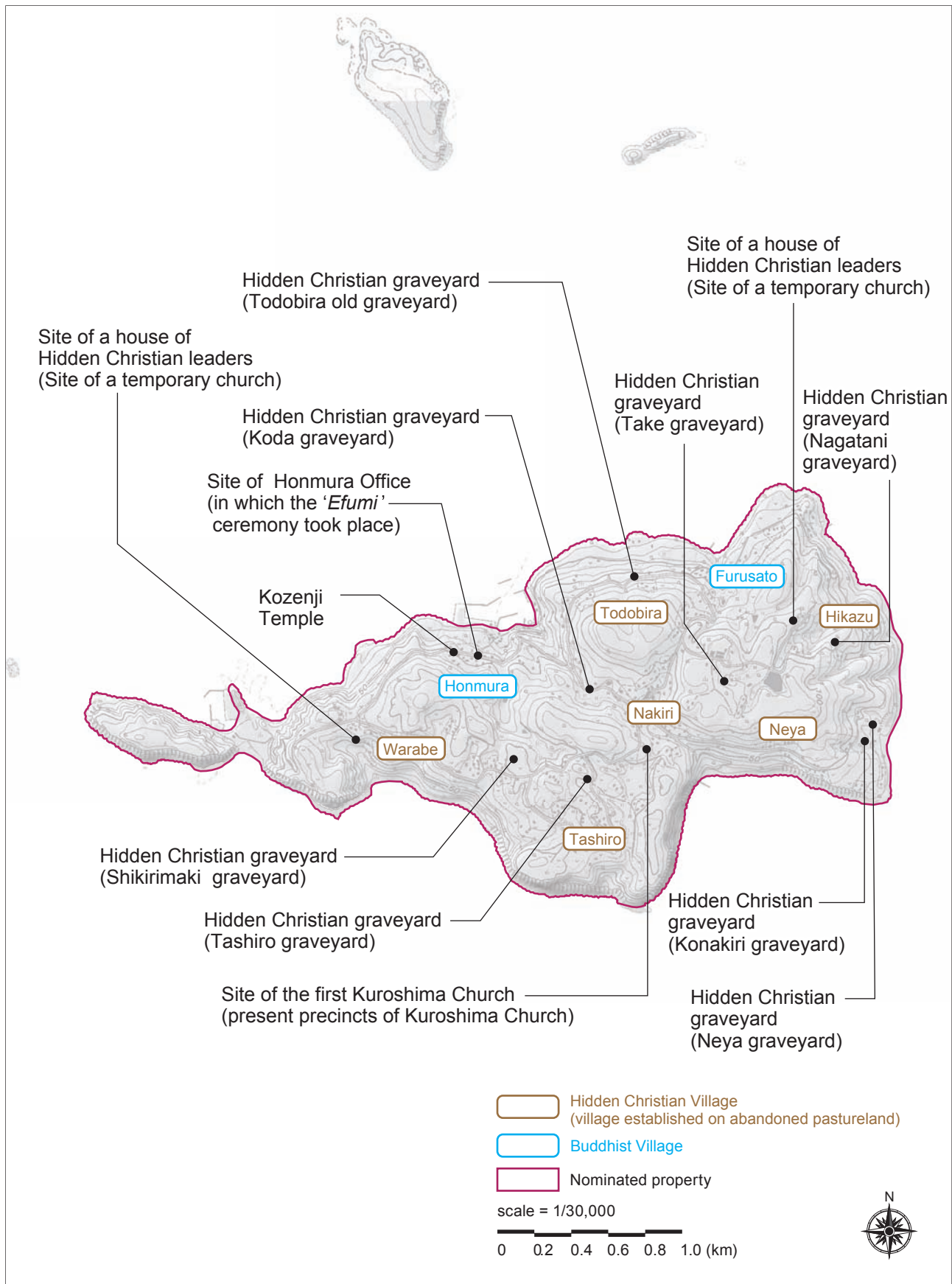
Map indicating the extent of Ono Village in Sotome

007 Villages on Kuroshima Island



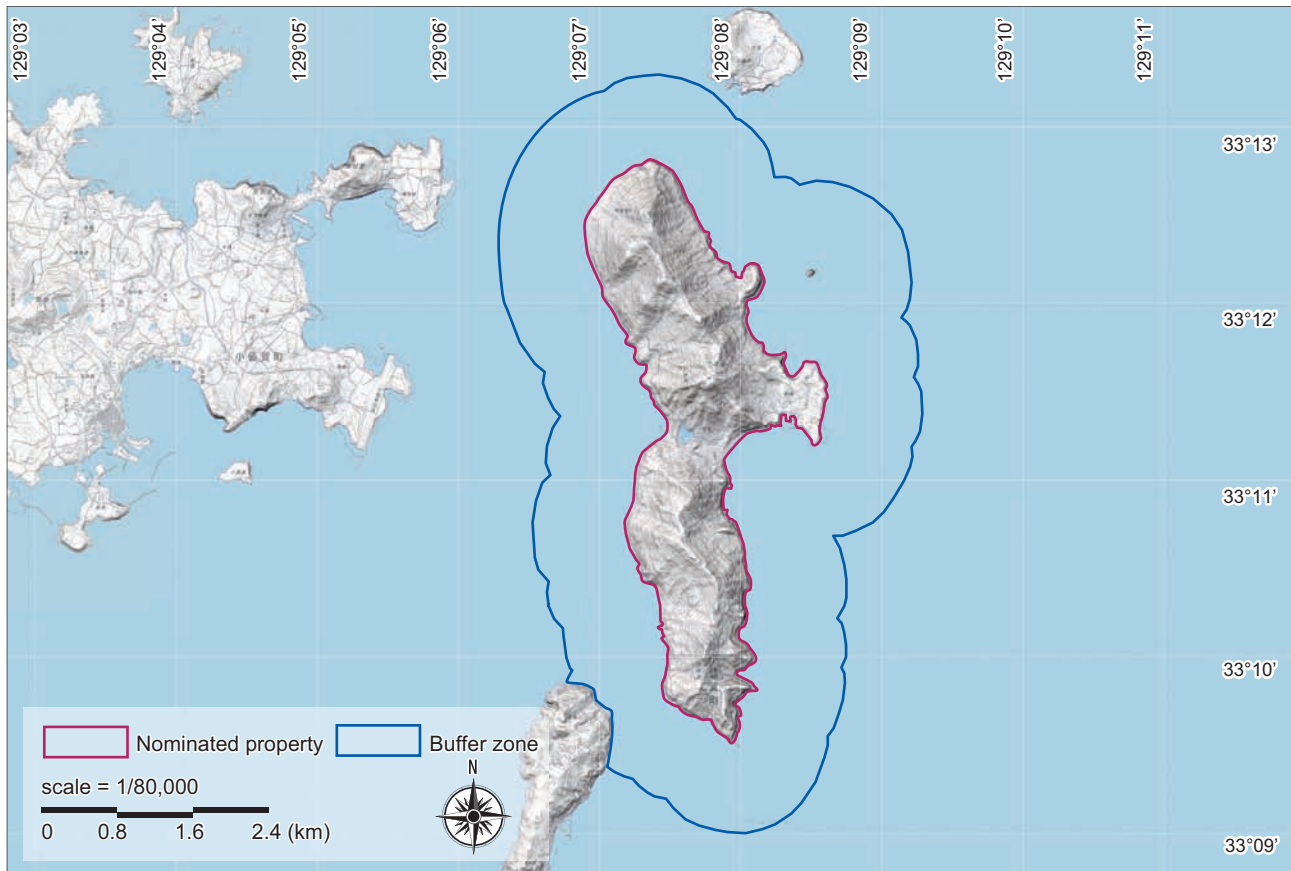
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone





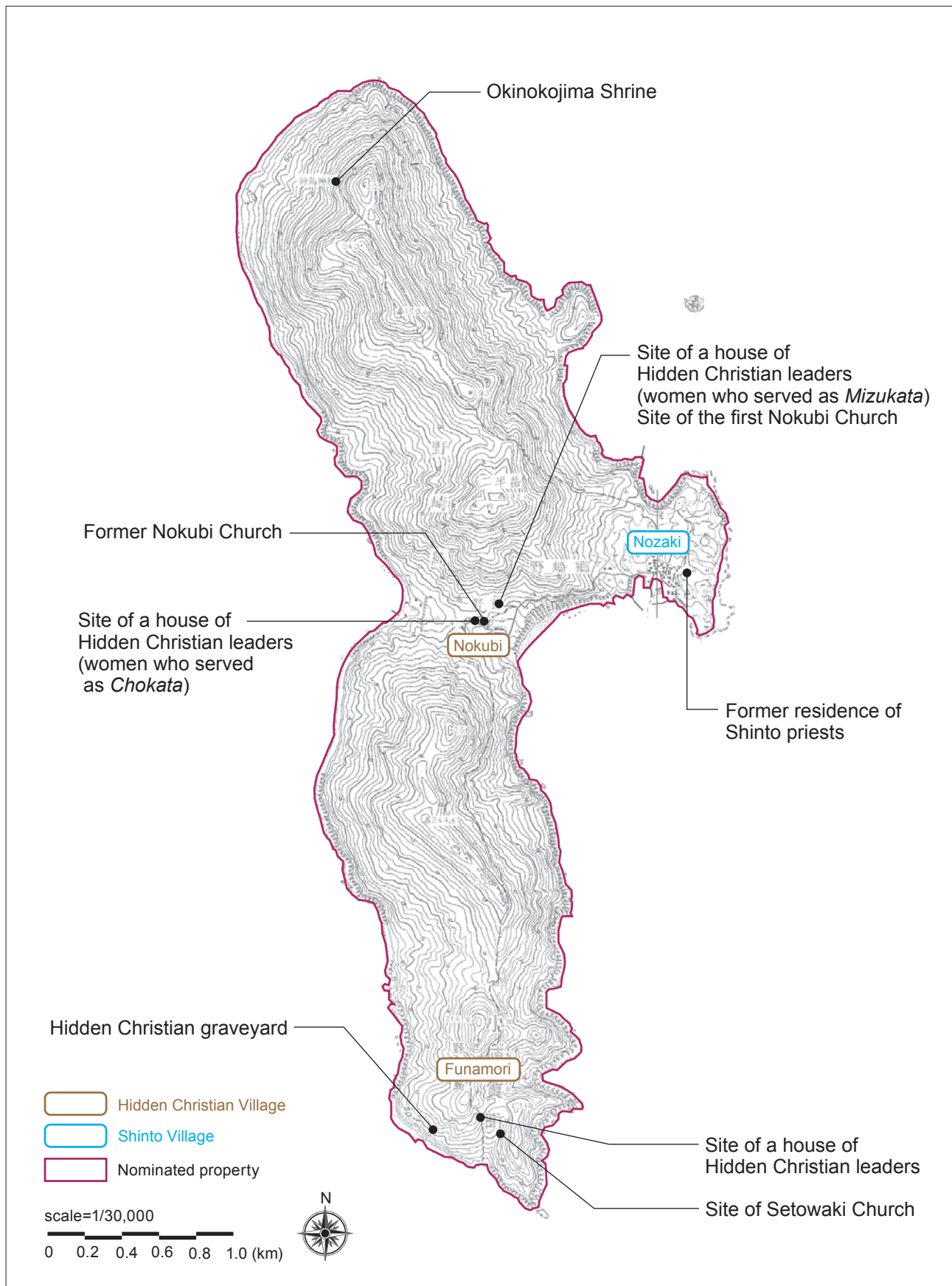
Map indicating the extent of the Villages on Kuroshima Island

008 Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island



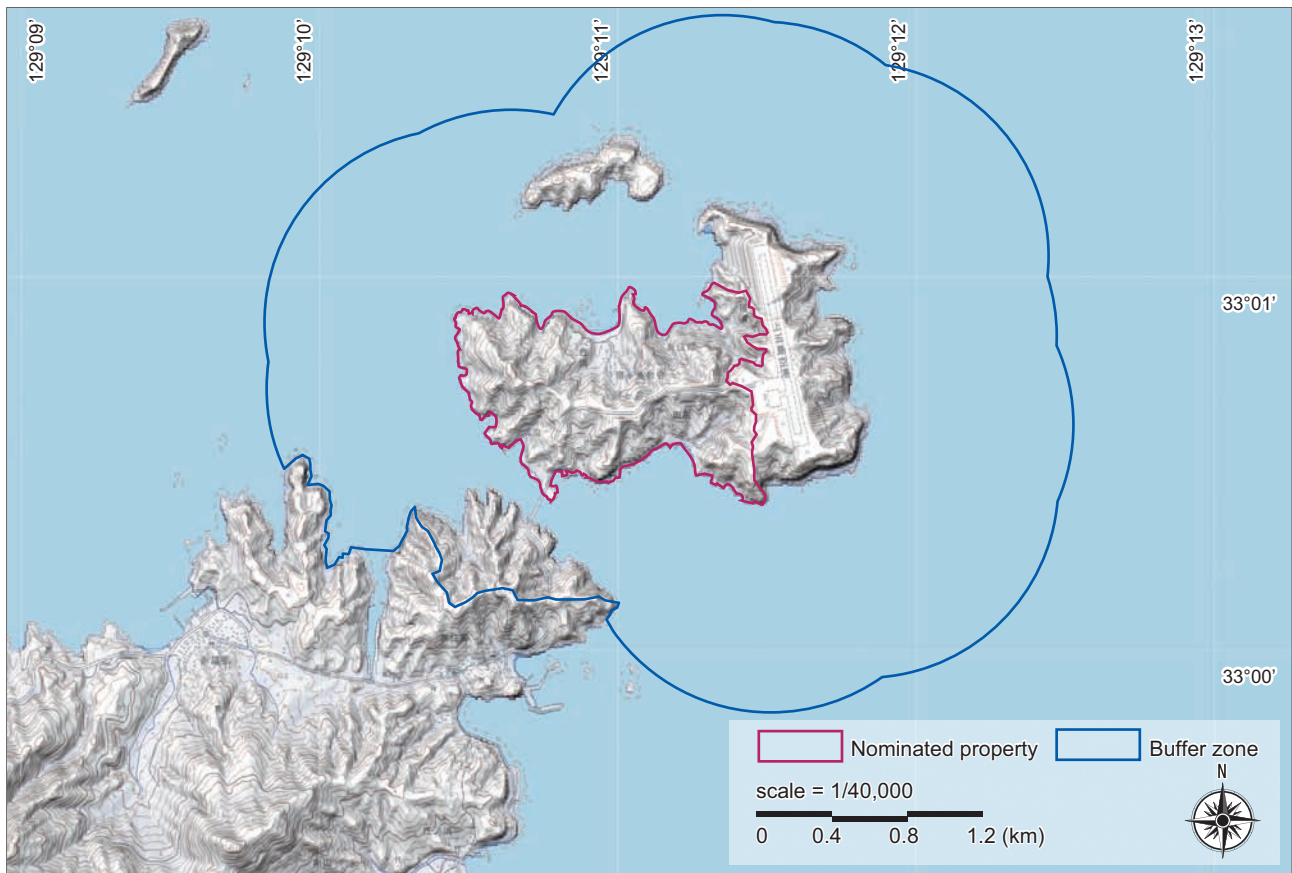
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone





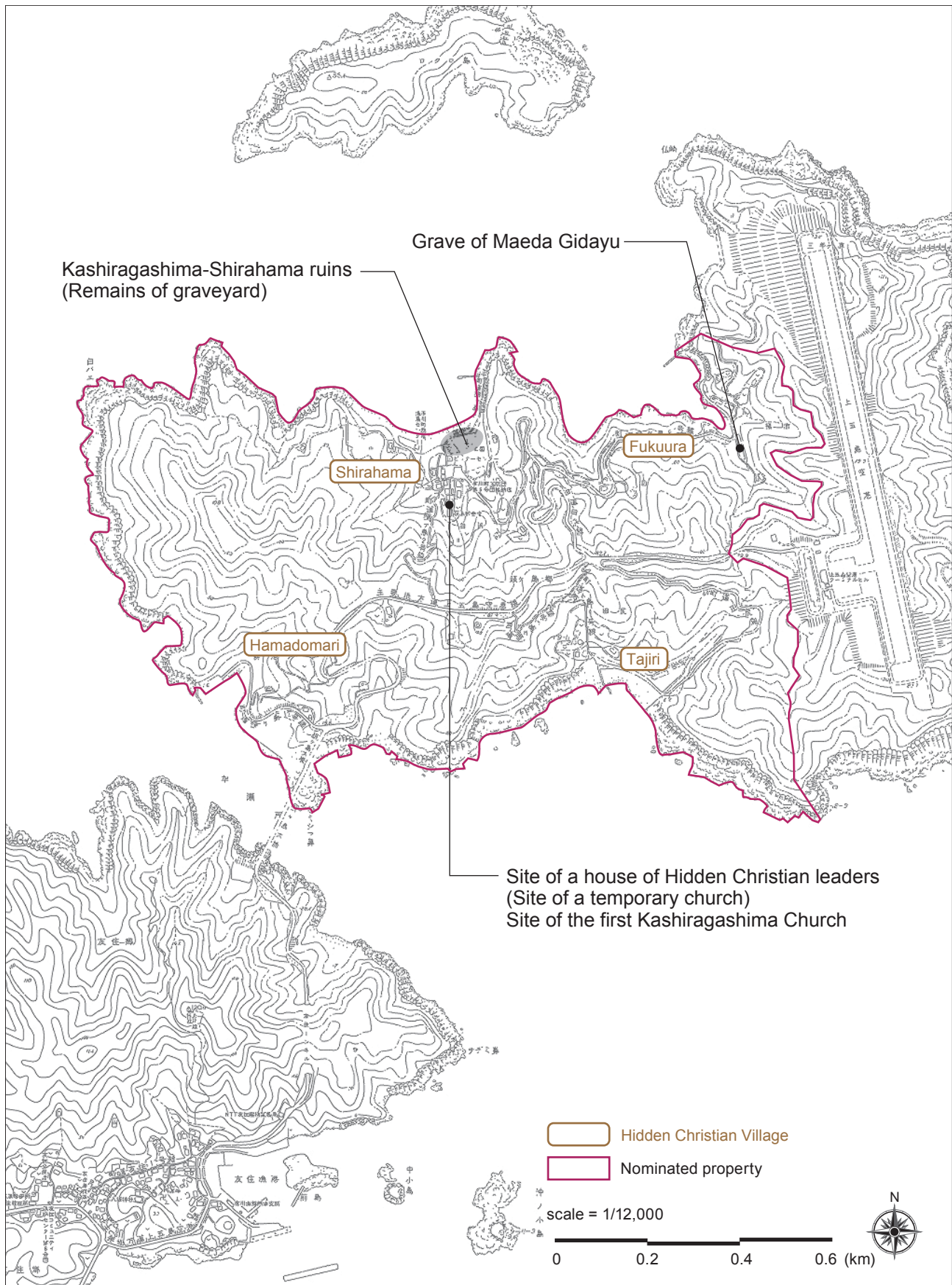
Map indicating the extent of the Remains of Villages on Nozaki Island

009 Villages on Kashiragashima Island



Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone





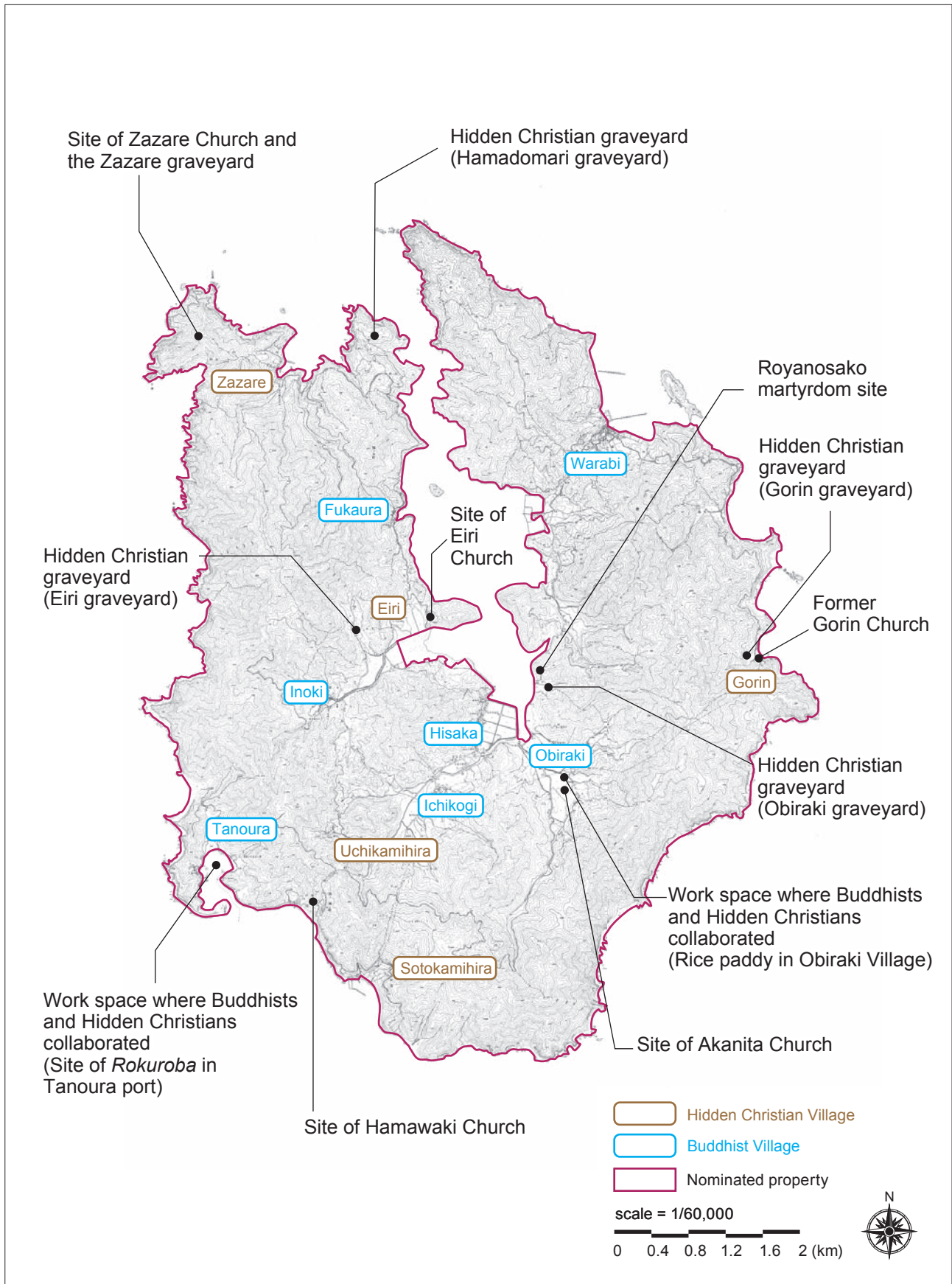
Map indicating the extent of the Villages on Kashiragashima Island

010 Villages on Hisaka Island



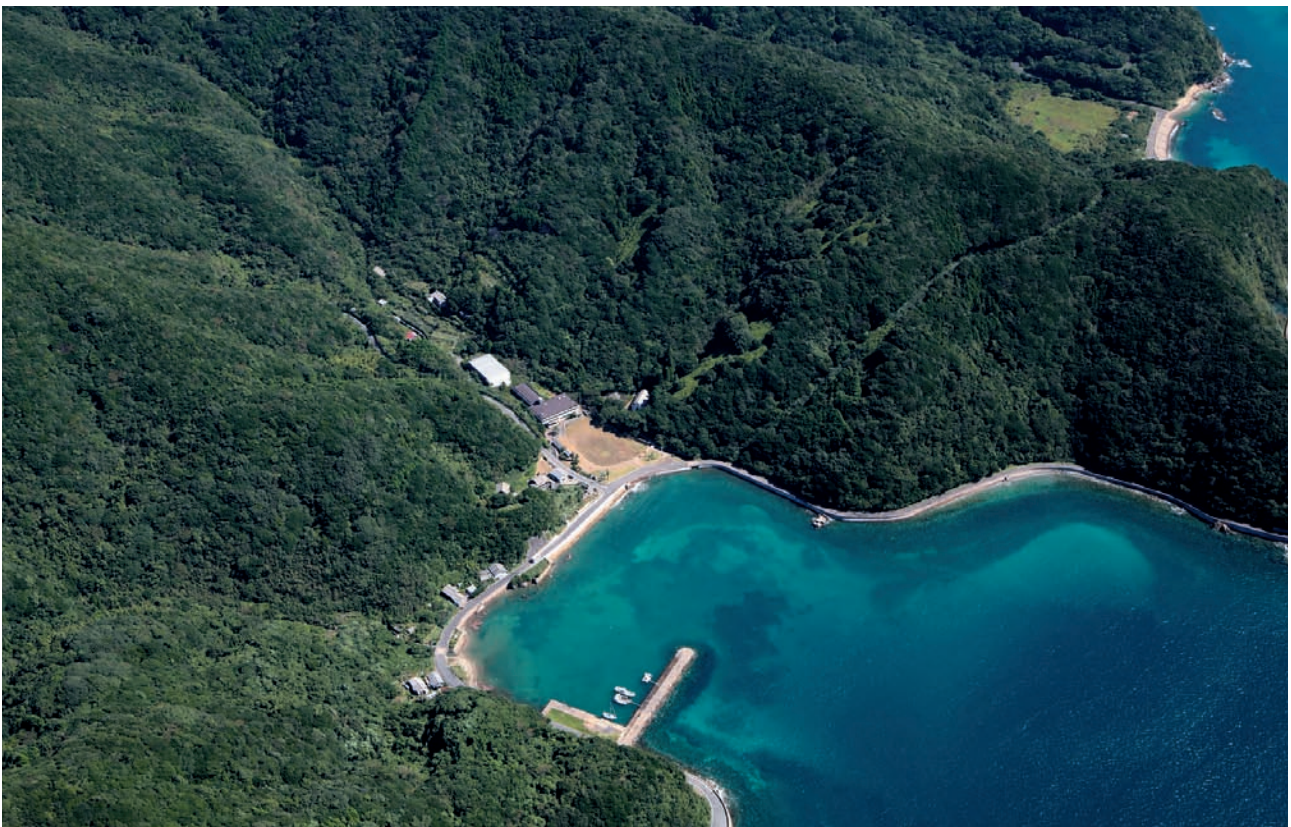
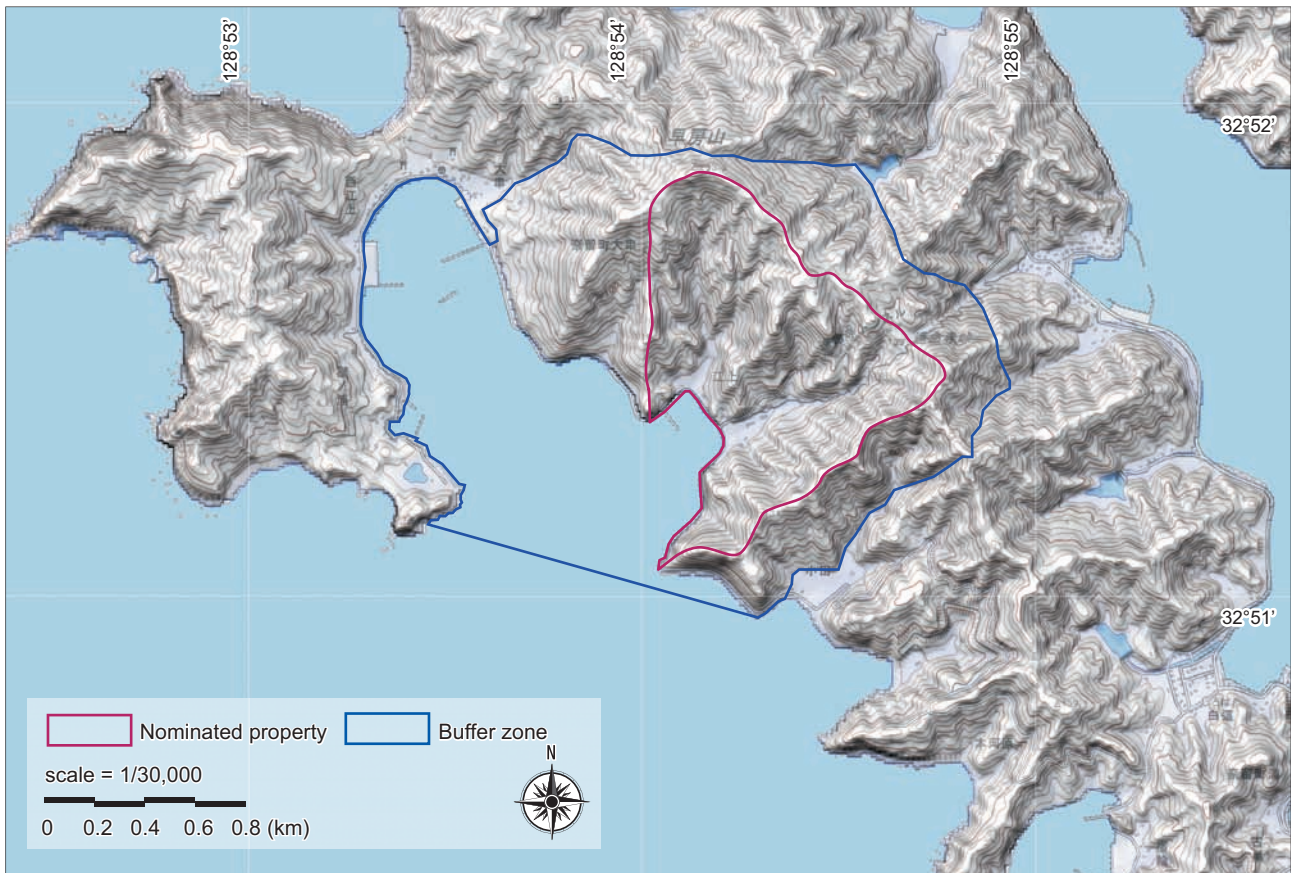
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone

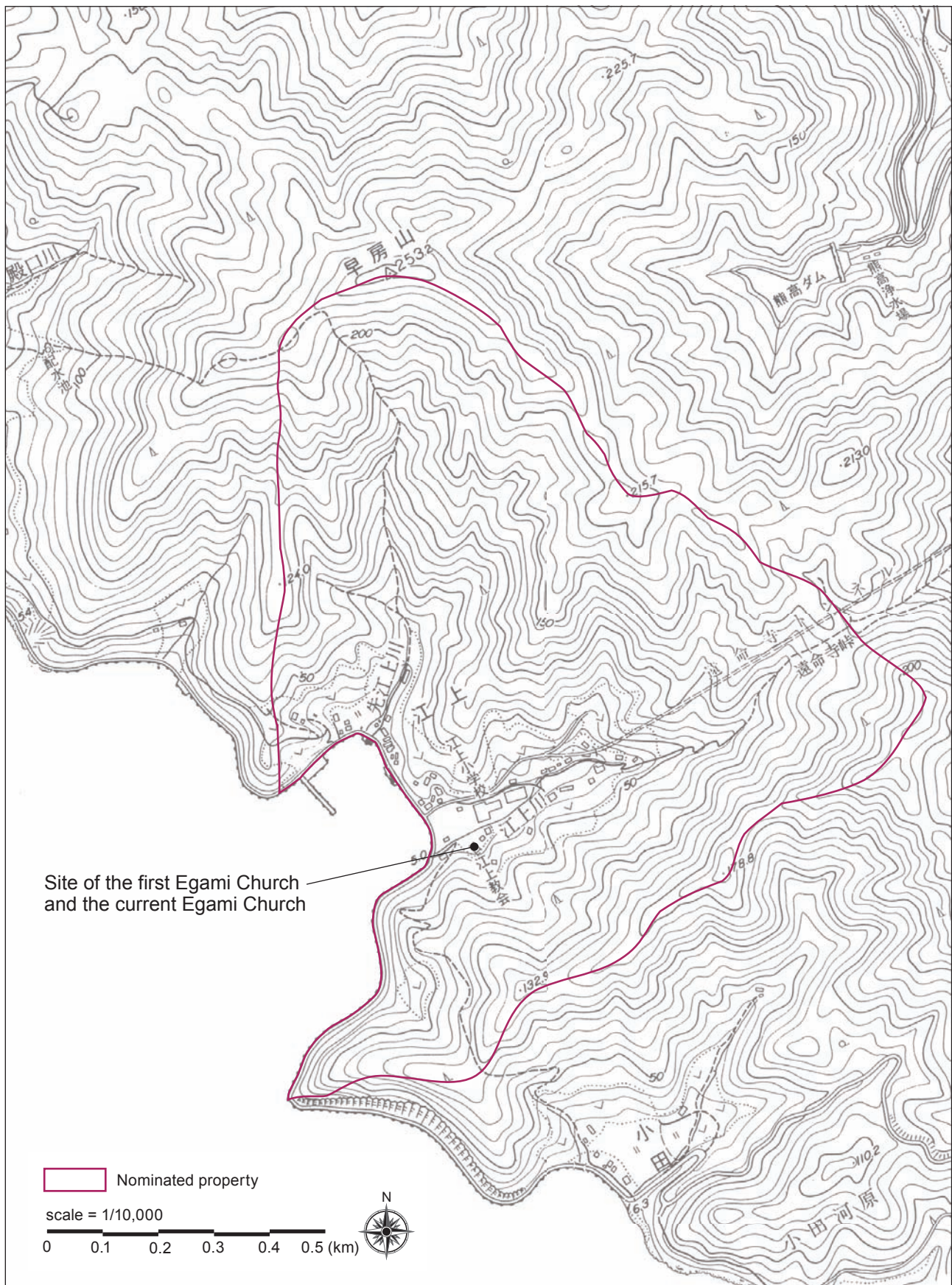




Map indicating the extent of the Villages on Hisaka Island

011 Egami Village on Naru Island (Egami Church and its Surroundings)

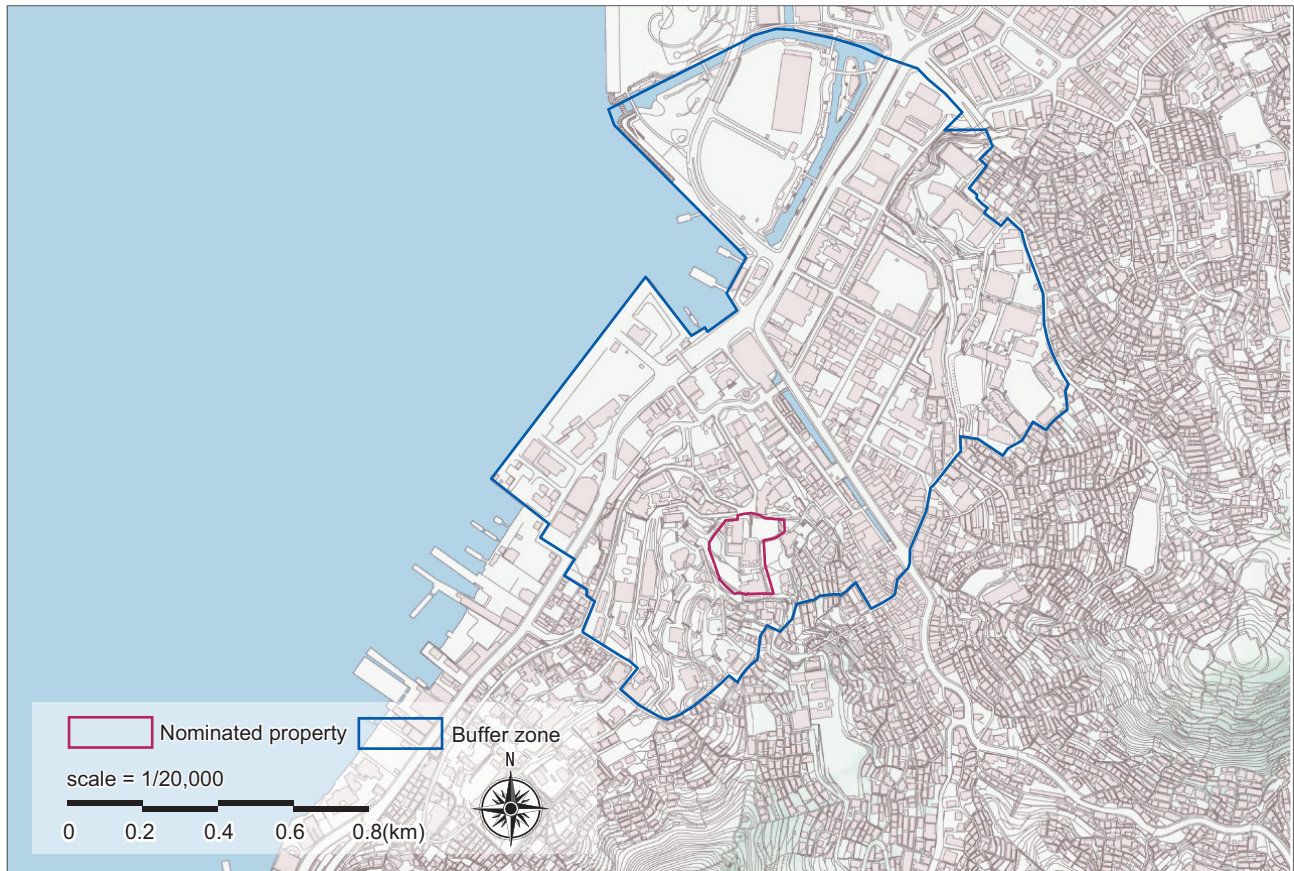




Map indicating the extent of Egami Village on Naru Island (Egami Church and its Surroundings)

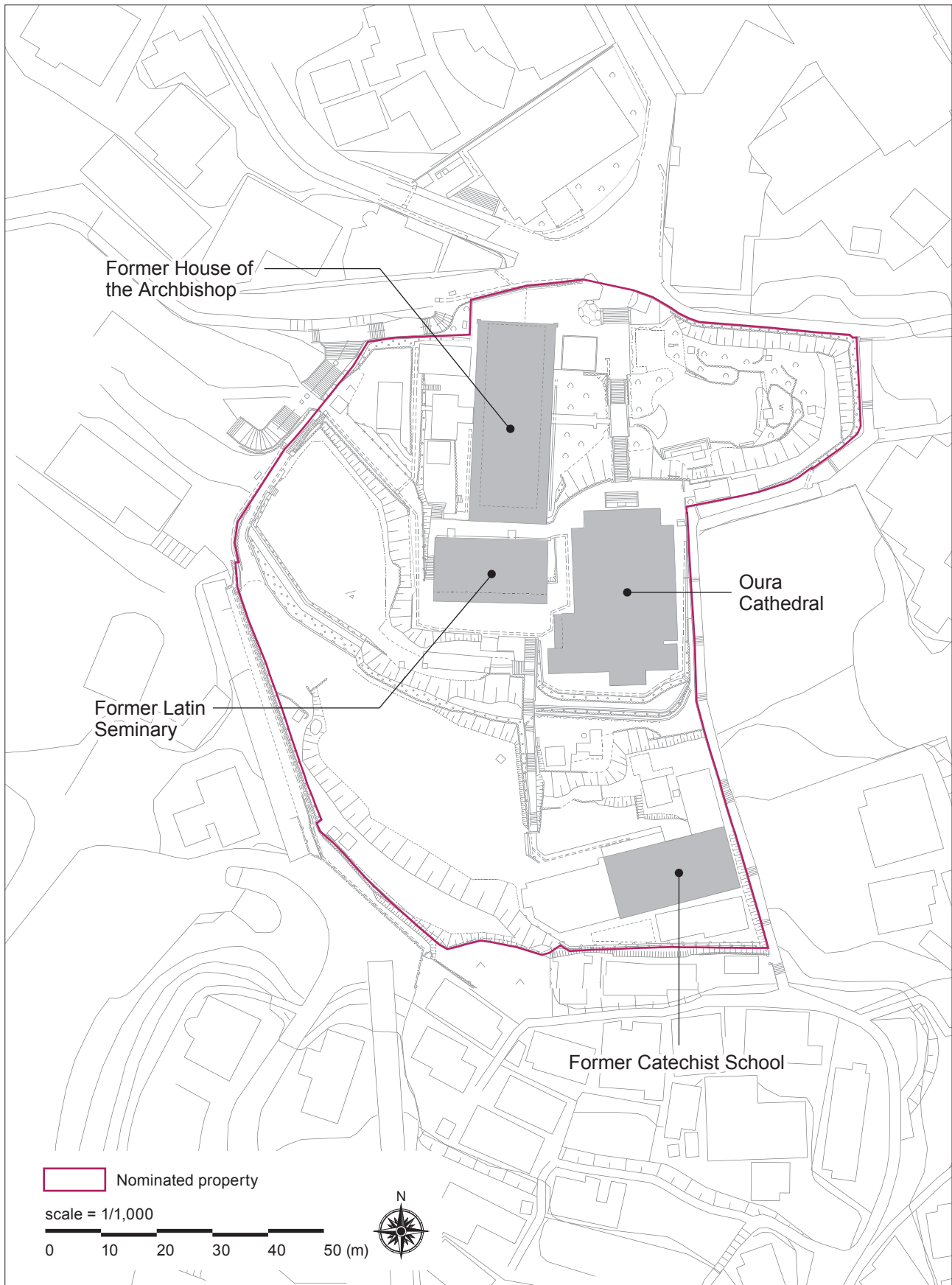
012

Oura Cathedral



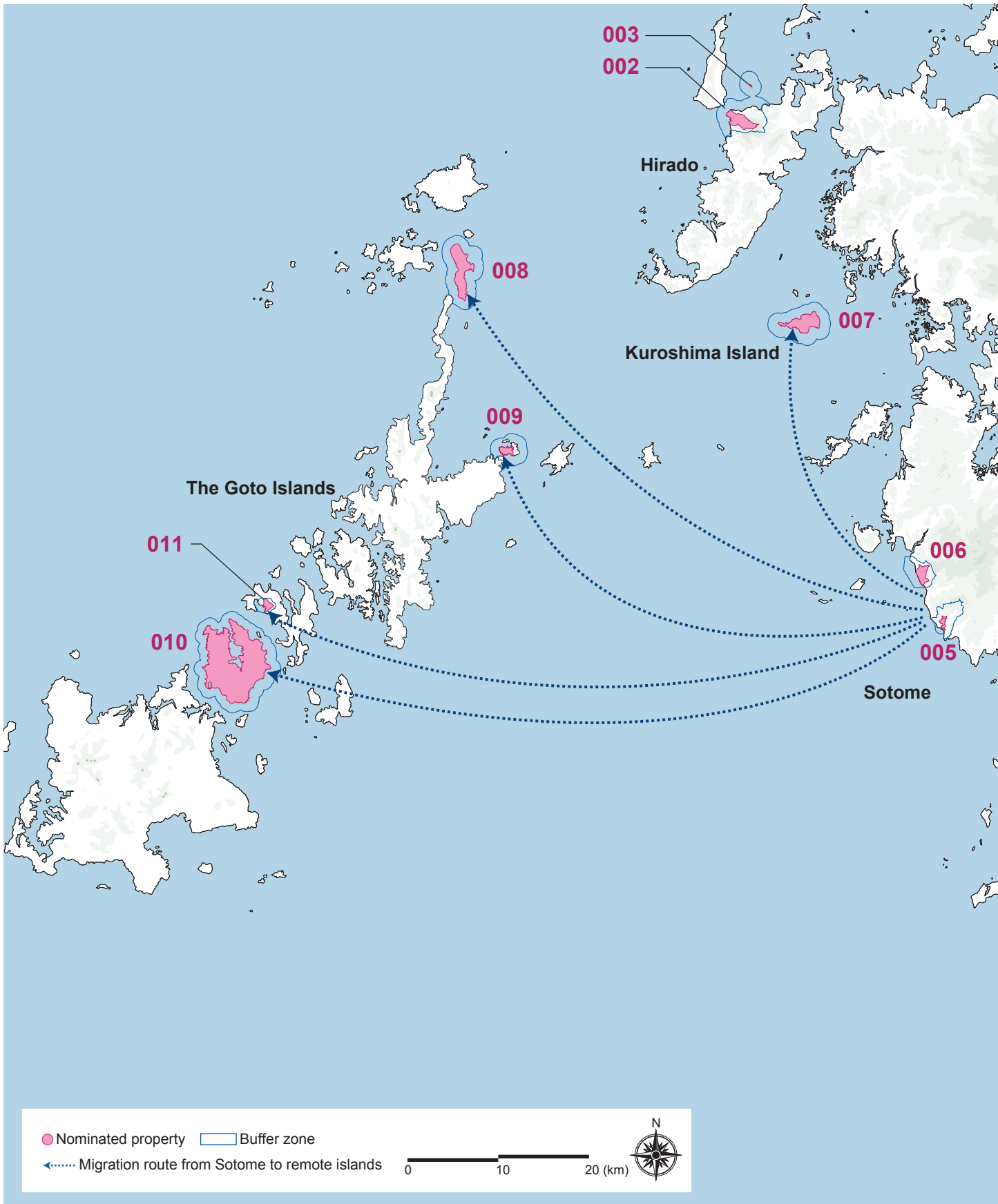
Map indicating the extent of the nominated property and buffer zone

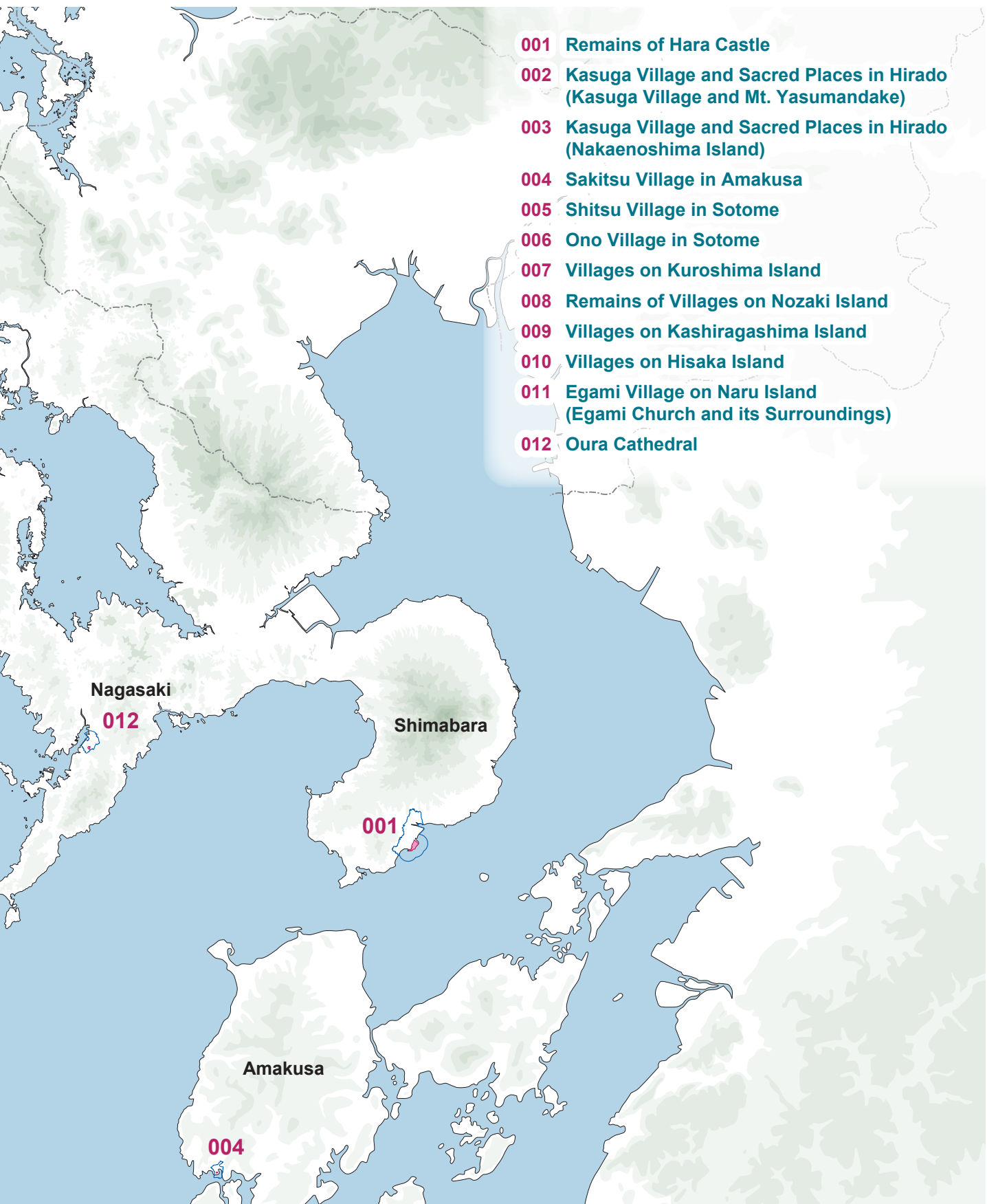




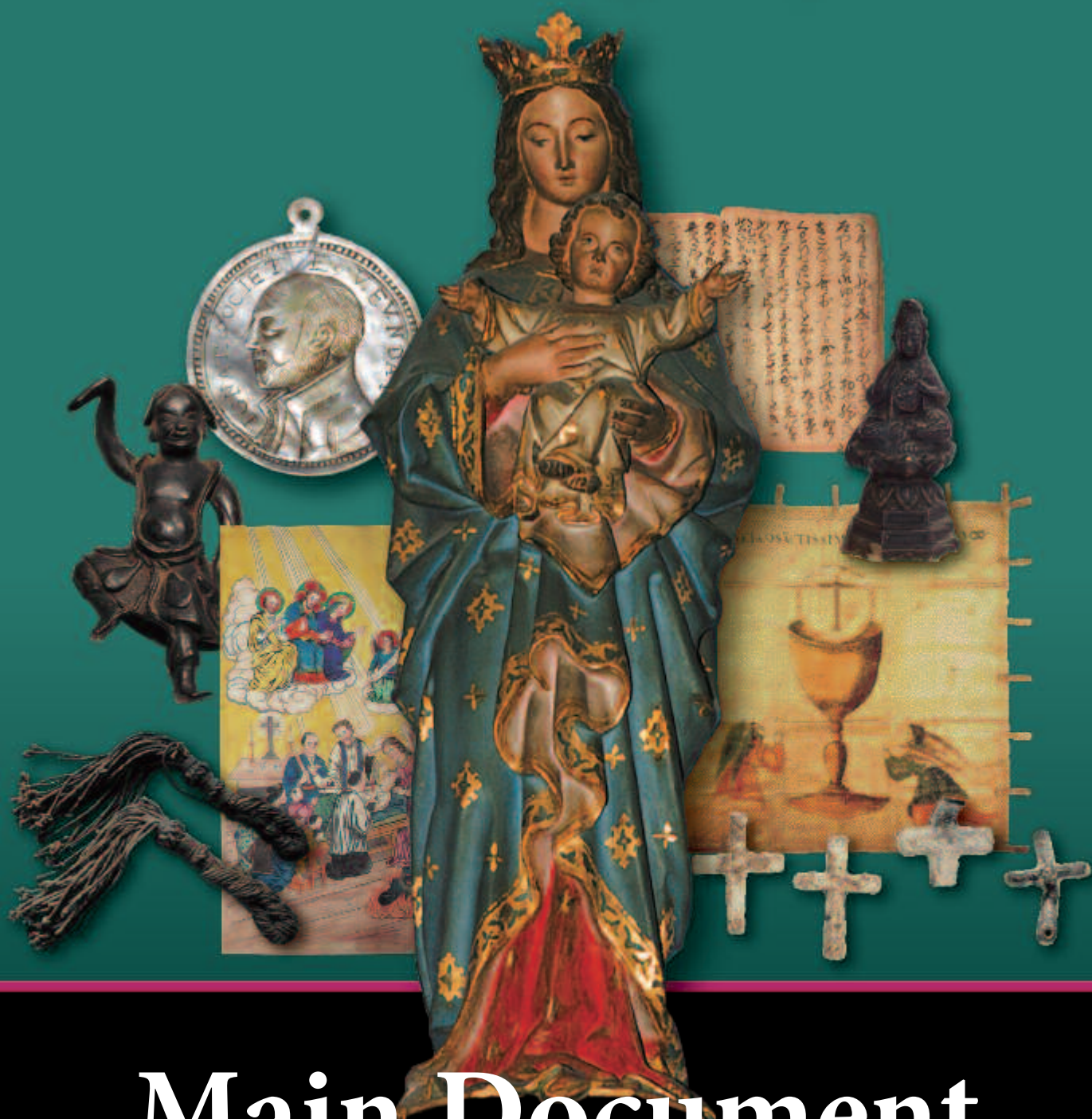
Map indicating the extent of the Oura Cathedral

Map of the components of the nominated property





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Main Document

Hidden Christian Sites
in the Nagasaki Region



CONTENTS

Chapter 1

| | |
|--|----|
| Identification of the Property | 4 |
| 1.a Country | 5 |
| 1.b State, Province or Region | 5 |
| 1.c Name of Property | 5 |
| 1.d Geographical coordinates to the nearest second | 5 |
| 1.e Maps and plans, showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone | 9 |
| 1.f Area of nominated property (ha.) and proposed buffer zones (ha.) | 33 |

Chapter 2

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Description | 34 |
| 2.a Description of Property | 35 |
| 2.b History and Development | 179 |

Chapter 3

| | |
|---|-----|
| Justification for Inscription | 206 |
| 3.1.a Brief synthesis | 207 |
| 3.1.b Criteria under which inscription is proposed | 209 |
| 3.1.c Statement of Integrity | 212 |
| 3.1.d Statement of Authenticity | 216 |
| 3.1.e Protection and management requirements | 221 |
| 3.2 Comparative Analysis | 223 |
| 3.3 Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value | 249 |

Chapter 4

| | |
|--|-----|
| State of Conservation and factors affecting the Property | 252 |
| 4.a Present state of conservation | 253 |
| 4.b Factors affecting the property | 262 |

Chapter 5

| | |
|--|-----|
| Protection and Management of the Property | 284 |
| 5.a Ownership | 285 |
| 5.b Protective designation | 286 |
| 5.c Means of implementing protective measures | 290 |
| 5.d Existing plans related to municipality and region in which the proposed property is located | 317 |

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----|
| 5.e Property management plan or other management system | 323 |
| 5.f Sources and levels of finance | 335 |
| 5.g Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques | 336 |
| 5.h Visitor facilities and infrastructure | 339 |
| 5.i Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property | 385 |
| 5.j Staffing levels and expertise (professional, technical, maintenance) | 390 |

Chapter 6

| | |
|--|-----|
| Monitoring | 392 |
| 6.a Key indicators for measuring state of conservation | 393 |
| 6.b Administrative arrangements for monitoring property | 398 |
| 6.c Results of previous reporting exercises | 400 |

Chapter 7

| | |
|--|-----|
| Documentation | 402 |
| 7.a Photographs and audiovisual image inventory and authorization form | 403 |
| 7.b Texts relating to protective designation, copies of property management plans or documented management systems and extracts of other plans relevant to the property | 422 |
| 7.c Form and date of most recent records or inventory of property | 425 |
| 7.d Address where inventory, records and archives are held | 426 |
| 7.e Bibliography | 427 |

Chapter 8

| | |
|---|-----|
| Contact Information of responsible authorities | 430 |
| 8.a Preparer | 431 |
| 8.b Official Local Institution/Agency | 431 |
| 8.c Other Local Institutions | 432 |
| 8.d Official Web address | 433 |

Chapter 9

| | |
|---|-----|
| Signature on behalf of the State Party | 434 |
|---|-----|

Contents of Appendices

Appendix 1 Documents related to ICOMOS ‘Midstream Processa’ (February to July 2016)

- a. ICOMOS Midstream Report (July 2016)
- b. Response to Midstream Report (October 2016)
- c. Materials used during ICOMOS Advisory Mission (April to May 2016)

Appendix 2 Supplementary maps and drawings

- a. Maps showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zones
- b. Maps indicating the types of boundary delineation of nominated property and buffer zones

Appendix 3 Supplementary information about the nominated property

- a. Supplementary information about Remains of Hara Castle
- b. List of Hidden Christian villages used for comparative analysis and supplementary information about Hidden Christian villages included in the components of the nominated property
- c. List of church buildings used for comparative analysis and associated supplementary drawings

Appendix 4 Inventory of the components of the nominated property

- a. Inventory of the components
- b. Copies of the protective designation from the official gazette

Appendix 5 Laws and regulations which control the property

- a. English summary of laws and regulations which control the nominated property
- b. English summaries of relevant laws and standards in relation to buffer zones

Appendix 6 Comprehensive preservation and management plan

- a. The Comprehensive Preservation and Management Plan (main text)
- b. English summaries of management plans specific to each component
- c. Systems put in place for preservation and management of the nominated property in the relevant municipalities

Appendix 7 Existing plans applied by the relevant municipalities

- a. English summaries of existing plans applied by the relevant municipalities
- b. Cross-Policy Project on World Culture Heritage by Nagasaki Prefecture