



Many artifacts still remain at open-air ritual sites on Okinoshima.

Chapter

4

State of Conservation and Factors Affecting the Property

4.a Present State of Conservation

4.b Factors Affecting the Property

State of Conservation and Factors Affecting the Property

4.a Present State of Conservation

4.a.1 Overview

This serial property is a “site” that consists of several component parts, including ritual archaeological sites, a group of mounded tombs, underground archaeological sites, and shrine buildings, all of which have been well preserved. All the component parts of the property have been designated as Historic Sites under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties (see section 5.b). Within the designated areas, alterations or acts that affect preservation are strictly controlled through the requirement of obtaining advance permission from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs (see section 5.c). Also, the owners of the individual component parts of the property, i.e. Munakata Taisha, Munakata City, and Fukutsu City, have developed appropriate preservation and management plans and are effectively implementing them.

Okitsu-miya, Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, Nakatsu-miya, and Hetsu-miya of Munakata Taisha still serve as places of worship today, and their compounds require routine maintenance to remain open for religious activities. When such maintenance is to be performed, consultation with Munakata Taisha occurs early in the planning stages and relevant academic research is conducted, followed by a detailed discussion by the Munakata City’s Historic Site Maintenance and Preservation Council, which consists of academic experts, property owners, and local community representatives. Maintenance work is then carried out based on its conclusions.

At the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group, when maintenance work is deemed necessary, relevant academic research is conducted, and detailed discussions are held by the Tsuyazaki Mounded Tomb Group Maintenance Advisory Committee, which consists of academic experts, property owners, and local community representatives, and the maintenance work is then carried out based on its conclusions.

4.a.2 State of Conservation of Each Component Part

Component parts 1 to 4: Okitsu-miya, Munakata Taisha

The entire island of Okinoshima, except for the harbor area, but including its reefs (Koyajima, Mikadobashira, and Tengujiwa), has been designated by the national government as part of the Historic Sites called the “Munakata Shrine Compounds”. The entire island of Okinoshima has also been designated as a Natural Monument, the “Primeval Forest of Okinoshima”. Okinoshima itself is revered as a sacred island

and strict taboos limit access to it. Worship of the island has continued from ancient times to the present day, and its natural environment and archaeological sites are preserved in good condition.

Twenty-two ritual archaeological sites have been identified on Okinoshima, among which thirteen were excavated in three separate investigations conducted between 1954 to 1971, but these sites were re-buried after each excavation; as a result, their archaeological remains are preserved in good condition. Some 80,000 unearthed artifacts have been collectively designated as a National Treasure and are kept in storage or exhibited at the Shimpokan Museum of Munakata Taisha, which is located within the compound of Hetsu-miya. The other nine archaeological sites have been intentionally left undisturbed, and the remains and artifacts there are preserved in good condition. The state of preservation of each individual archaeological site is shown in **Table 2-a-2**.

Since the shrine buildings of Okitsu-miya are wooden structures situated in a valley with a humid climate, they have been reconstructed several times. The existing buildings are reconstructions dating to 1932. The shrine buildings require repair work, including re-roofing on a regular basis; repair work is planned for the main hall of Okitsu-miya from 2018 to 2020.

In modern times some new elements have been constructed on the island, such as a fishing harbor, lighthouse, and the remains of military installations from the Second World War. The area where the ritual archaeological sites are located has been left almost untouched, however, and the whole island has been preserved in good condition. Recently, in 2014, torrential rains caused an embankment to collapse along the path leading to the shrine buildings, and repair work there was carried out in 2015.

Component part 5: Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, Munakata Taisha

The entire property area of Okitsu-miya Yohaisho has been designated by the national government as part of the Historic Site called the “Munakata Shrine Compounds”. Its natural setting and topography lend themselves to worshipping Okinoshima from afar, its view of Okinoshima has been preserved in good condition, and it continues to function as a place of worship today.

Because the Okitsu-miya Yohaisho shrine building is a wooden structure situated on a plateau exposed to sea winds, it has been reconstructed several times due to damage from typhoons and other natural disasters. The extant shrine building was rebuilt in 1933 and repair work is conducted there on a regular basis, including its having been outfitted with a copper roof in 1974. More recently, in 2014, a typhoon damaged part of the shrine building, and work such as re-roofing and the repair of damaged walls was carried out in 2015.

Component part 6: Nakatsu-miya, Munakata Taisha

The entire property area of Nakatsu-miya has been designated by the national government as part of the Historic Site called the “Munakata Shrine Compounds”. The underground archaeological remains at the Mitakesan ritual site, as well as a



Photo 4-1 Fragments of objects deposited as votive offerings that still remain on Okinoshima today

shrine forest that defines the shrine compound, a path connecting the summit of Mt. Mitakesan with its base, and the spatial structure of the shrine compound are all preserved in good condition, and have continued to function as a place of worship from ancient times to the present. The shrine's surrounding environment, including the site atop Mt. Mitakesan that offers views of Okinoshima and the main island of Kyushu, has also been well preserved.

Mitake Shrine, which is an auxiliary shrine of Nakatsu-miya, and the Mitakesan ritual site are both located at the top of Mt. Mitakesan. Together with the shrine buildings at the foot of the mountain, they form an integral place of worship. Although the Mitakesan ritual site was partially leveled when the main hall and worship hall of Mitake Shrine were constructed, overall the site remains well preserved, as do the archaeological remains and artifacts discovered there. Although an archaeological excavation was conducted at the Mitakesan ritual site, a trench was dug only in a limited area and was filled in once the investigation was completed, which allowed the remains and artifacts there to be preserved in good condition. In addition, unearthed artifacts are stored, maintained, and exhibited in the Shimpokan Museum at Munakata Taisha.

At the foot of Mt. Mitakesan are located several structures, including the main hall and worship hall of Nakatsu-miya, auxiliary and subordinate shrines, a gate and a shrine office, all of which have been built within the shrine compound during various historical periods. The spatial structure of the shrine compound has been well preserved.

Component part 7: Hetsu-miya, Munakata Taisha

The entire property area of Hetsu-miya has been designated by the national government as part of the Historic Site called the "Munakata Shrine Compounds". The underground archaeological remains at the Shimotakamiya ritual site and other locales, historic buildings such as the main hall and worship hall of Hetsu-miya, and the spatial structure of the shrine compound are all preserved in good condition, and have continued to function as places of worship from ancient times to the present. The surrounding natural environment overlooking the sea and the Tsurikawa River basin, which used to be a sea inlet are also well preserved.

The Shimotakamiya ritual site has been preserved intact, together with the archaeological remains and artifacts there, without yet having undergone any excavations. Part of the ritual archaeological site, called Takamiya Saijo, serves as a venue for religious events; and the entire site continues to function as a place of worship today. Mt. Munakata is also regarded as a sacred peak by the name of Kamitakamiya, and access to the mountain is restricted. The mountain and shrine forests have also been preserved in good condition.

Several Munakata Taisha worship facilities are located at the foot of Mt. Munakata, including the Hetsu-miya main hall and worship hall, auxiliary and subordinate shrines, secondary and tertiary shrines, and a ceremony hall. The spatial structure of the shrine compounds centering on the main hall and worship hall has been well preserved, and the site has continued to function as a place of worship throughout its history. The most recent repair work conducted at the main hall and worship hall of Hetsu-miya, both of which have been designated



Photo 4-2 Re-roofing work on the main hall and worship hall of Hetsu-miya (2014)

as Important Cultural Properties by the national government, was re-roofing, repainting, and refurbishing the shrine's disaster prevention facility, all of which took place from 2013 to 2014 (Photo 4-2). Repair work is also planned after 2016 for other Hetsu-miya facilities (including secondary and tertiary shrines, the ceremony hall, and the Shimpokan Museum, among others).

Component part 8: Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group

The entire property area of the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group has been designated by the national government as part of the Historic Site called the "Tsuyazaki Mounded Tomb Group". A group of forty-one burial mounds there remains in good condition, including both the underground and aboveground archaeological remains at the site and the plateau on which it is situated. Its natural setting—an agricultural landscape unfolding through the lowland that used to be a sea inlet, and the surrounding environment overlooking the sea—has also been well preserved.

Because the surrounding land has been used for agricultural purposes since the early modern period, some mounds have been leveled or altered along the periphery of the site; for instance, Tombs 30 and 34 have partly collapsed, and the stone chamber of Tomb 43 is exposed. Also, from the 1970's through 1980, the construction of a large grain silo and a national road running through the property resulted in the partial leveling and alteration of some mounds; nevertheless, the tomb group overall has been well preserved. The matter of the silo that was constructed within the property area is to be addressed through consultation between Fukutsu City and the private stakeholders involved, which may result in its removal.

Heavy rains in June 2013 caused the southern part of Tomb 25, measuring 6 m in width and 3 m in height, to collapse. Repair work for Tomb 25 began in 2014 and will continue through 2016 (Photo 4-3). Because the possibility of landslides occurring again in the future cannot be ruled out, protective measures to prevent them are being explored.



Photo 4-3 Repair work on the burial mound slope at Tomb 25 after it collapsed, at the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group (2014)

4.b Factors Affecting the Property

This property is distributed across the islands of Okinoshima and Oshima, and the main island of Kyushu; various factors affect the property, depending on specific conditions at the locations of each of its component parts. Factors affecting the property that have already been identified are categorized into four types: development pressures, environmental pressures, natural disasters, and visitation.

Table 4-1 lists potential factors that affect each of the component parts of the property.

Factors that could potentially affect the property are to be continually monitored; when the possibility of some negative impact on the property is identified, the Advisory Committee, in its capacity as the academic advisory body for this property, will conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment, for the purpose of protecting of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and will provide instruction and guidance to the Preservation and Utilization Council (see Section 5.e.2).

Table 4-1 Potential factors affecting the property by component parts

Component part		Okino-shima	Oshima		Kyushu	
		Okitsu-miya, Munakata Taisha	Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, Munakata Taisha	Nakatsu-miya, Munakata Taisha	Hetsu-miya, Munakata Taisha	Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group
1 Development pressures	Road construction		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Water supply and sewage		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Offshore wind turbines	✓	✓	✓		
	Wind turbines		✓	✓		
	Solar photovoltaic panels				✓	✓
	Harbor/port repair	✓		✓		
2 Environmental pressures	Climate change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Acid rain	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Air pollution	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Birds' nesting burrows	✓				
	Tree growth	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Seaborne waste	✓	✓			
3 Natural disasters	Typhoons	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Storms and floods	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Earthquakes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Tsunamis		✓	✓	✓	
	Fires	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4 Visitation	Damage to the property	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Disturbance to worshippers	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Deterioration of surrounding environment		✓	✓	✓	✓

4.b.1 Development Pressures

This entire property is protected through its designation as a group of Historic Sites under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, in which alterations to its current state are strictly controlled through the requirement of obtaining advance permission. Permission is not granted to development activities that will affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

At present, no large-scale development projects are planned anywhere within the buffer zone, but Kyushu and Oshima are home to substantial populations, and public and commercial facilities, as well as residential homes, are constantly being built. In cases of new construction, enlargement or remodeling of these buildings or other related structures, alterations to existing land forms, or the cutting of trees or bamboo, the City Planning Act, the Landscape Act, and related laws, regulations, and ordinances restrict the scale, form, structure, and other factors concerning these activities. Development activities that would negatively affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value in a significant way are effectively controlled (see section 5.c.2).

Road construction

Since 2013 a project has been underway to improve the walking path on the Katsuura-Munakata line, located to the east of Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group. Since 2012 a project has been underway to replace a bridge on the Genkai-Tashima-Fukuma line, northeast of Hetsu-miya. In particular, the main access routes to the individual component parts of the property have been designated as Important Landscape Roads under the Landscape Act, for which policies have been established to maintain pavement and ancillary equipment.

Water supply construction

The water supply infrastructure is continually being expanded and repaired in the buffer zone. In the civil engineering plans for water supply facilities, methods are adopted that give due consideration to the underground archaeological remains in these areas so as not to affect their Outstanding Universal Value.

Offshore wind turbines

According to a report issued by the Ministry of the Environment, the marine areas around Oshima, and between Oshima and Okinoshima, have been identified as potentially suitable for offshore wind power generation. The installation of an offshore wind power station in the area was planned at one time, but was halted due to the effect it would have had on landscape conservation in the area.

Throughout the entire marine area that falls within the property's buffer zone, prior permission is required for all development projects, under the Fukuoka Prefecture Marine Management Ordinance; any construction of offshore wind farms that would disrupt the original views between the component parts of the property is appropriately restricted.

Wind turbines

Oshima has strong sea winds and is a suitable locus for wind power generation. The construction of wind turbines on the island was planned several times in the past, but each time was canceled as a result of concern about the question of landscape conservation. Such construction within the entire land area inside the buffer zone is appropriately restricted, based on the Landscape Plans and Landscape Ordinances of Munakata City and Fukutsu City.

Solar photovoltaic power generation facilities

In Japan the introduction of renewable energy is being promoted, and a solar photo-voltaic power generation facility will be installed in the buffer zone on the main island of Kyushu.

To the greatest extent possible, the installation of these solar power facilities in places where they would be visible from the component parts of the property is being avoided. When installation in such locations is unavoidable, restrictions and guidance ensure that the integrity of the surrounding landscape will be protected, for example by planting trees in the area in compliance with Landscape Plans (Photo 4-4).

Port and harbor repairs

The buffer zone of the property encompasses seven fishing ports or harbors: Okinoshima, Konominato, Oshima, Jinoshima, Kanazaki, Tsuyazaki, and Katsuura. The expansion of Kanazaki Port is planned to be carried out by 2021. For other fishing ports and harbors, small-scale repair work for maintenance purposes is planned.

Ports and harbors in the buffer zone are designated as Important Ports for Landscape under the Landscape Act, for which development policies concerning form, design and other factors have been established. Particularly with regard to the fishing harbor on Okinoshima, when repair work is undertaken, due consideration is given to maintaining visual harmony with the surrounding landscape, including the selection of appropriate civil engineering methods for the purpose of maintaining the functions of fishing harbor and emergency haven while at the same time protecting the integrity of the sacred island landscape.



Photo 4-4 Visual barriers for solar photovoltaic panels

Trees are planted along a main road as visual barriers.

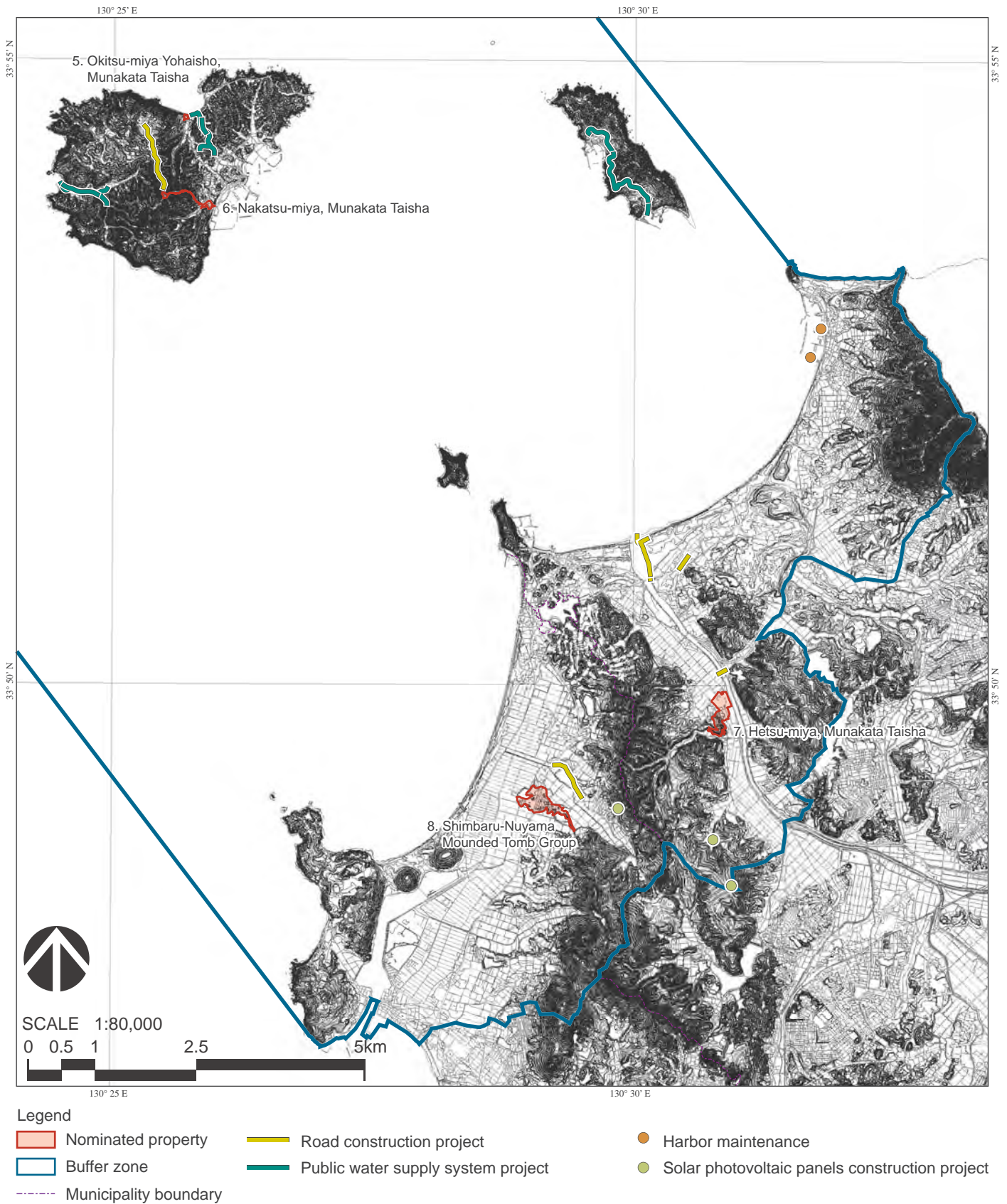


Figure 4-1 Map of planned development projects

4.b.2 Environmental Pressures

Not all potential environmental changes that could negatively affect the property have been identified, but impact from climate change, acid rain, air pollution, and birds' nesting burrows is also possible. Therefore the area is to be regularly monitored, and when any negative effect on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is anticipated, measures to avoid or reduce that impact are to be designed and implemented at as early a stage as possible.

Climate change

Climate change might lead to a rise in sea level or the increased strength and frequency of typhoons and precipitation, which could result in the flooding of the Tsurikawa River and, consequently, flooding of the Hetsu-miya shrine precinct and damage to its buildings.

Acid rain

At present no damage from acid rain has been identified, but it could potentially affect metal artifacts that are buried in the ground at ritual archaeological sites or within mounded tombs on the property.

Air pollution

Westerly winds carry yellow dust and other particulate matter from the continent to Japan. This air pollution could potentially affect the degree of visibility between the component parts of the property, such as the views of Okinoshima from Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, or from the summit of Mt. Mitakesan on Oshima.



Photo 4-5 Streaked shearwater



Photo 4-6 The burrow of the streaked shearwater in Okinoshima



Photo 4-7 Trees growing on Tomb 22, Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group

Birds' nesting burrows

The entire island of Okinoshima has been designated by the national government as a Natural Monument, called the "Okinoshima Primeval Forest". Its rich natural environment provides a habitat for a hundred thousand rare birds, such as the streaked shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) and Japanese wood pigeon (*Columba janthina*). In particular, the streaked shearwater burrows into the ground to build its nest, which poses a potential threat to the underground archaeological remains and artifacts at the ritual archaeological sites on the island (Photos 4-5 and 4-6). So far, no negative impact from the nesting of the streaked shearwater on the island has been identified; but its impact on these sites will be monitored and necessary interventions will be explored, on the condition that among the ritual archaeological sites on the island, the protection of the Historic Site will take precedence.

Tree growth

The ritual archaeological sites within Munakata Taisha and some burial mounds within the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group are covered with trees, and their roots might potentially affect the underground archaeological remains at these sites (Photo 4-7).

Seaborne waste

In the coastal areas near Okinoshima and Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, weather patterns and the Tsushima ocean current transport a large quantity of floating garbage that washes ashore, which raises concerns about the potential deterioration of the natural environment and landscape in this region. In an effort to counteract the problem of seaborne waste, Munakata Taisha, its worshippers, the fishermen's cooperative, local people and civic volunteers periodically clean the coastal areas (Photo 4-8). When an urgent response is needed—after a typhoon, for example—Munakata City responds immediately to aid in the cleanup of seaborne waste.



Photo 4-8 Local community volunteers cleaning the beach, collecting seaborne waste near Okitsu-miya Yohaisho

4.b.3 Natural Disasters

Natural disasters that may occur in the region where the property is located include typhoons, storms, floods, earthquakes (which may also cause tree falls and landslides), tsunamis, and fires. The Japanese national government and the governments of Fukuoka Prefecture, Munakata City, and Fukutsu City have prepared disaster prevention plans based on the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act, and have taken measures to create their own disaster prevention brigades, disaster prevention plans, observations and precautions, and evacuation strategies. Also, preservation and management plans for each of the various Cultural Properties include first aid and recovery measures to be carried out in the event of a natural disaster. For a record of disasters that have affected this property in the past, see **Table 3-2** in Appendix 1-1.

Typhoons

Typhoons may cause buildings to collapse, and falling trees may damage structures at archaeological sites and shrine buildings; heavy rains can trigger soil runoff and the dislodging of artifacts from ritual sites, the collapse of mounded tombs and other structures or landforms. Because Okitsu-miya Yohaisho in particular is situated on high ground near the sea, on a site subject to the effects of strong sea winds, damage to and destruction of shrine buildings is a possibility.

To prevent typhoon damage, structures and trees that could collapse are reinforced and otherwise supported as needed. Patrols and inspections are carried out before and after a typhoon occurs, and efforts are carried out to prevent further damage and secondary disasters.

Storms and floods

In the past, near Hetsu-miya, heavy rains have caused the Tsurikawa River to flood, and such flooding could potentially damage this property in the future. Heavy rains could also trigger the collapse of burial mounds at the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group.

The banks of the Tsurikawa River, which runs near Hetsu-miya, have already been reinforced to prevent flooding in the event of heavy rains. In areas prone to landslides, such as the mounds of the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group and the periphery of the plateau where it is located, preventive measures are being explored, including the planting of trees to reinforce slopes and other techniques.

Earthquakes

This property is located along the Nishiyama fault zone, which extends southward from Okinoshima along the boundary between Munakata City and Fukutsu City, from northwest to southeast, where a potential earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 to 8.2 could possibly occur.

With regard to the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group, in the case of a landslide involving the burial mounds, the periphery of the plateau, walking trails or other features, the need for emergency measures to prevent further damage and secondary disasters must first be assessed. To prevent the buildings

within the Munakata Taisha shrine compounds from suffering damage or collapse, earthquake-proofing measures are to be taken as necessary.

Tsunamis

The latest estimates by the national government (as of August 2014) indicate that the coastal areas of Munakata City, Fukutsu City, Oshima and Okinoshima could potentially be hit by a tsunami with a maximum height of 4.2 m – 4.4 m, due to the effects of the Nishiyama fault zone. Since the ritual archaeological sites of Hetsu-miya, Nakatsu-miya, and Okitsu-miya and the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group are all located on higher ground, they are unlikely to suffer damage from a tsunami. On the other hand, the shrine buildings of Munakata Taisha that are located in coastal areas or in the Tsurikawa River basin might become submerged in the event of a tsunami (Figure 4-2).

As measures to minimize the effects of tsunamis, an observation system for tsunami prediction, an evacuation and alerting system, and disaster prevention facilities are being established, and disaster prevention plans are being prepared and implemented by the Japanese national government, Fukuoka Prefecture, Munakata City, and Fukutsu City.

Fires

Because many buildings within the compounds of Munakata Taisha are constructed of wood, they are vulnerable to the risk of fire. Munakata Taisha has its own firefighting team and regularly organizes firefighting drills (Photo 4-9).

Okinoshima has a low risk of human-caused fires, since the only person who stays on the island is the Shinto priest on duty there. On the other hand, Hetsu-miya and Nakatsu-miya, both thronged with visitors, are equipped with automatic fire alarms, hydrants, water cannons, cisterns, and lightning rods, and have established appropriate fire prevention measures (see Figures 4-3 and 4-4).



Photo 4-9 Fire drill at Hetsu-miya parking facility

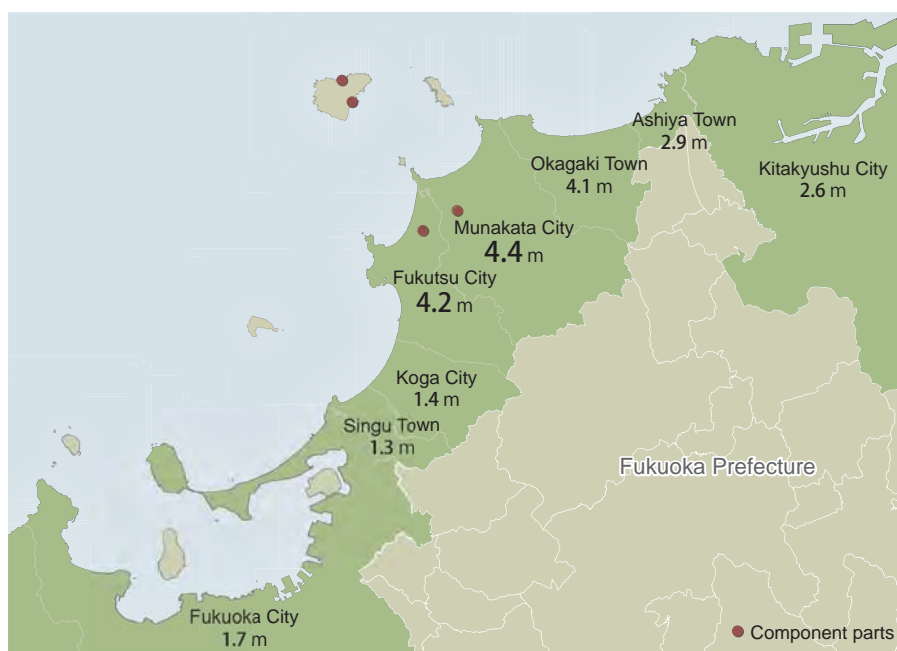


Figure 4-2 Estimated maximum height of tsunamis

Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, 2014.

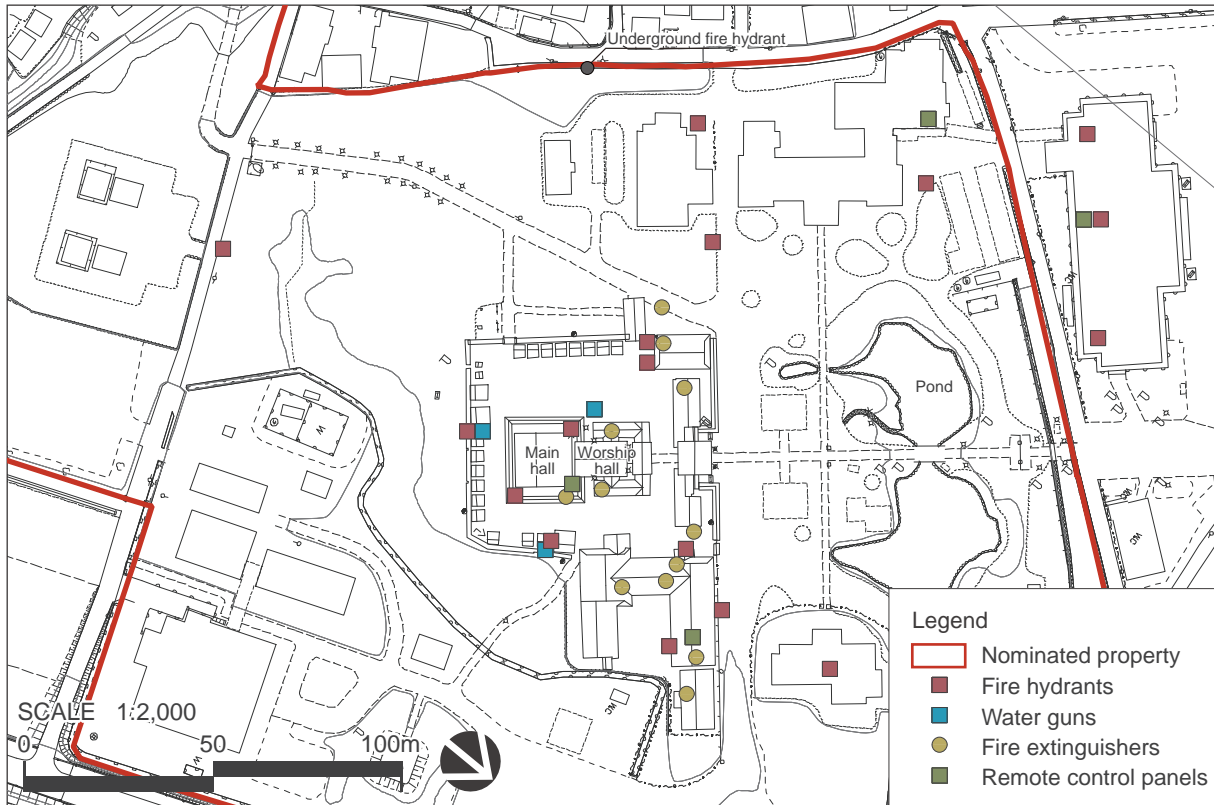


Figure 4-3 Locations of fire prevention facilities (Hetsu-miya)

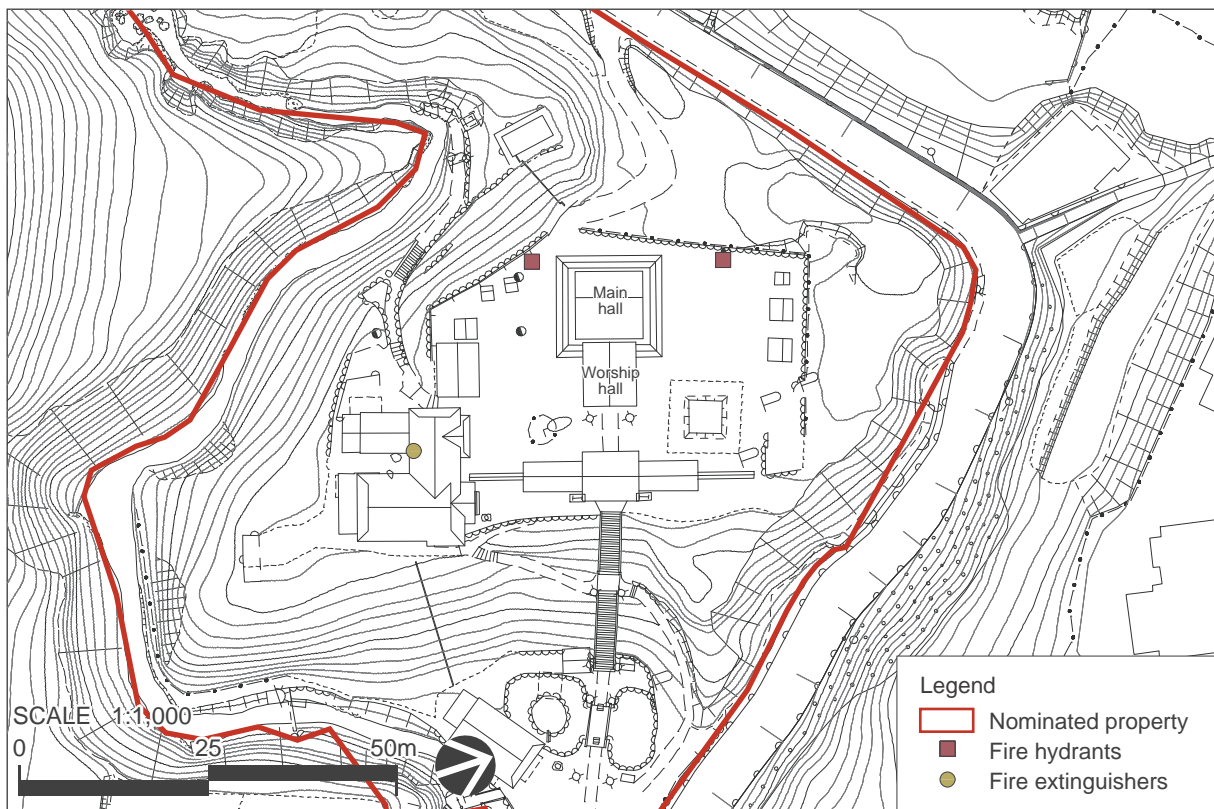


Figure 4-4 Locations of fire prevention facilities (Nakatsu-miya)

4.b.4 Visitation

In the area where this property is located, the number of visitors has been gradually increasing in Munakata City since it reached 5 million in 2003, and as of 2011 the number was approximately 6.6 million; the number of visitors in Fukutsu City has been around 5 million each year, and as of 2011 was approximately 4.8 million (see Figure 4-5).

At present, no signs of adverse effects due to tourism have been identified; however, the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List could lead to an increase in the number of visitors both from within Japan and from abroad, as a result of which adverse effects from tourism pressures such as property damage, disturbance to worshippers, and deterioration of the surrounding environment are likely to intensify.

Therefore, the number of visitors at each site and their impact on the property are factors that must be carefully monitored, and measures will be taken to expand the sites' capacities to receive visitors, such as the establishment of tourist routes, visitor facilities, and the dissemination of helpful information (see section 5.i).

Component parts 1 to 4: Okitsu-miya, Munakata Taisha

Okinoshima is, in principle, closed to the public. A single Munakata Taisha priest is stationed on the island at all times, in ten-day shifts. Only those who obtain special permission from Munakata Taisha can land on the island. Once a year, on the occasion of the Okitsu-miya Grand Festival (Photo 4-10), about 200 males are granted special permission to visit the island, on the condition that they observe the traditional customs, including keeping various taboos and ritually bathing in the sea prior to landing on the island to purify themselves. Thanks to these customs that restrict people's access to the island and their actions while visiting the island, the ritual archaeological sites and shrine buildings there have been protected from the damage that visitors might otherwise have caused.



Photo 4-10 Okitsu-miya Grand Festival (27 May)

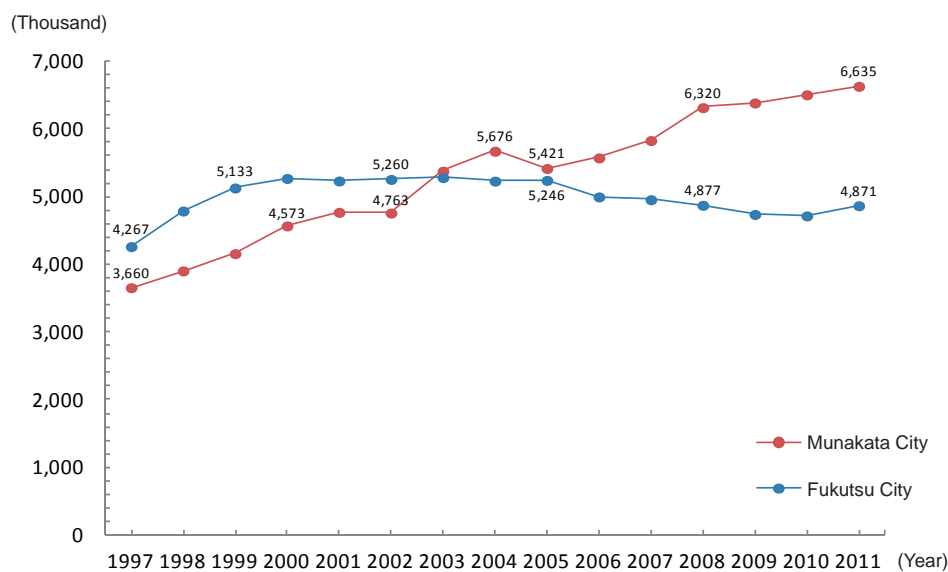


Figure 4-5 Number of visitors to Munakata City and Fukutsu City
Source: Survey by Fukuoka Prefecture

In fact, it is a criminal offense that carries substantial penalties to visit Okinoshima without permission from Munakata Taisha.

The marine area surrounding Okinoshima has been a fishing ground for local fishermen, who have long supported the worship practices of Munakata Taisha. They strictly follow customary rules so as not to violate taboos when using the harbor on the island, and also play a positive role in the management of Okinoshima. Other boats can take refuge in the harbor of Okinoshima only in the event of an emergency such as inclement weather. The number of boats visiting the Okinoshima harbor is recorded each day by the Munakata Taisha priest on the island. Since people do attempt to visit Okinoshima on recreational boats, efforts have been made to inform them of the law, including the installation of a sign so that people do not land on the island without permission.

Component part 5: Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, Munakata Taisha

The compound of Okitsu-miya Yohaisho is open to the public as a place to worship Okinoshima from afar, since the island itself is closed to the public. According to a visitor survey conducted in 2014, the number of recreational visitors to Oshima is 10,000 each year. Many of the tourists visiting Oshima also visit Okitsu-miya Yohaisho.

Okitsu-miya Yohaisho is managed by a priest from Nakatsu-miya. Regular patrols and inspections are carried out in cooperation with Munakata Taisha, the local community, and the local police force, to prevent vandalism, arson and other kinds of damage when no priest is present at the site.

Component part 6: Nakatsu-miya, Munakata Taisha

At Nakatsu-miya, areas that are open to the public include the precinct around the main hall, the path to the summit of Mt. Mitakesan, and Mitake Shrine at its summit, while the Mitakesan ritual site is closed to the public. According to a visitor survey conducted in 2014, the number of recreational visitors to Oshima is 10,000 each year. Many of the tourists visiting Oshima also visit Nakatsu-miya.

The Nakatsu-miya compound is managed by a Shinto priest at the foot of Mt. Mitakesan. The Mitakesan ritual site located at the summit is regularly patrolled and inspected—in cooperation with Munakata Taisha, the local community, and the local police force—to prevent vandalism, arson and other kinds of damage, when no priest is present at the site.

Component part 7: Hetsu-miya, Munakata Taisha

At Hetsu-miya, areas that are open to the public include the precinct around the main hall, the Shimotakamiya ritual site, and the Shimpokan Museum. Of the three Munakata Taisha shrines, Hetsu-miya attracts the largest number of visitors. In 2014, some 850,000 people visited Munakata Taisha. Many people visit Hetsu-miya not only for religious purposes but also for recreation. In its capacity as the owner

of the property, Munakata Taisha determines the areas that are to be opened to the public and their hours of operation.

Component part 8: Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group

The Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group is open to the public, except for a small portion of the site that is privately owned. Fukutsu City, the owner of the property, has established tourist routes and guides visitors not to enter areas where their presence would hinder the protection of archaeological sites. Regular patrols and inspections are carried out in cooperation with the local community.

Regarding the number of visitors to the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group, 1,400 people participated in the guided tour of the site organized in 2013, for example. According to current estimates, once the planned installation of visitor facilities is completed there, 30,000 to 50,000 people are expected to visit each year. A system to obtain data on the number of visitors to the Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group is planned and will be installed as soon as possible. In preparation for the projected increase in the number of visitors, walking trails and signs to guide visitors will be installed.

4.b.5 Number of Inhabitants within the Property and the Buffer Zone

Estimated population located within:

Area of the nominated property	20
Buffer zone	13,652
Total	13,672
Year	November 2015

Table 4-2 Number of inhabitants within the property and the buffer zone

ID No.	Component part	Property	Buffer zone
1 to 4	Okitsu-miya, Munakata Taisha	0*	0
5	Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, Munakata Taisha	0	695
6	Nakatsu-miya, Munakata Taisha	0	
7	Hetsu-miya, Munakata Taisha	10	12,957
8	Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group	10	
Total		20	13,652

* Okinoshima has no permanent residents because the public is generally prohibited from visiting the island. Only one Munakata Taisha priest is stationed on the island full-time, in ten-day shifts, for the purpose of conducting religious services there (Photo 4-11).



Photo 4-11 One Shinto priest is stationed at all times on Okinoshima, each serving for a ten-day shift