

# Conservation Work on Ryoguzan Tumulus

The Ryoguzan Tumulus is the largest keyhole-shaped burial mound in the Bizen area and is the tomb of a historically influential figure. A double moat encircles the outside of the mound. The inner moat is now filled with water and used as an agricultural reservoir, creating a beautiful scenic landscape unique to this ancient burial mound. On the other hand, the soil from the tumulus was gradually washed away by the lapping waves from the inner moat.

As a result, to prevent further damage to the tumulus, conservation work was carried out on the inner side of the middle embankment in 2006 and 2007, and at the base of the mound from 2017 to 2024. Although no paving stones were found on the surface of this tumulus, stone materials were used during restoration and maintenance work to ensure a sturdy bank, and it was constructed to correspond to roughly the same size of the original mound. The square projections on the west and east sides have been maintained to correspond to their current shape.

This conservation work was considered an important project to protect the only tumulus with a water-filled moat in Okayama and pass on the precious historical heritage to future generations.

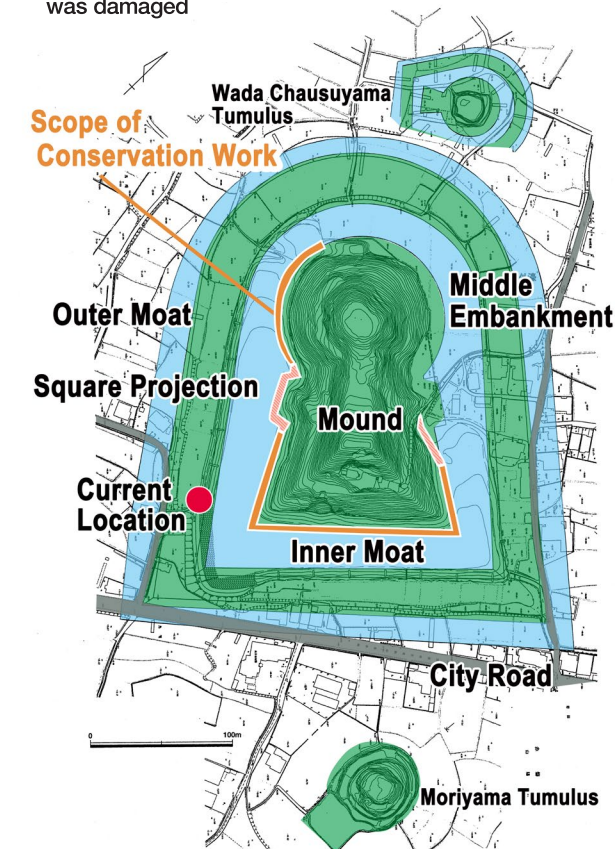
December 2025, Akaiwa City Board of Education



▲ Before work  
Area where the base of the mound was damaged



▲ After work  
Area covered with stone materials



Scope of Conservation Work

- : Restoration and maintenance correspond roughly to the original mound
- ▨ : Maintenance tailored to current conditions

▲ Top View