

Restoration of the Goshiki-zuka kofun

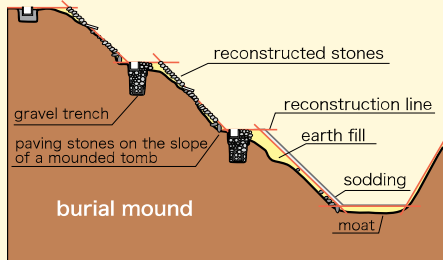
The result of the digging research defined the restoration plan of the kofun. The original plan was intended to reconstruct it to its original condition, including replacing fallen cobbles to the original slope which the excavation had unearthed. However, as the work proceeded some problems occurred, such as falling stones or collapse due to construction work or unbearable conditions affected by infiltration of rainwater and so on, thus the idea of the original plan was found to be impossible. Then, by improving working methods one after another, the front mound was wholly reconstructed along the would-be original slope surfaces.

Data for the restoration plan of the rear mound was collected through digging research with only seven 1 meter-width trenches. In accordance with this, the scarcity of research data of the slope planes of original construction, the current mound was wholly covered with 50 cm-deep earth, on which newly available cobble stones were placed.

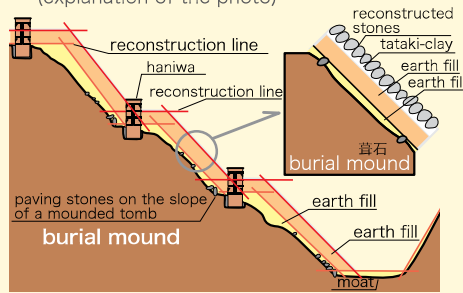
The added earth resulted in the depth difference between the front and the rear mound planes at the joining sections. The difference in level is filled by the staircases to the mound top, placed in the joining sections of the two mounds.



Reconstruction works of the rear mound (explanation of the photo)



Reconstruction pattern of the front mound (explanation of the pattern)



Reconstruction pattern of the rear mound (explanation of the pattern)

CG-Restoration of Goshiki-zuka kofun

A CG (computer graphically)-restored image (right graph) based on excavation research data, shows the Goshiki-zuka kofun as it was originally built.

It was built on a hill overlooking the sea, surrounded by a deep and wide dry moat, and with another shallow ditch surrounding its rear mound. In the moat, three island-like platforms were built, one was at the east side of rear section and the rest were on both sides of the joining section. An earthen bridge was laid at the south side of the front rectangular as a corridor. The kofun had three levels and was covered with cobblestones on its slope planes, and haniwa (terracotta cylindrical tubes) are standing in a circle or in a line on the mound top and the flat planes of each level.

Kotsubo kofun had a two-leveled round mound, which had no stone covering. On its mound top and flat plane, haniwa were standing as Goshiki, and an earthen bridge was in the moat as well.



Goshiki-zuka kofun and the land features of its surrounding area restored by CG



Historic site

Goshiki-zuka and Kotsubo Tumuli



Goshiki-zuka tumulus is a zenpo-koen-fun (a round mound with a rectangle in front), which was built on the hill overlooking Awaji island across the channel. The 194-meter keyhole shaped tomb is the biggest among the kofuns in Hyogo prefecture. It is surrounded twice by a deep moat and a shallow ditch along with the 70m-diameter Kotsubo mound to the west. Goshiki-zuka kofun is around the 40th-colossal burial mound in Japan, but comparable to the kings' tombs in northern Nara prefecture (Saki-kofun group) among kofuns built during the kofun-period (mid 3rd century - end 6th century).

The man buried here around the late 4th century might have been a clan chieftain who had dominated the channel and its surroundings.

Goshiki-zuka kofun before the reconstruction

A written reference to the tomb appeared first in the Nihon Shoki, a compilation of official chronicles of Japanese history as "a false mausoleum of Emperor Chuai, and the stones which covered the burial mound had been brought across from Awaji island by vessels.† It is, however, difficult to treat it as such because of the cordial and painstaking way in which it was built, like any other leaders' tombs, and because of the unearthened stone slabs which had formed the burial chamber, where the dead might be laid.

The Goshiki-zuka kofun was visited by various characters such as literary men and painters who left their sketches of the mound in words, drawings or other media. The first Japanese etcher Shiba Kohkan (1747-1818) was among them, visiting on his way to Nagasaki, according to his journal. In the Meiji and Taisho eras, anthropologists and archaeologists came to explore it and left their records. Most of them were interested in the haniwa, reporting the measurements and arrangement patterns of the terracotta tubes.

During the last war, wild pine trees on the mound were chopped down for ship building



The mound became a field with a few trees, around 1960 (explanation of the photo)

and turpentine oil. After the war, the area was reclaimed to help supply for the food shortage, and the mound was devastated. By the early 1960s, there had been a growing movement to restore the burial mound, which prompted the Cultural Properties Protection Committee (now the Agency for Cultural Affairs) to begin a restoration plan. After 1965, when the reconstruction subsidy was approved by the committee, Kobe City Government had started research, and excavation and reconstruction works followed for 10 years.

Excavation of the Goshiki-zuka kofun

The first excavation for reconstruction started in December, 1965. The estimation that the kofun must have been almost destroyed by the farming was revealed to be untrue as the research progressed, and it was decided that thorough excavating research should proceed. The research showed that the kofun had three tiers, its slope was covered with packed cobblestones, and the mound top and flat planes of the bottom and the second levels had upright finned cylindrical haniwa in line. The researchers' analysis proved that the cobbles which covered the bottom level slope were from neighbouring land, and those of the upper two

levels' were from the east coast of Awaji island. The Nihon shoki might have employed the above-mentioned description from the local tradition. Most unearthened haniwas which surrounded the kofun were cylindrical tubes with fins, and every 4 to 6 of them had morning glory flower-like shapes on their tops. Rare haniwas had finned tubes with a sunshade shape or shield shape on their tops. The island like platforms built in the midst of the moat could be thought to be the sacred places at which to perform rituals.



Hire-tsuki ento-haniwa (cylindrical tube with fins)



Hire-tsuki asagao-gata haniwa (finned tube with morning glory flower-like shape)



A collection of restored haniwas (explanations of photos)



①Ento-haniwa used as a coffin



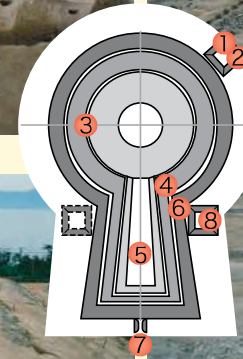
②Island-like rectangular remains at the east side of the rear mound



③Ento-haniwas buried in one of the ditches



④Haniwas lined along at the eastern joining section



⑤The view of the front mound under digging research work



⑥Packed cobbles covering near the eastern joining section



⑦Corridor-like remains at the south side of the front mound



⑧Island-like remains at the eastern joining section