

# Tour Mt.Jogane in "Boundary Mountain Castle and Hall"

10/30/2023  
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## [ 1 ] Koeji Pond and Koeji Ruins

Koeji Pond is located in Fukuoka Uenaegi , Nakatsugawa City , Gifu Prefecture. When the water in Koeji Pond recedes and the bottom of the pond is exposed , you can pick up arrowheads and stone awls. It is a prehistoric site and is called "Koeji Ruins."

During the Jomon period , the area around Koeji Pond is thought to have been a mountainous wetland /swamp. Its source was the Miyama Brook behind the Koeji Kannon-do Hall on the east side of the Koeji Pond. People lived by hunting with bows and arrows , catching fish in brooks and swamps , and collecting plants from mountains , fields , and wetlands.

The photo shows an obsidian arrowhead (hammered stone tools) that was found at the bottom of Koeji Pond. The closest source of obsidian is Kirigamine , Nagano Prefecture. This means that there was already trade over a fairly wide range during the Jomon period , which is surprising and moving.

Koeji Pond also served as a water moat for Koeji Castle , which was located on the flatland south of the castle on the east side of Koeji Pond.



【Koeji Pond and Mt. Jogane (Bentenjima Island in the Center of the Pond)】



【Obsidian Arrowhead Found at the Bottom of Koeji Pond (Hammered Stone Tools)】

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## [ 2 ] Mt. Jogane Summit

For over 200 years from the Kamakura period to the Muromachi period , over 700 years ago , Koeji Castle was located around the summit of Mt.Jogane and at the foot of Mt.Jogane in Fukuoka Uenaegi , Nakatsugawa City , Gifu Prefecture.

It is thought that gurd huts and forts were build around the summit of Mt.Jogane and were used for defense.

As shown in the figure below , there are several rock enclosures left around the summit of Mt.Jogane.



**【Figure around the Summit of Mt. Jogane】**



**【Mt. Jogane】**

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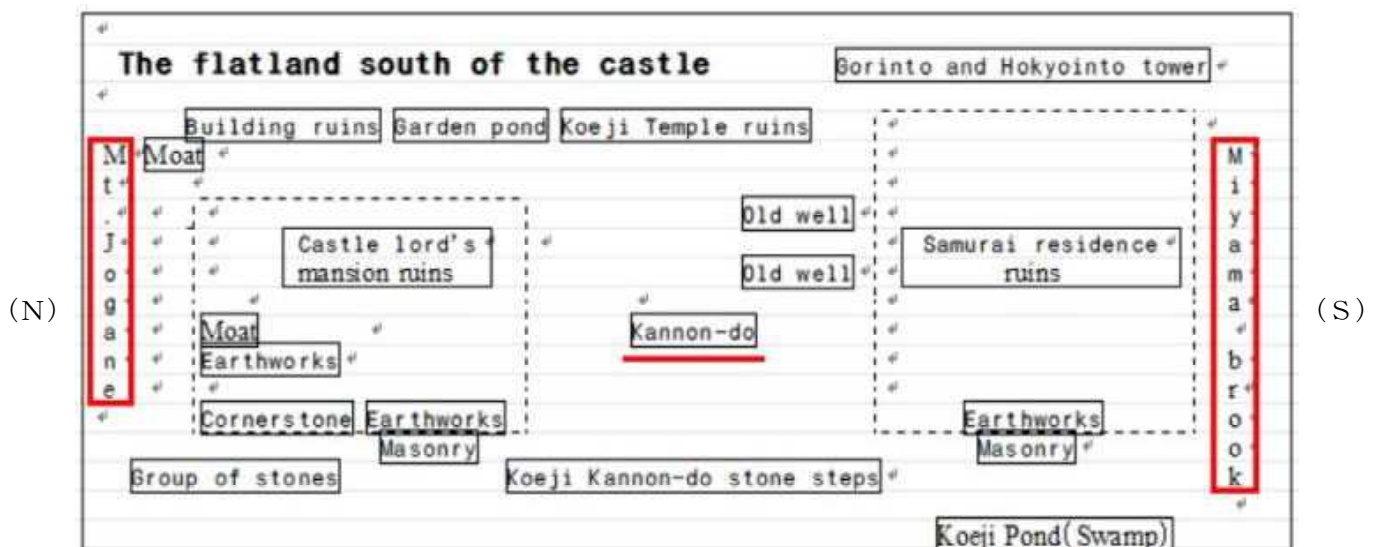
## [3] How to Climb to the Summit of Mt. Jogane

Please see the figure below.

Go straight up Mt.Jogane on the north side of the ruins of the castle lord's mansion on the north side of Kannon-do Hall (There is no way) .

You reach the ridge near the right end of the **【Figure around the Summit of Mt.Jogane】** on the previous page. Then , move along the ridge (to the left of the figure) to point A (explained on the next page) . Start from point A.

In the old days , there was a path that climbed along the west ridge and reached point A first. However , this path is currently not available , so we are now climbing directly from the side of the Kannon-do Hall.



**【Figure of the Flatland South of the Castle】**



**【Koeji Kannon-do Hall and Stone Steps】**



**【Miyama Brook】**

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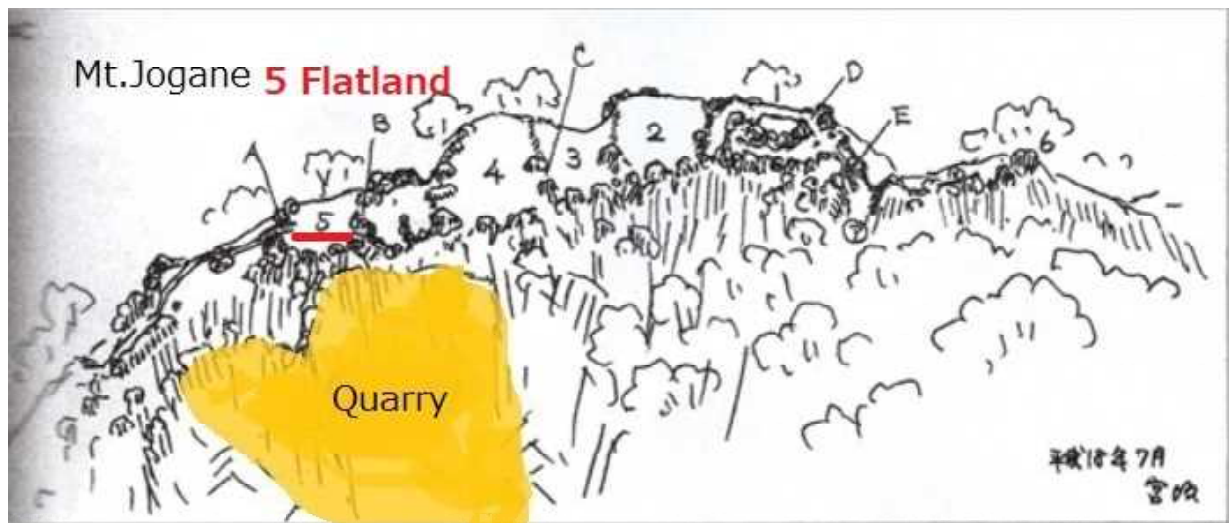
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## [ 4 ] 5 Flatland

After almost climbing the west ridge , where the slope becomes gentle , there is "5 Flatland" (see the figure below) , which is about  $18 \times 13$  meters.

This is where the real castle area begins.

There is a cliff on the south side , and rock walls on the north side , which continues to slope. The "tiger entrance" (Point A) opens on the west side. Probably , it's the ruins of a gate.



(W)

(E)



**【Ruins of a Gate Made of Rocks at the "Tiger Entrance" on the West Side of 5 Flatland (Western End of Castle Area)】**

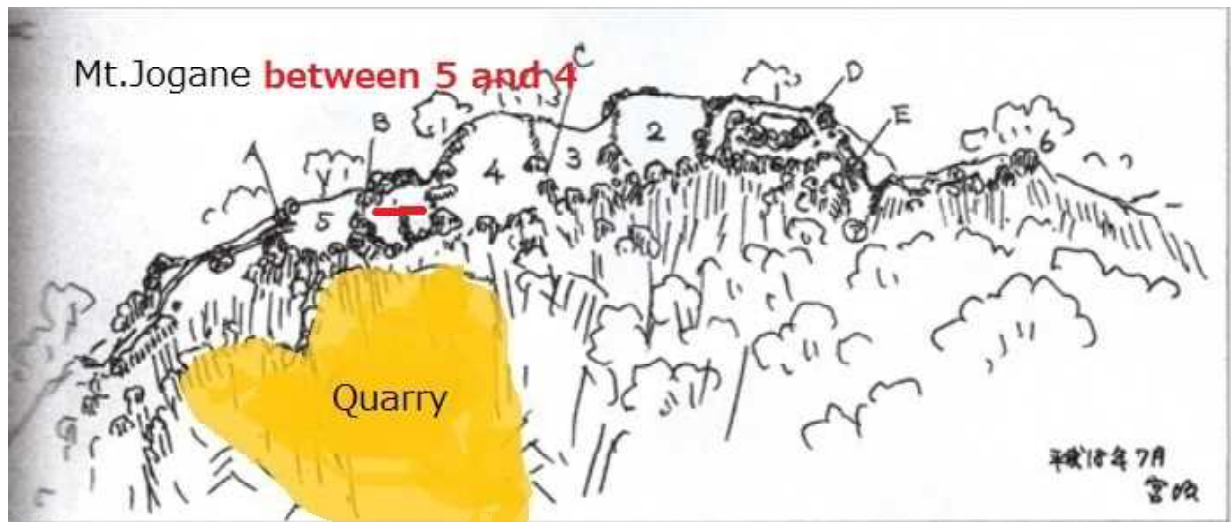
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## [5] Flatland between 5 and 4

If you climb 3m from 5 Flatland, you will find the "Flatland between 5 and 4" (see the figure below), which is about  $15 \times 10$  meters in size and has a tiger-entrance-shape and is surrounded by exposed rocks. From the top of the rock (Point B) at the southern end of this flatland, you can see the flatland south of the castle. There are rock walls on the south side, and a flat ground on the north side, which continues to slope.

Tiger-entrance ... a gate with a square shape and a curved entrance for entry and exit.



(W)

(E)



【Tiger-Entrance-Shape Terrain】



【Surrounding Exposed Rocks】



【View from Point B】



【View from Point B (Old Days)】

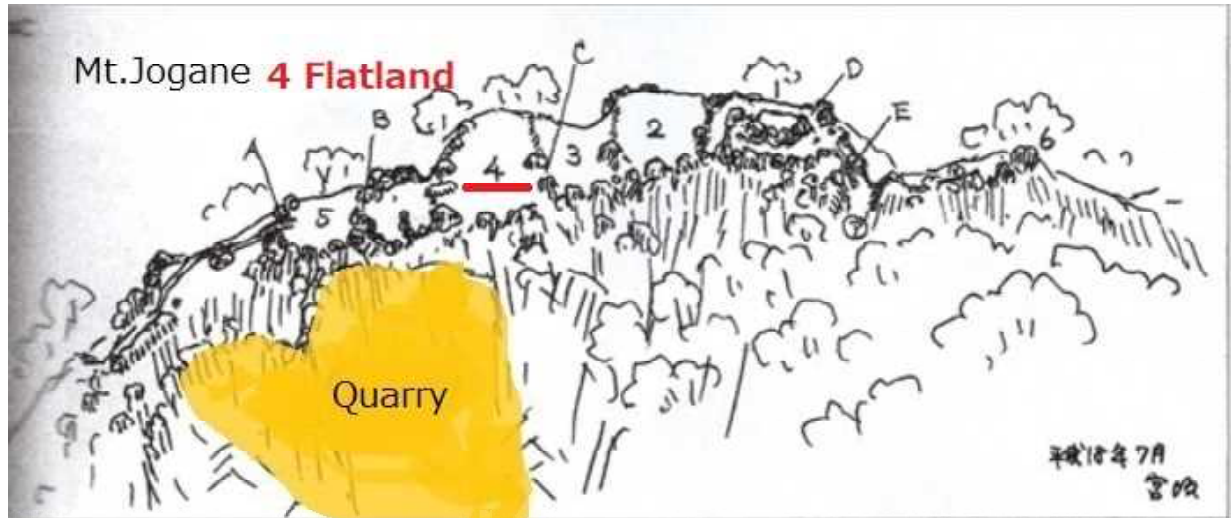
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## [ 6 ] 4 Flatland

After passing through the aforementioned flatland surrounded by exposed rocks , you will come to "4 Flatland" (see the figure below) , which measures approximately 25 × 25 meters.

There ia a steep cliff on the south side. On the north side , the slope continues , and you can see the flatland being carved out.



(W)

(E)



【Scraped Area on the Northern Slope of 4 Flatland】



【Point C on the Border Between 4 and 3 Flatland】

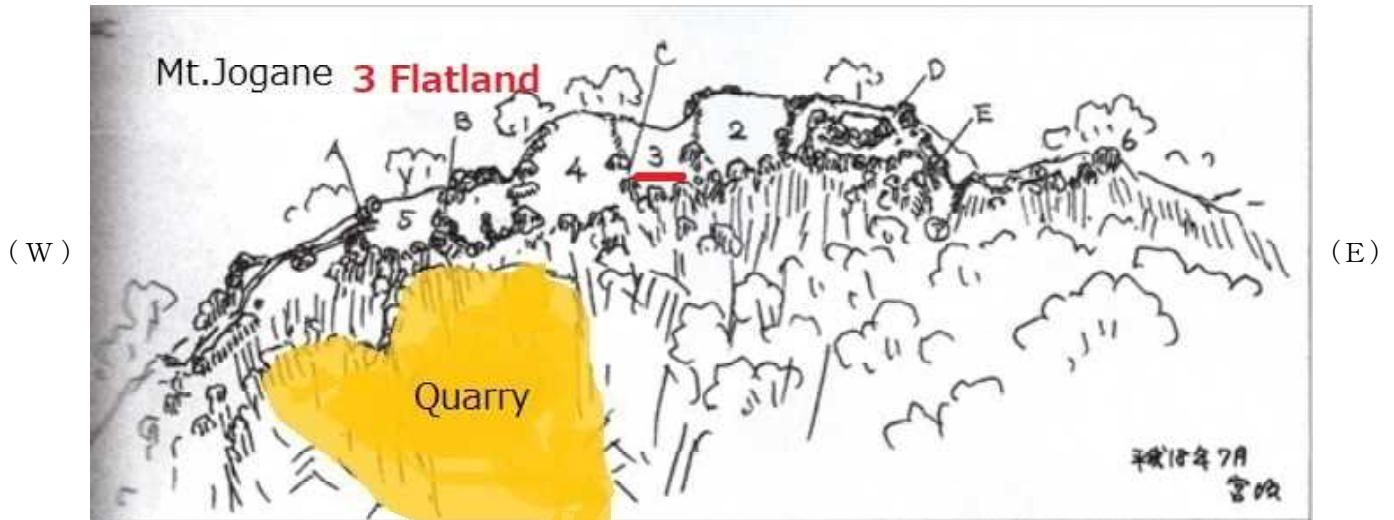
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## [ 7 ] 3 Flatland

There is a 1m step difference from 4 Flatland to "3 Flatland" (see the figure below) , which is about  $20 \times 15$  meters.

There is a steep cliff on the south side. The north side is shaped like a stream , and there ia a Hime Well beside a big stone 25m below.



【Hime Well on the Northern Slope of 3 Flatland】

【Big Stone and Hime Well on the Northern Slope of 3 Flatland】

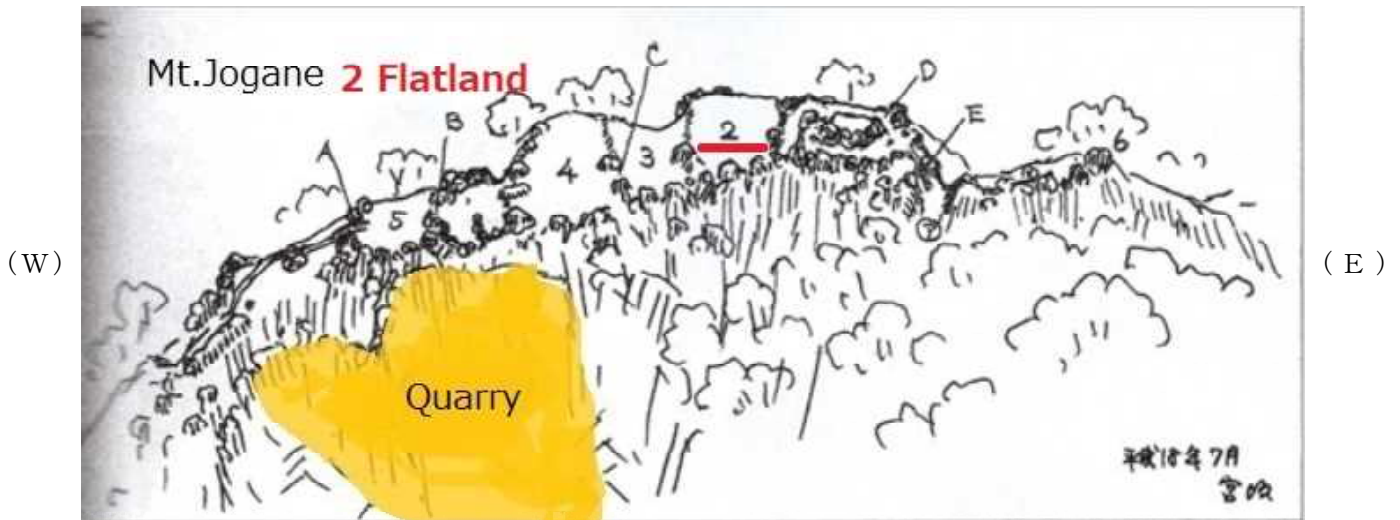
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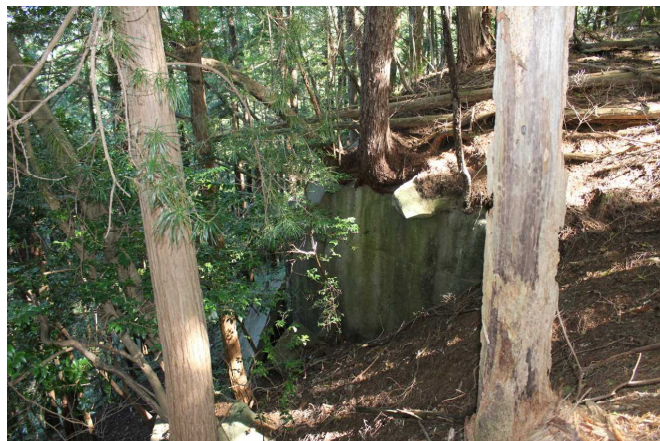
## [ 8 ] 2 Flatland

There is a 20 × 25m "2 Flatland" (see the figure below) with a 1m step difference from 3 Flatland.

Both north and south sides are protected by rock walls.



【Rock Walls Protect the South Side of 2 Flatland】



【Rock Walls Protect the North Side of 2 Flatland】



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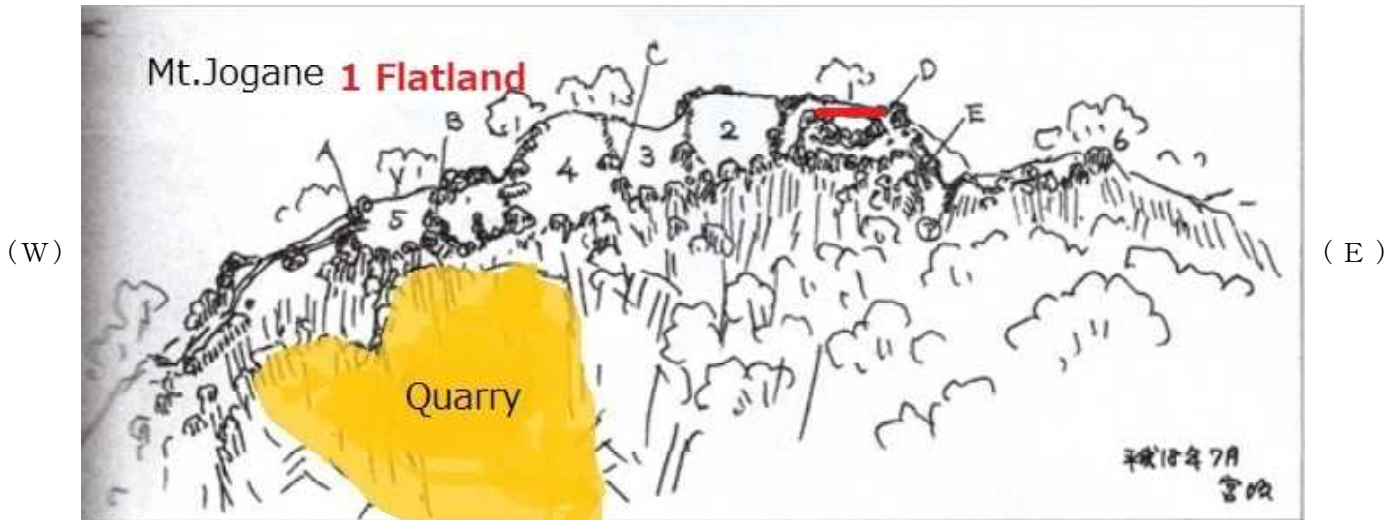
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## [9] 1 Flatland

The "1 Flatland" on the east side of the 2 Flatland is a little narrower. The southeast corner is about 1m high, shaped like a tank-platform, and there is a triangular point here.

The "1 Flatland" and the "2 Flatland" were the main enclosure.

There are rock walls on the south side, and a continuous slope on the north side.



【1 and 2 Flatlands  
Which Are the Main Enclosure】



【Tank-Platform Topography on 1 Flatland】



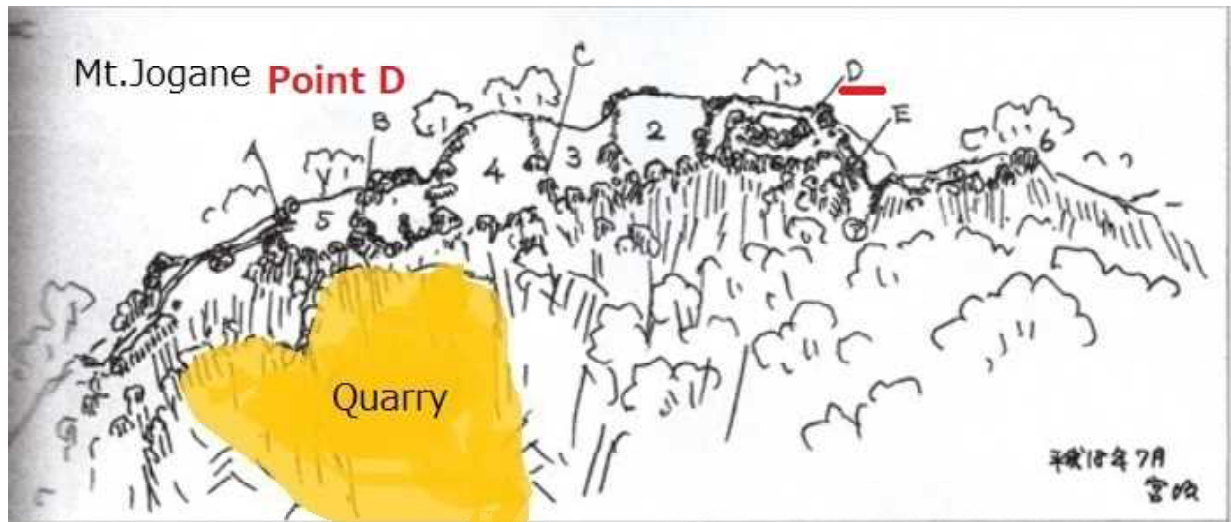
【Triangular Point on Tank-Platform Topography】

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## [ 1 0 ] Point D

A tiger entrance opens at "Point D" (see the figure below) between the rocks on the east side of the 1 Flatland.



(W)

(E)



【Tiger Entrance on the East Side of the 1 Flatland (Point D)】

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## [ 1 1 ] Point E

At "Point E" (see the figure below) below the tiger entrance at Point D , there is the ruins of a gate (checkpoint)



(W)

(E)



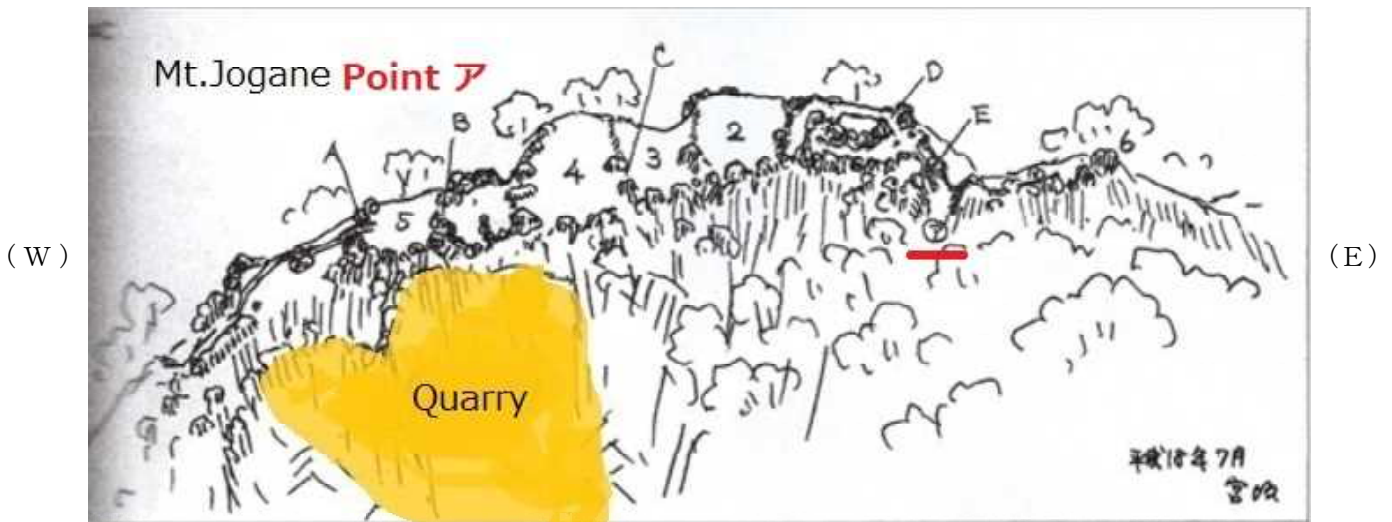
【Ruins of the Gate below the Tiger Entrance at Point D (Point E)】

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## [ 1 2 ] Point ア

There is a moat with a top width of 8m at "point ア" (see the figure below) below the ruins of the gate at Point E.



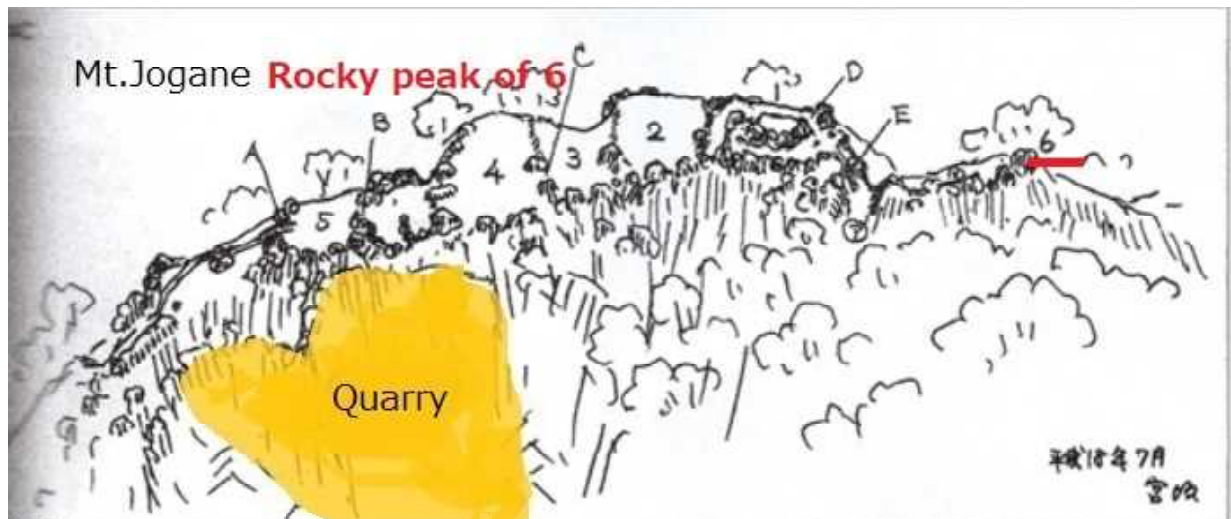
【The Moat below the Ruins of the Gate at Point E (Point ア)】

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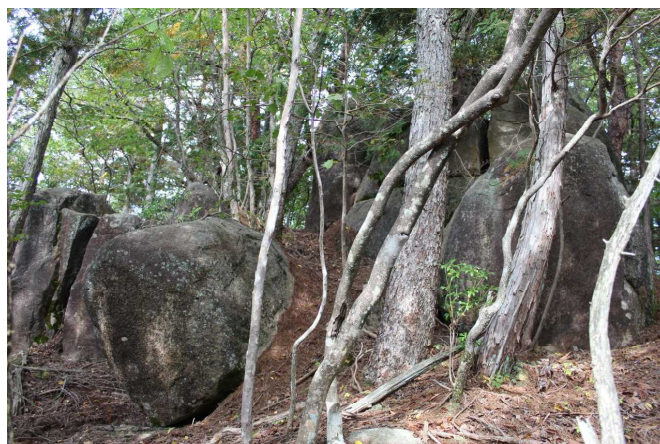
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## [ 1 3 ] Rocky Peak of 6

30m from Point ㄈ, there is a back gate of rocky peak of 6 (see the figure below).  
There are rock walls on the south side , and a continuous slope on the north side.



【Rocky Peak of 6】



【Back Gate (Rocky Peak of 6 from the East Side)】

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## [ 1 4 ] Under the Rocky Peak of 6

There is a Umadashi-style enclosure under the rocky peak (back gate) of 6.  
The castle area ends here.

It is possible to imagine a castle measuring 150m from east to west and a maximum of 30m from north to south , with a gateway (check point) made of rocks.

The construction of Koeji Castle using rocks was carried over to the construction of Naegi Castle.

Umadashi ... an embankment built in front of a castle gate to prevent enemies from knowing the comings and goings of men and horses.

Enclosure ... an earthen or stone and so on fence built around a certain area.



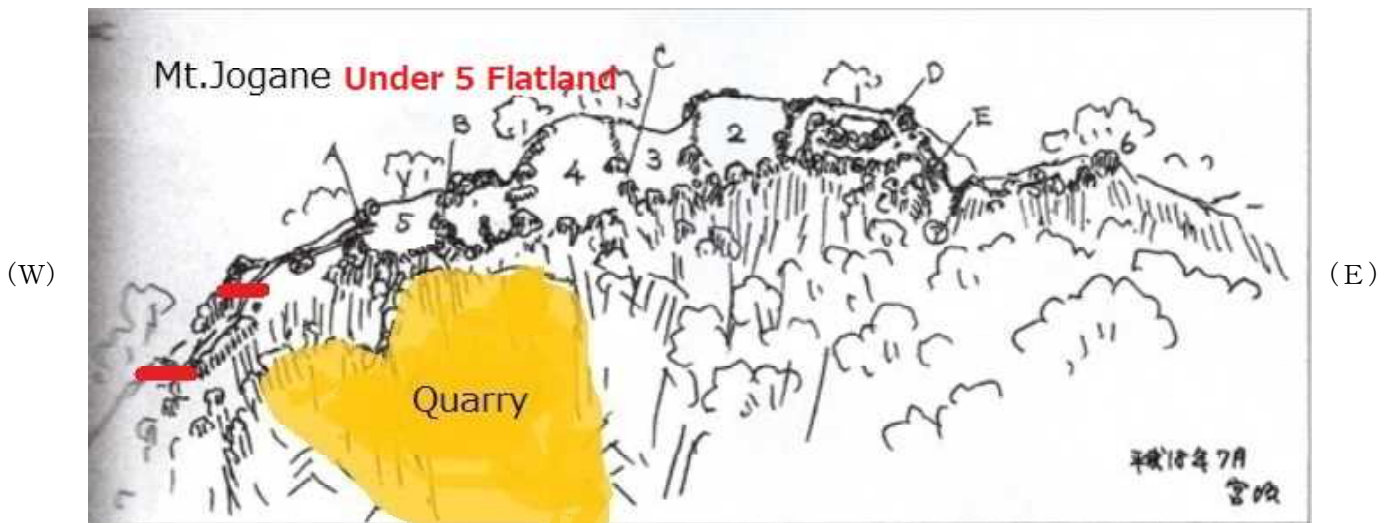
**【Umadashi-Style Enclosure under the Back Gate of 6  
(East End of the Castle Area)】**

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## [ 1 5 ] Ruins of Gate to the Front Gate (Check Point)

Currently , the entrance to the summit of Mt.Jogane (the entrance to the main gate of Koeji Castle) is blocked off with a fence to prevent damage from wild boars. This is a road that climbs along the west ridge of Mt.Jogane , which has a gentle slope. Climb north on the right side of the pig sty ruins , turn right halfway , and change direction to the east. As you climb towards the east , you will come across two checkpoints that appear to be the ruins of a gate. As you climb further , you will arrive at the tiger entrance (main gate) , which is Point A at the western end of the 5 Flatland.



【Ruins of the Gate (Check Point)】



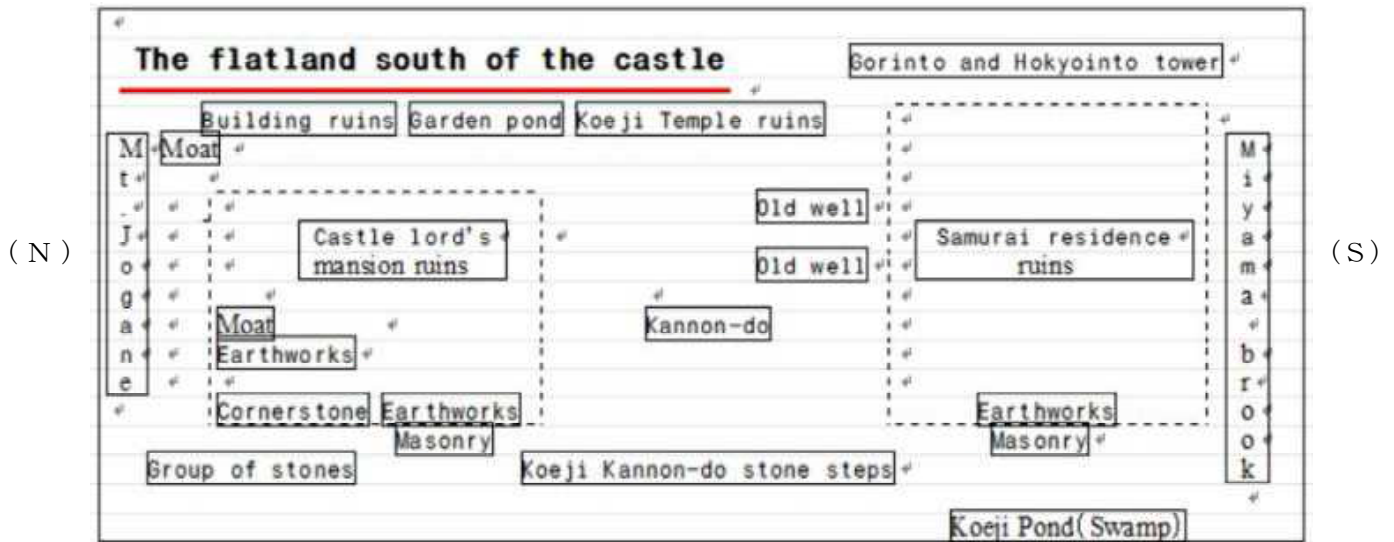
【Ruins of the Gate (Check Point)】

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## [ 1 6 ] Flatland South of the Castle

There is a flatland at the southern foot of Mt.Jogane , which is called the "Flatland South of Castle". It is said that the castle's lord's mansion , samurai residence , and Koeji Temple were located on the flatland south of the castle. Koeji Castle was a mountain castle consisting of land around the summit of Mt.Jogane , and flatland south of the castle at the foot of Mt.Jogane. It is thought that the flatland south of the castle was used for residence and political affairs. Kamakura , where the Kamakura Shogunate was established , was a stronghold surrounded by mountains on three sides and the sea on one side. The flatland south of the castle , where Koeji Castle was located , was also a stronghold by mountains on three sides and Koeji Pond (Koeji Swamp) on one side.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



【Flatland South of the Castle and Koeji Pond】



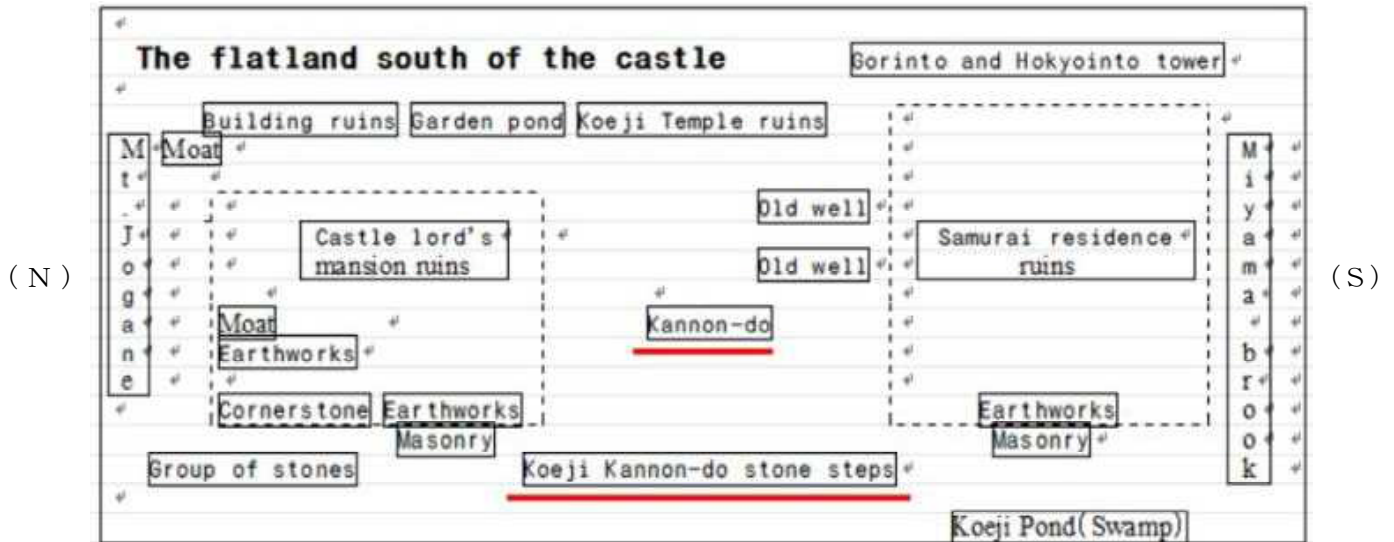
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## [ 1 7 ] Koeji Kannon-do Hall and Stone Steps

The current Kannon-do Hall in the photo was rebuilt in 1985 (Showa 60).

This Kannondo Hall has been rebuilt four times , in 1695 , 1789 , 1883 , and 1985 , approximately once every 100 years.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



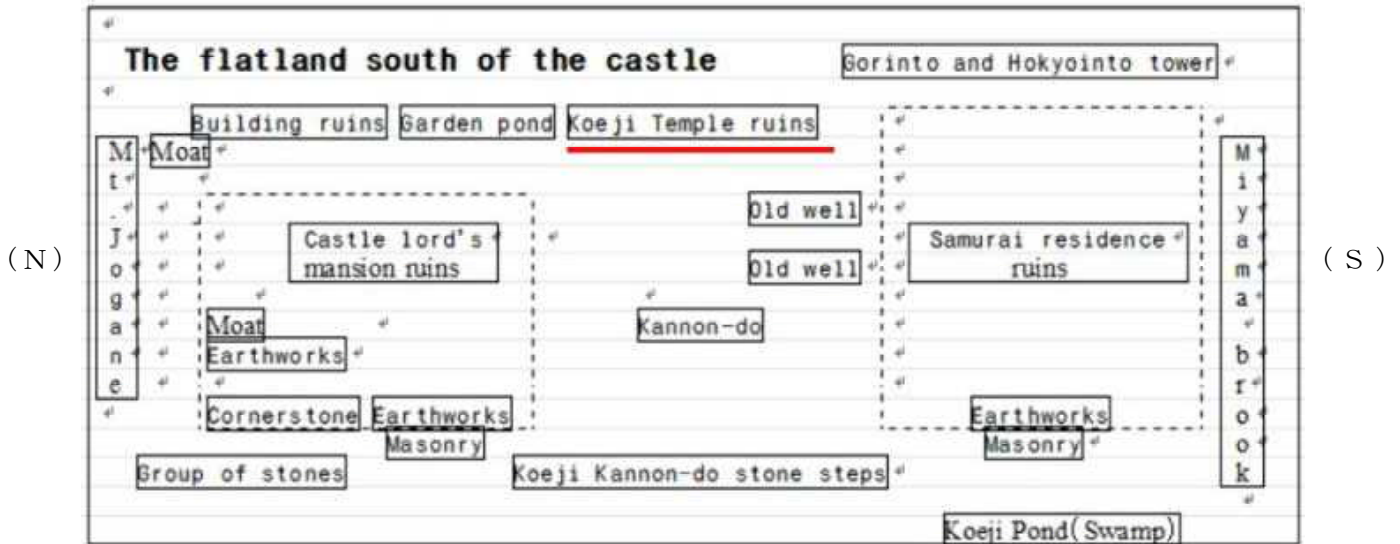
**【Stone Steps and Kannon-do Hall】**

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## [ 1 8 ] Koeji Temple Ruins

Koeji Temple was founded in 1350 by Zen Master Koboku Shoei , a disciple of Muso Soseki. In the Edo period , the successor chief priest died out and the temple naturally fell into disrepair , leaving only the Kannon-do Hall. However , this Kannon-do Hall was also demolished due to the anti-Buddhist movement at the beginning of the Meiji period. Koeji Temple was located on a higher ground behind the current Kannon-do Hall in the photo.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.

【Koeji Temple Ruins (One Step Higher behind Kannon-do Hall)】



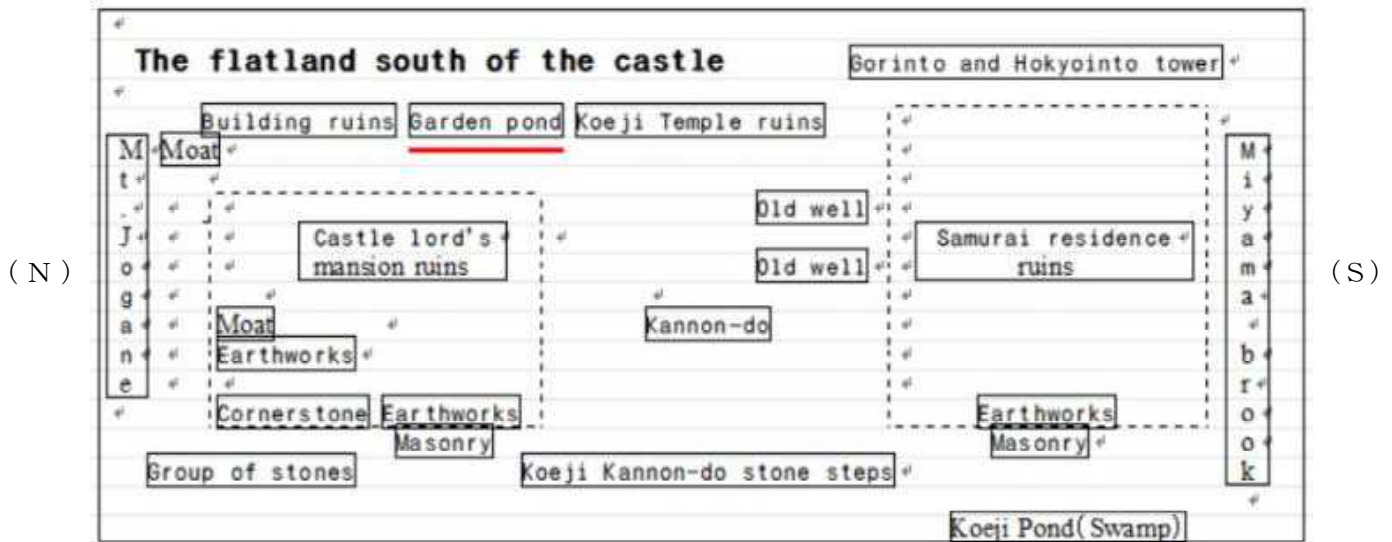
【Koeji Temple Ruins】

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## [ 1 9 ] Koeji Temple Garden Pond Ruins

This is the ruins of the garden pond of Koeji Temple , which was located on the higher ground behind the current Kannon-do Hall. I sense something in common with the gardens of Eihoji Temple on Mt.Kokei in Tajimi City , Gifu Prefecture , and the gardens of Tenryuji Temple in Kyoto City. Koeji Temple , Eihoji Temple , and Tenryuji Temple are all Rinzaï sect temples related to Muso Soseki.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



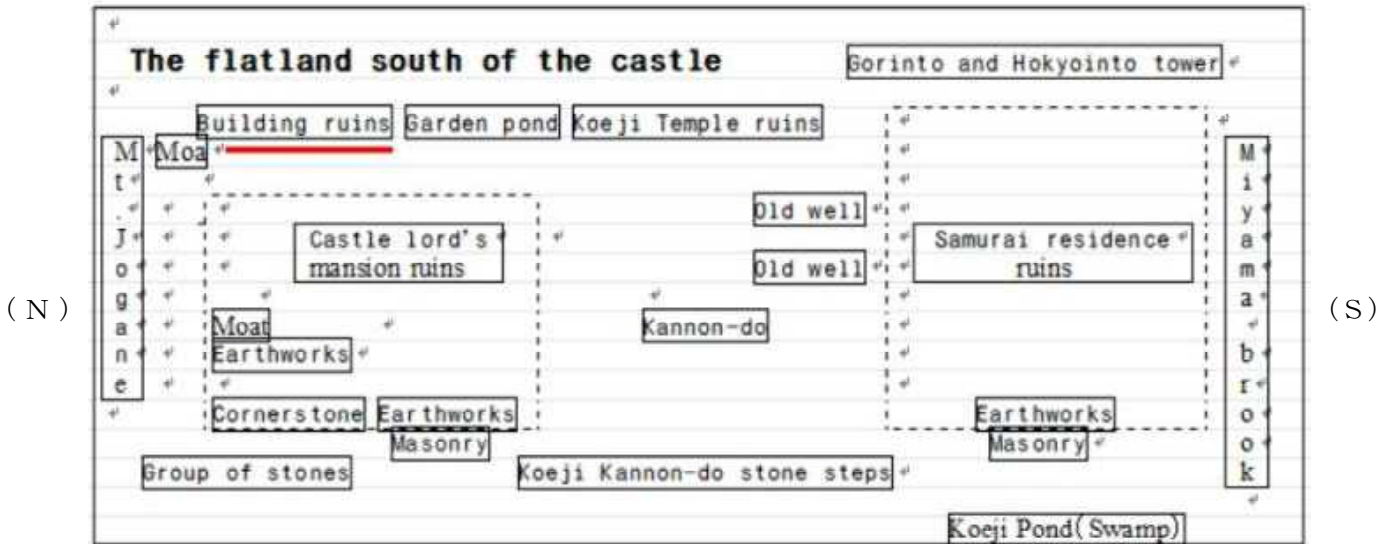
**【Koeji Temple Garden Pond Ruins】**

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## [20] Koeji Temple Building Ruins

To the north of the ruins of the garden pond at Koeji Temple, there is also a flatland located one step higher than the ruins of the garden pond. There are many stones lying around that may have been used in the building. You can see the garden pond from this flatland.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



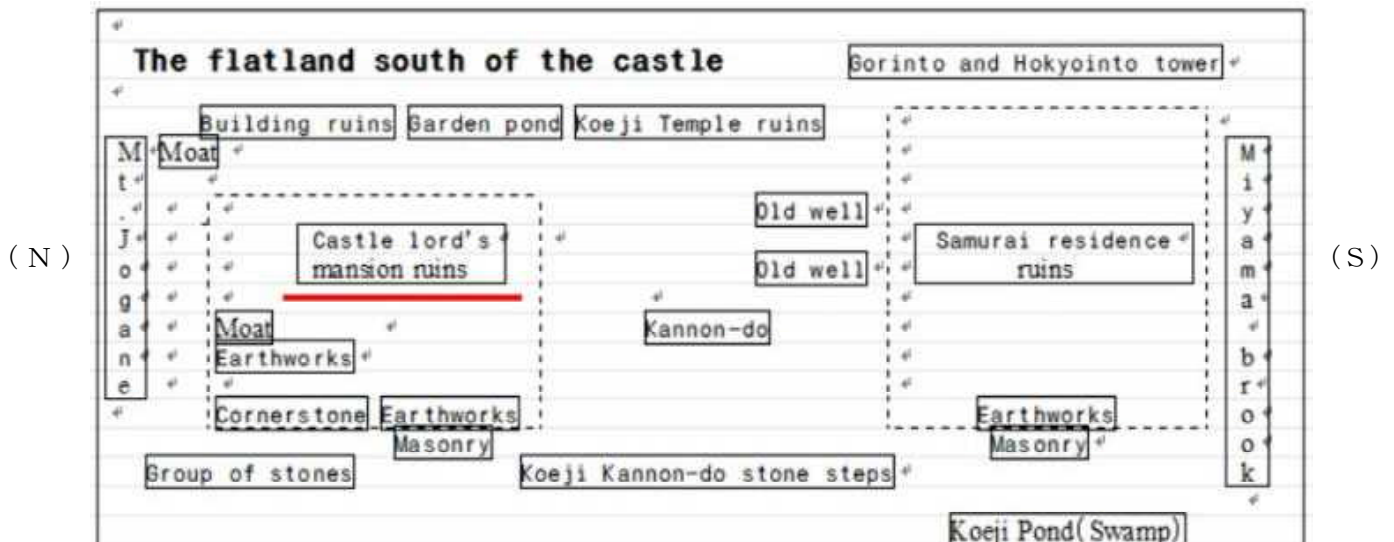
**【Koeji Temple Building Ruins】**

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## [ 2 1 ] Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Ruins

This is a flatland adjacent to the north side of the current Kannon-do Hall. It is thought that there was the Koeji Castle lord's mansion. Although it is covered with a bamboo forest, it is a fairly large flatland, and the ruins of masonry, coenerstones, moats, and earthworks remain.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



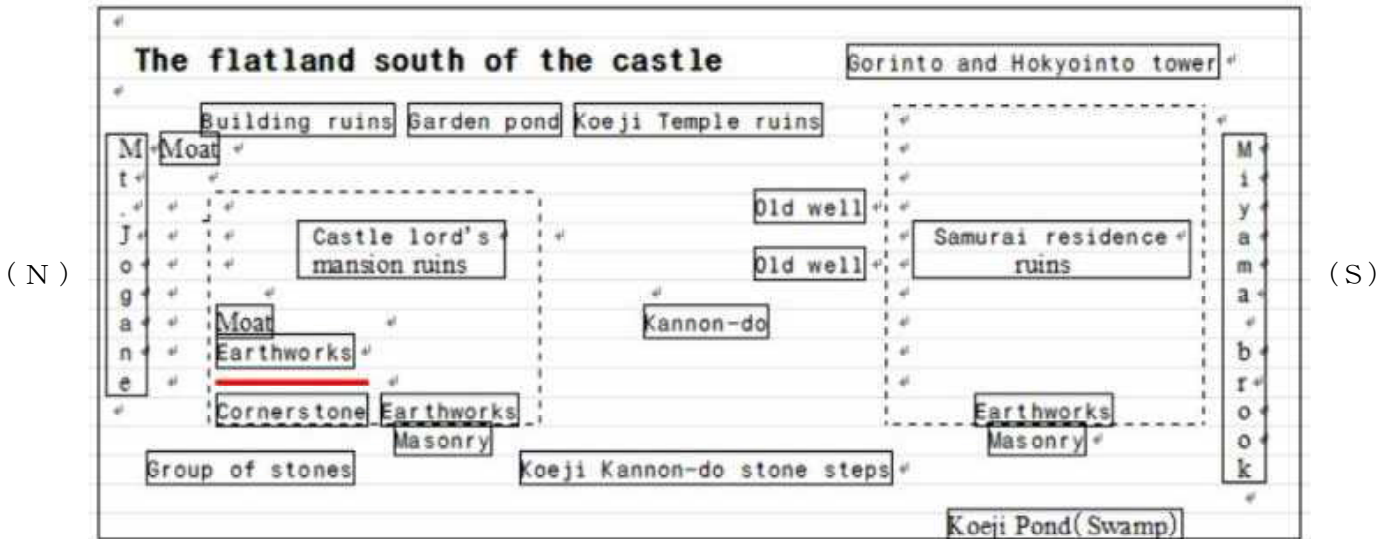
**[Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Ruins]**

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## [ 2 2 ] Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Moat and Earthworks Ruins

The photo shows the ruins of the moat and earthworks of the Koeji Castle lord's mansion , which is adjacent to the north side of the current Kannon-do Hall.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



**【Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Moat and Earthworks Ruins】**

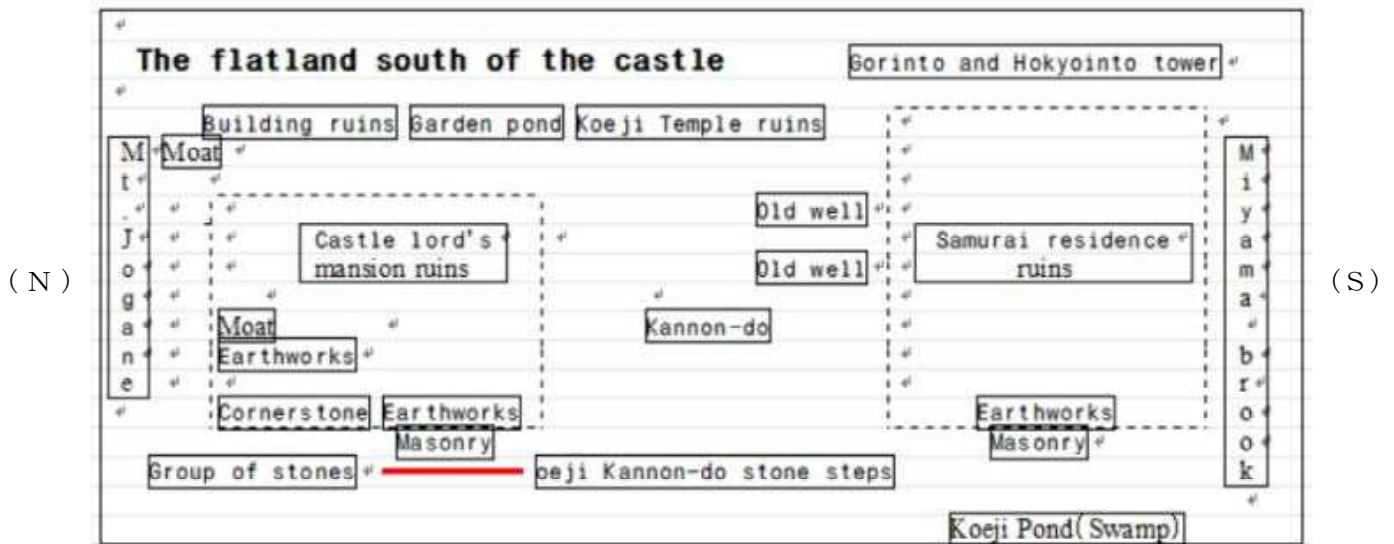
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## [ 2 3 ] Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Earthworks Ruins

It is assumed that the earthworks of the Koeji Castle lord's mansion were the same size as the earthworks remaining at the Henkoji Temple ruins (see the next page).

It is thought that the Koeji Castle lord's mansion was used for residence and political affairs.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



**【Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Earthworks Ruins】**

# Tour Mt.Jogane in "Boundary Mountain Castle and Hall"

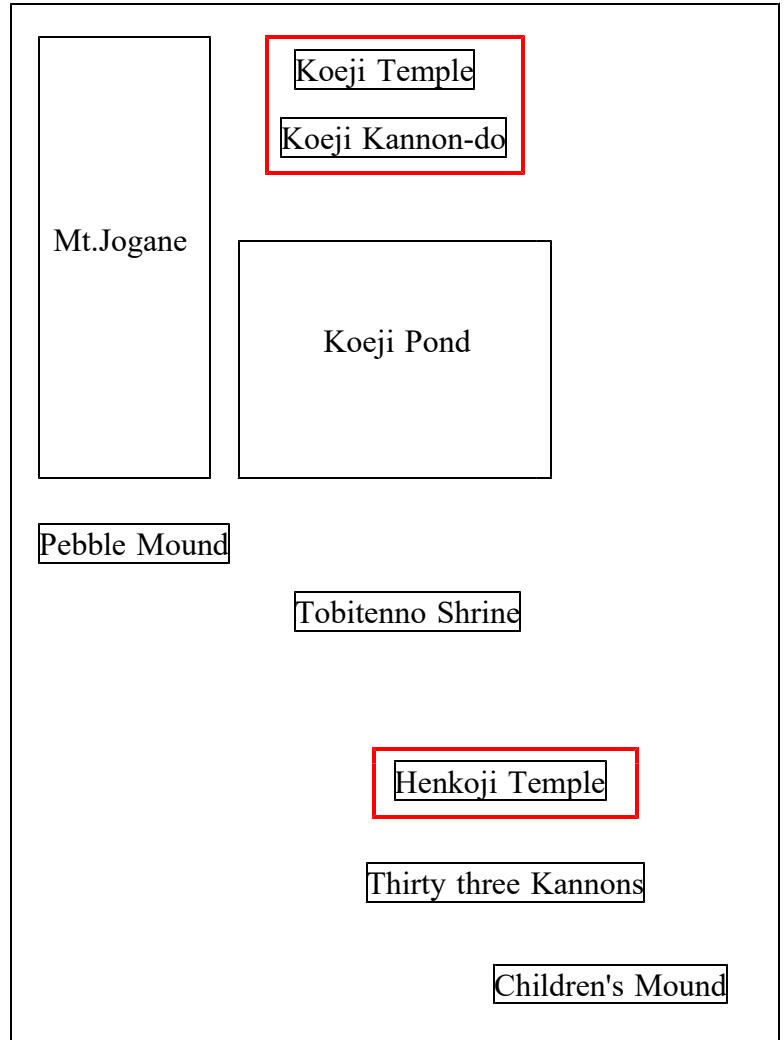
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## [ 2 4 ] Earthworks at Henkoji Temple Ruins

Henkoji Temple was founded in 1651 in Uenaegi (see figure on the right). Currently, one side of the four moat earthworks (3m high, 10m wide, 90m long) remains, retaining the appearance of a medieval samurai residence. Henkoji Temple is thought to have been built on the site Koeji of Castle lord's mansion or the chief retainer's residence. It is said that there were several residences of chief retainers between Koeji Temple Kannon-do Hall and Henkoji Temple.

Uenaegi also has other historical sites such as "Tobitenno Shrine", "Namu Amida Buddha Name Pagoda (33 Kannon Stone Statues)", "Children's Mound", and "Pebble Mound" (see figure on the right.)

Tobitenno Shrine was the guardian deity of the Toyama family, the lords of Koeji Castle. The place name comes from the origin of Tobitenno Shrine. Furthermore, the annual festival (Beating Festival) of Fukuoka Sakakiyama Shrine originates from the story of Gozu Tenno, the enshrined deity of Tobitenno.



**【Uenaegi Historic Site Location Map】**



**【Earthworks at Henkoji Temple Ruins】**

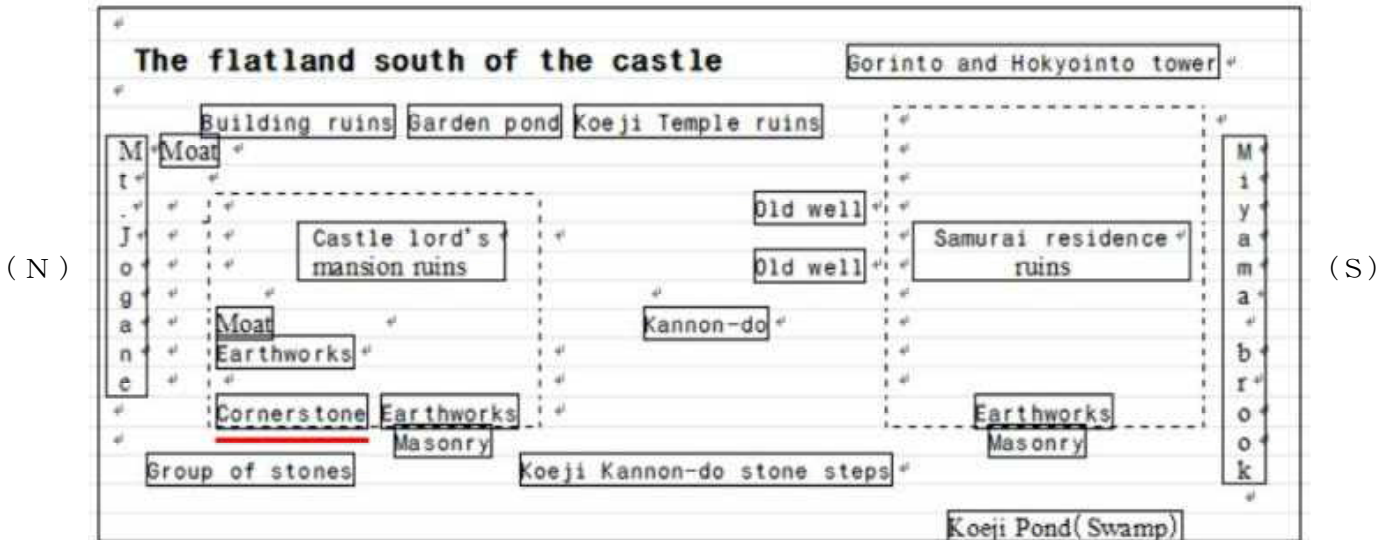


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## [ 2 5 ] Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Cornerstone

This is the cornerstone that remains on the site of the Koeji Castle lord's mansion.  
Since the lord of Koeji Castle was called "Shaved Head Toyama Ichiun" , Koeji Castle was integrated with Koeji Temple.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



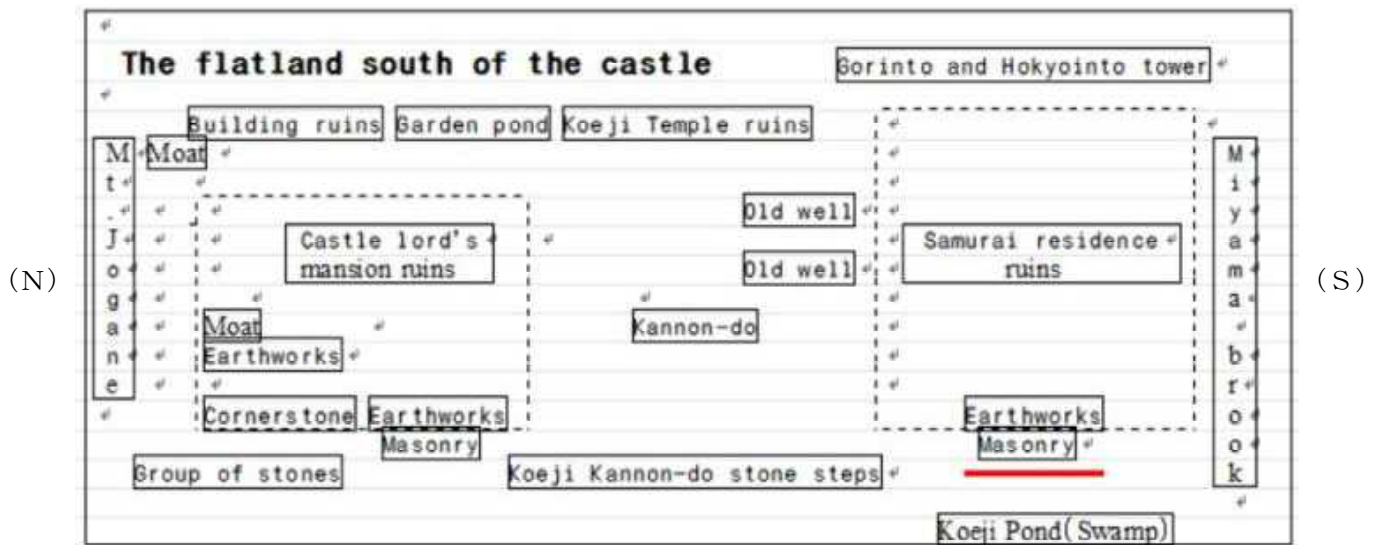
**【Koeji Castle Lord's Mansion Cornerstone】**

# Tour Mt.Jogane in "Boundary Mountain Castle and Hall"

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## [ 2 6 ] Masonry on the Flatland South of the Castle

There is also flatland adjacent to the south side of the current Kannon-do Hall. Although it is covered in bamboo forest, it is more than half the size of the flatland south of the castle. It is thought that there were several samurai residences, including the residence of the chief retainer of Koeji Castle. The Miyama Brook runs along the southern side of this flatland. The photo shows the field-shaped stone masonry that supports this flatland. It is said that stone walls began to be built after the Warring States period. Koeji Castle was moved to Naegi Takamori in 1526. On the flatland south of the castle, Koeji Temple, the ruins of the castle lord's mansion, and the ruins of the samurai residence remained. It seems that the samurai residence ruins were used as fields by drawing water from the Miyama Brook that flows beside them. At this time, it is thought that this field-shaped stone wall was erected to reinforce the flatland south of the castle.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



【Masonry on the Flatland South of the Castle】

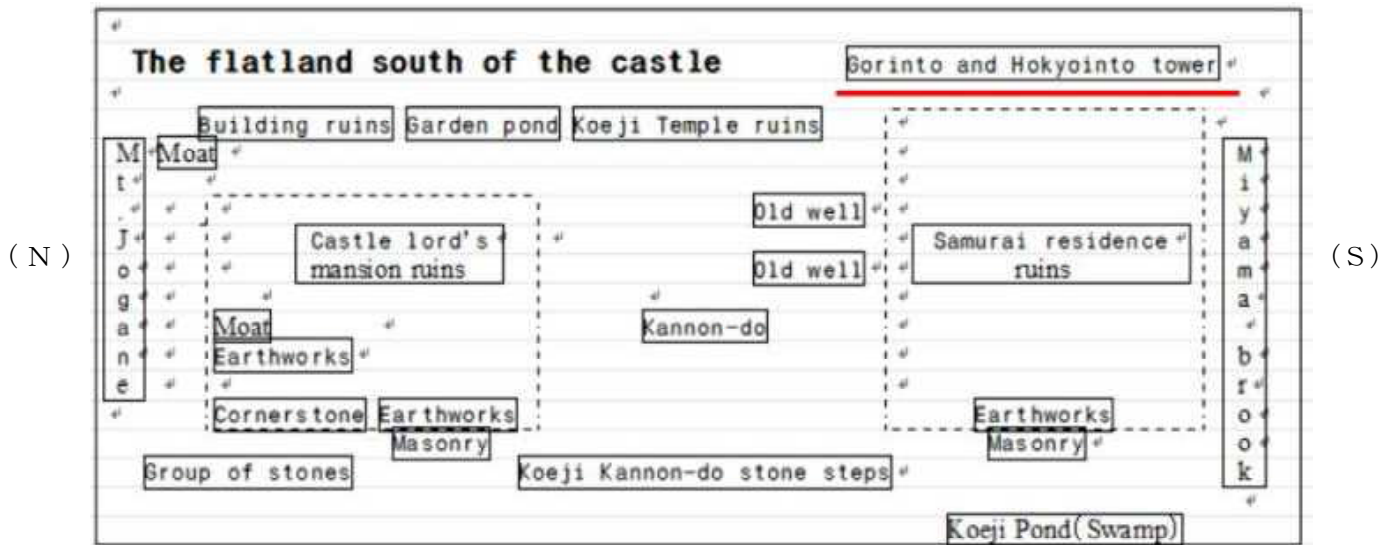
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## [ 2 7 ] Gorinto Tower and Hokyointo Tower

The Gorinto Tower and Hokyointo Towers locate 100 m behind the current Kannon-do Hall.

There is one Gorinto Tower and eight Hokyointo Towers. It is thought to be the tombs of the chief priest of Koeji Temple, the graves of the lord of Koeji Castle and their relatives. Behind the Gorinto Tower and Hokyointo Towers, there is a road that leads to the back gate of Koeji Castle at the top of the Mt.Jogane.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



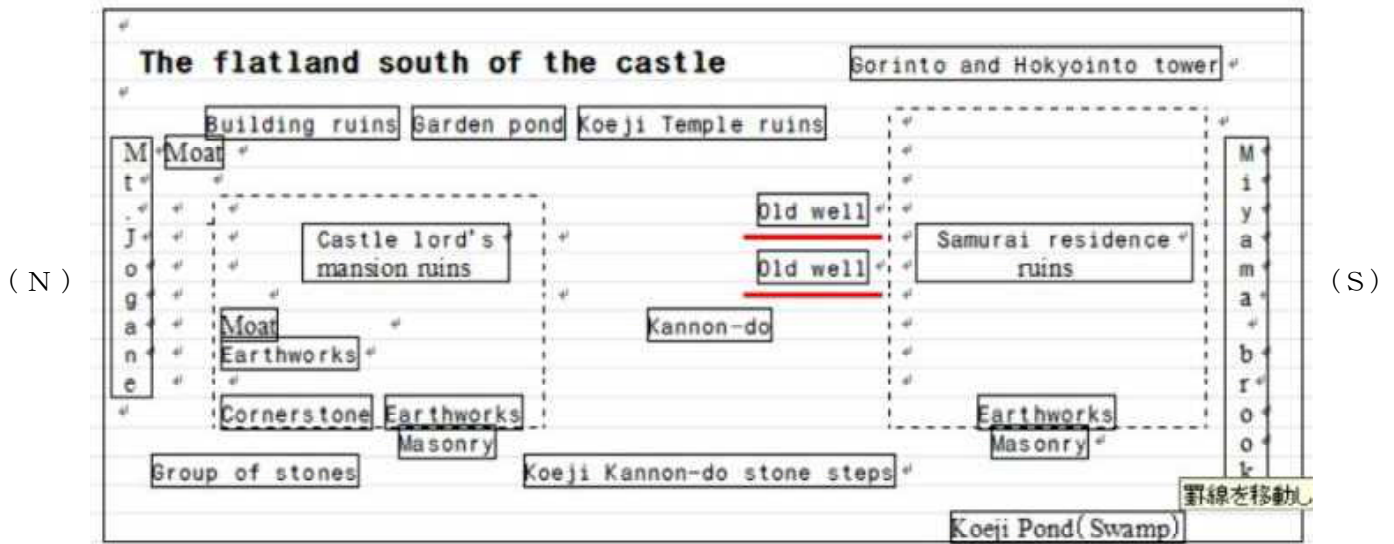
**【Gorinto Tower and Hokyointo Towers】**

# Tour Mt.Jogane in "Boundary Mountain Castle and Hall"

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## [ 2 8 ] Koeji Temple Old Wells

The old wells of Koeji Temple are located approximately 10m and 20m behind the current Kannon-do Hall , respectively. The photo is the latter.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



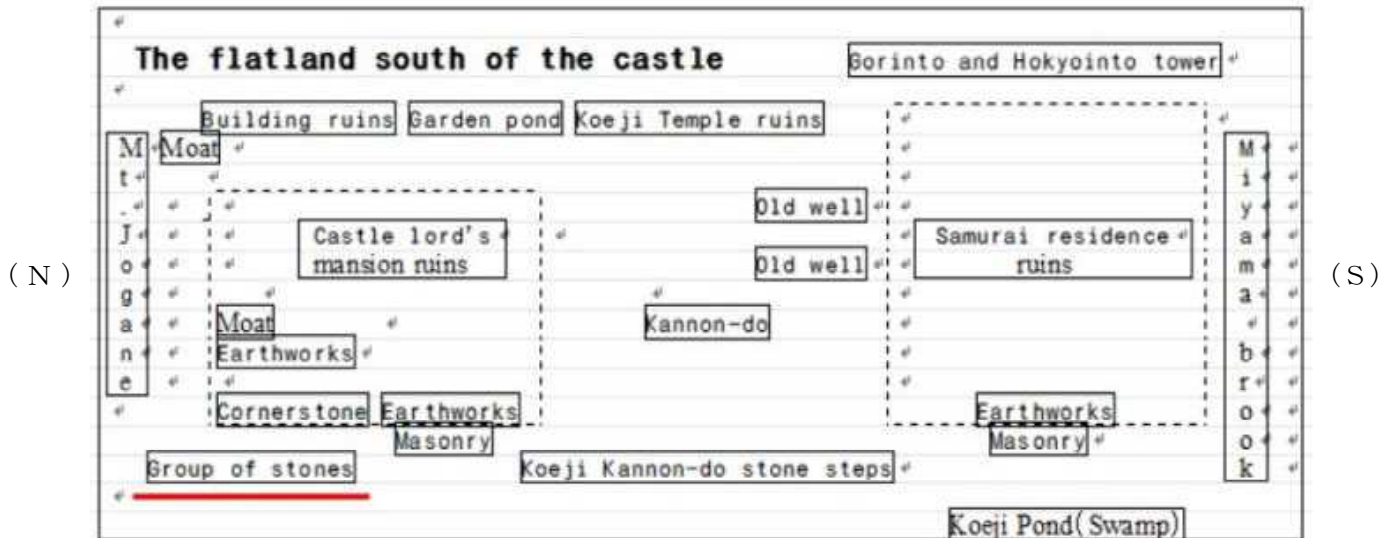
【Koeji Temple Old Well】

# Tour Mt.Jogane in "Boundary Mountain Castle and Hall"

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## [ 2 9 ] A Group of Stones Lined Up in a Straight Line

On the north side of the current Kannon-do Hall , where the slope of Mt.Jogane begins , large stones are lined up in a straight line from east to west , evenly spaced. This row of stones continues with a considerable length. It is thought that it was used for defense.



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



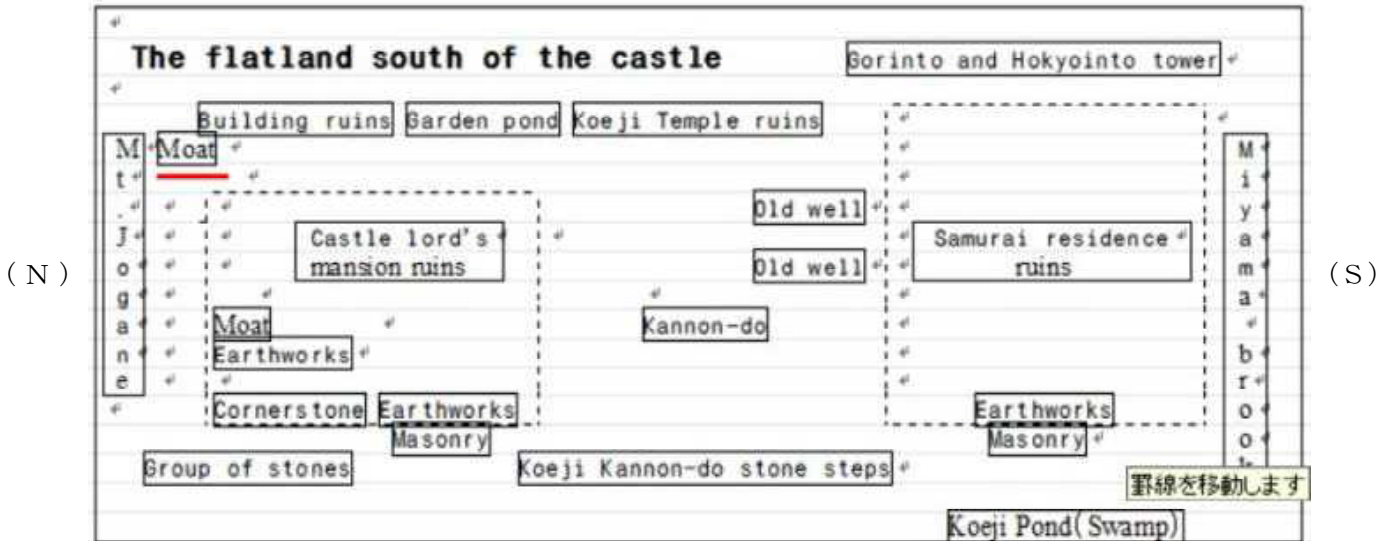
**[A Group of Stones Lined Up in a Straight Line]**

# Tour Mt.Jogane in "Boundary Mountain Castle and Hall"

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## [30] Moat

On the north side of the current Kannon-do Hall , there is a large moat to the northeast of the ruins of the Koeji Castle lord's mansion (see the figure below).



※ The red underline is the relevant part.



**【Moat】**