

Creation of a Castle Town, and Yonago River as the Outer Moat

Creation of a Castle Town by Reclaiming Paddy Fields

According to a local document called “Unyōdaisūroku” compiled in the Hōreki era (1751~1763), during the Middle Ages this area Horomachi used to be the village of Suetsugugō; the document also contains accounts that point to the existence of various rice and crop fields. Supporting these accounts, footprints left from cultivation, as well as rice field ridges, were discovered 1.8m below the ground, proving that the area was formerly made up of water-filled paddies.

In addition, rootstocks of common reed and bulrush – planted in the past from Minamitamachi onwards – have been confirmed; the fact that the castle town of Matsue was built on reclaimed paddy fields and marshland has now also been verified from an archaeological viewpoint.

Yonago River as an Outer Moat

The Yonago River, which separates Yonagomachi from Horomachi, is a manufactured river that was dug at the beginning of the Edo period. At the time, it was a non-shored moat, and had no stone wall.

It is not certain from which period stone walls were constructed, but an Edo-period outer moat stone wall was discovered 5m from the far side of the modern-day river dike. According to an illustration of the Matsue castle town from the Kyōgoku period (1634~1637), this outer moat was recorded as being 19 ken (approx. 36m) in width, and 4 shaku (approx. 1.2m) in depth – it would have been considerably wider than the current river width (approx. 13m).