

1. Former Site of the Ota Castle Water Siege Embankment (Designated Cultural Property of Wakayama Prefecture)

In 1585, Hashiba (Toyotomi) Hideyoshi swiftly constructed a massive embankment around Ota Castle and used the Miyai irrigation water (still used today in the Hirano area off the Kinokawa river's southern bank) for a water siege. One portion could not hold up against the pressure of the water and burst, but it was promptly rebuilt and again filled. There used to be many sites with remnants of the water siege, such as the Nakakuroda embankment, but only the Demizu site currently remains after most were lost in the time between the Edo period and the present day.

The remaining embankment is large in scale, measuring around 66 meters long, 24 meters wide, and determined to be about 2.6 meters tall after comparison with the surrounding paddy fields. An excavation revealed that the inside of the embankment near Ota Castle was terraced and that its core had a sloped shape, with side closest to Ota Castle built to slope downwards towards the outside of the structure. Based the discovery of musket balls made of lead from the Sonto mine in Thailand and from the fact that Edo period garbage pits were had been dug in the embankment, it was confirmed that it was constructed in the Shokuho period (1573-1598). The embankment was designated as a Cultural Property of Wakayama Prefecture in 2023 as it has a high probability of having been built by Hideyoshi for the Ota Castle water siege based on where and when it was constructed.