

Archaeological Survey of the Tenshu Foundation at the Former Site of Sumpu Castle

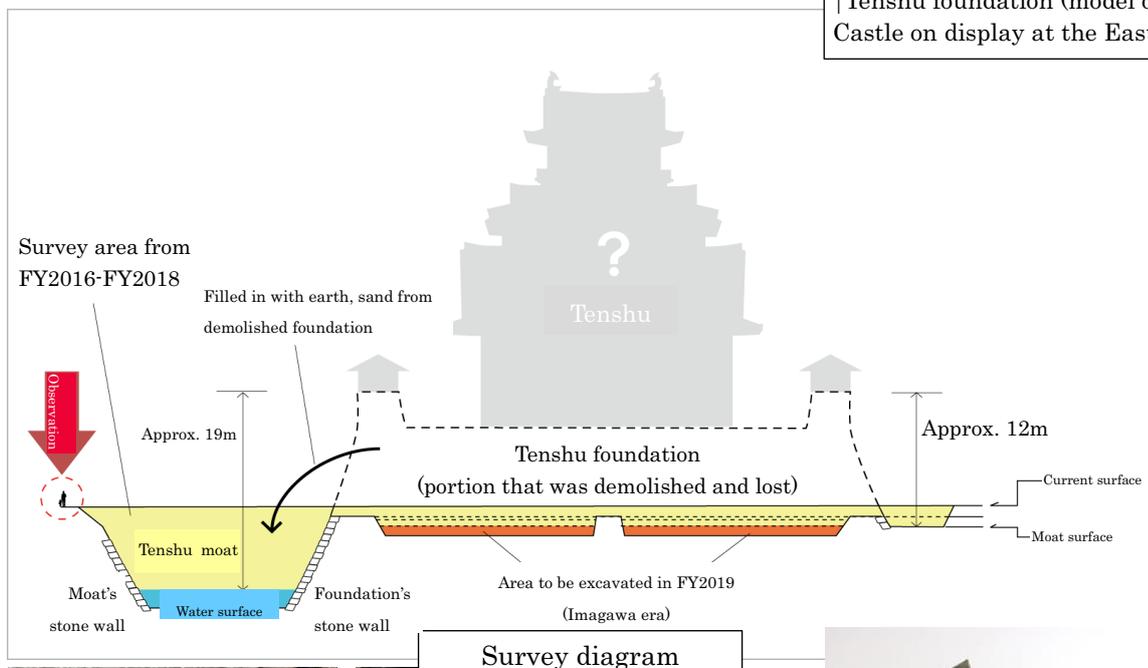
Sumpu Castle was built in 1607 by Tokugawa Ieyasu, the shogun known for having ushered in the Edo period (1603-1868). After handing over the position of shogun to his son Hidetada, Ieyasu moved to Sumpu Castle and lived there for the remainder of his life. Nowadays, the complex's central part is used as Sumpujo Park. Its *tenshu*, the highest tower in a Japanese castle complex, burned down in 1635. Only the stone foundation remained until 1896, when the complex was deserted, the foundation demolished, and its earth and sand used to fill in the surrounding moat. To decide how to develop the former tenshu site, an archaeological survey was undertaken to acquire academic data on the foundation's precise location and size, to what extent its stones have survived, and more. The survey broke ground in August 2016 and is set to continue through February 2020.

As the survey progressed, a stone wall of the tenshu foundation dating from the Edo period appeared from belowground. The unearthed wall was on the side running North-South and measures 68m long by 5.6m tall. Ieyasu ordered *daimyo* lords all over Japan to contribute to the stone walls' construction, and you can see their names etched into the stones they contributed. Many items unearthed are construction materials, and most are tiles that have been left intact while buried underground.

The foundation will be fully surveyed for three years from 2016 through March 2019. In the fourth year, it will be further dug up to survey remnants from the era of the Imagawa clan, who ruled the area between what is now eastern Aichi to western and central Shizuoka from the 13th to 16th centuries.



↑Tenshu foundation (model of Sumpu Castle on display at the East Gate)



Survey diagram



↑Stone engravings



→Unearthed tiles

