

# Kiire Motofumoto Area Landscape Scheme



## Overview of the Kiire Motofumoto area

The Kiire Motofumoto area is located between the Hachiman River and the ruins of Kiire Castle, a mountain castle from the Middle Ages. It is situated approximately 26.4km directly south of the Kagoshima City Hall and the Miyasaka-Hitokura municipal route runs north-south through the center of the area.

During the period from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the base of the western hill where Kiire Castle stood was used as a residential area for the lord's vassals. In the second year of the Jōō era (1653), the estate of Lord Kimotsuki's clan moved to what is now a place nearby Kiire Elementary School. Because a "new base" was established along with the new estate, the base at Kiire Castle was named "Motofumoto" (the former base), which is where this area's name comes from.

Taking a glance at the history of this area, it is thought that small communities have lived here since the Jomon period because earthenware and stone tools have been gathered at high ground in the vicinity of this area.

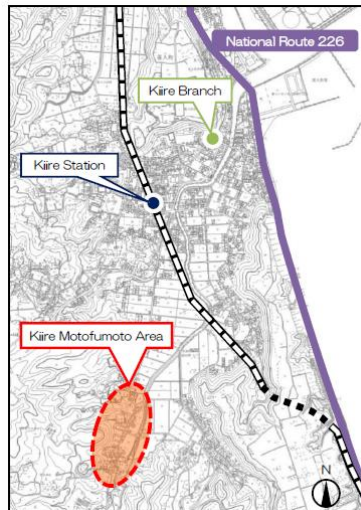
It is said that in 1180, towards the end of the Heian period, Arimichi Isaku settled in this area and took the surname Kiire.

In Ouei 18 (1411) of the Muromachi period, this area was Yorihiisa Ijyuin's territory. However, in Ouei 21 (1414) Hisatoyo Shimazu gained the reinforcement of the Sagara clan from Kuma, Higo (a district in what is now Kumamoto) and attacked Yorihiisa. To celebrate his triumph, he revised the characters that spell out the name Kiire from "給黎" to "喜入" (the characters being used today). The Kamo clan, Kiire clan and Kimotsuki clan became feudal lords. Kaneie Kimotsuki moved his estate to the foot of Mt. Biwa in the second year of the Jōō era and subsequently the area is thought to have served as a center for politics for a period of more than 400 years.

In the south of the area you can see Gyokuhanji Temple, once a *bodaiji* (Buddhist temple for a family's dead), that holds the graves of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> generations of lords of the Kimotsuki family, the lords who governed Kiire from Bunroku 4 (1595) for 270 years. The temple also holds the graves of generations of chief priests. (Additionally, Tatewaki Komatsu, who was active at the end of the Edo era, the 11<sup>th</sup> generation Feudal lord of the Kiire and Kimotsuki families, and the son of Kaneyoshi Kimotsuki is buried here.)

In the center of the area, canals that once utilized welled water line the roads. The canals are lined with gateposts, hedges and stone walls giving it a historical atmosphere. Further, the legendary Kobegabuchi pool lies in the Hachiman River. Here you can view the surrounding country fields and ruins of Kiire Castle, making for a beautiful landscape. The Motofumoto Neighborhood Council proactively engages in passing down traditional culture alongside attempting new things, such as Rokugatsudou, which children from the community participate in, and volunteers creating Chinese Zodiac animals. Old and new culture coexists in this area.

The landscape of the Kiire Motofumoto area has a historical atmosphere due to the remains of the castle from the middle ages, and its base. The nature here is reminiscent of scenery from early Japan and is in harmony with the town. There are also spots within the area where one can view Sakurajima, which is over 27km away.



【Reference】 The history of Kobegabuchi

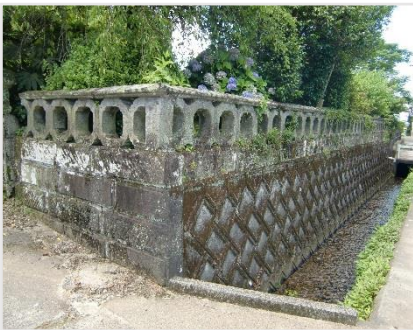
There is a deep, azure pool where the clear stream of the Hachiman River falters. Notable geographical features include a large rock that protrudes from the middle of the stream creating a cove, and the way the water flows slightly upwards and then runs downstream.

Long ago, on a clear spring day, the Feudal lords of the time held a cherry blossom viewing banquet with their vassals, Kobe and the ladies in waiting. The water in the pool was blue, cool and clear and the banquet began as songbirds sang in the trees and cherry blossom petals colored the pool. Kobe had been waiting on the lords, bringing sake bottles and food to where they sat. When he went to retire from the role, his obi chafed and emitted a strange noise. The ladies in waiting who did not think favorably of Kobe as he had been in favor to the beautiful lords for some time, suggested the strange sound was a fart and whispered about his ill manners. The lords and the vassals also mistook the sound as a fart and the expression on the lords' faces quickly changed. Although Kobe knew that it was the sound of fabric chafing, he didn't make any excuses and suffered the embarrassment.

Then, one of the lords cried, "Throw this cup into the stream. If the cup flows downstream then it will show that the noise Kobe emitted was the chafing of fabric and it will be proof of his innocence." As Kobe was not aware of the geographic features of the pool, he rejoiced at this help from heaven and threw the cup into the stream, trusting in god. However, the cup flowed upstream.

Kobe despaired and in the blink of an eye he threw himself into the depths of the pool. The ladies in waiting were surprised and caused a commotion, but there was nothing they could do and Kobe never returned. Before anybody knew it, the pool became known as "Kobegabuchi" (Kobe's pool).

(Source: *Chronicles of Kiire-cho* (summary))

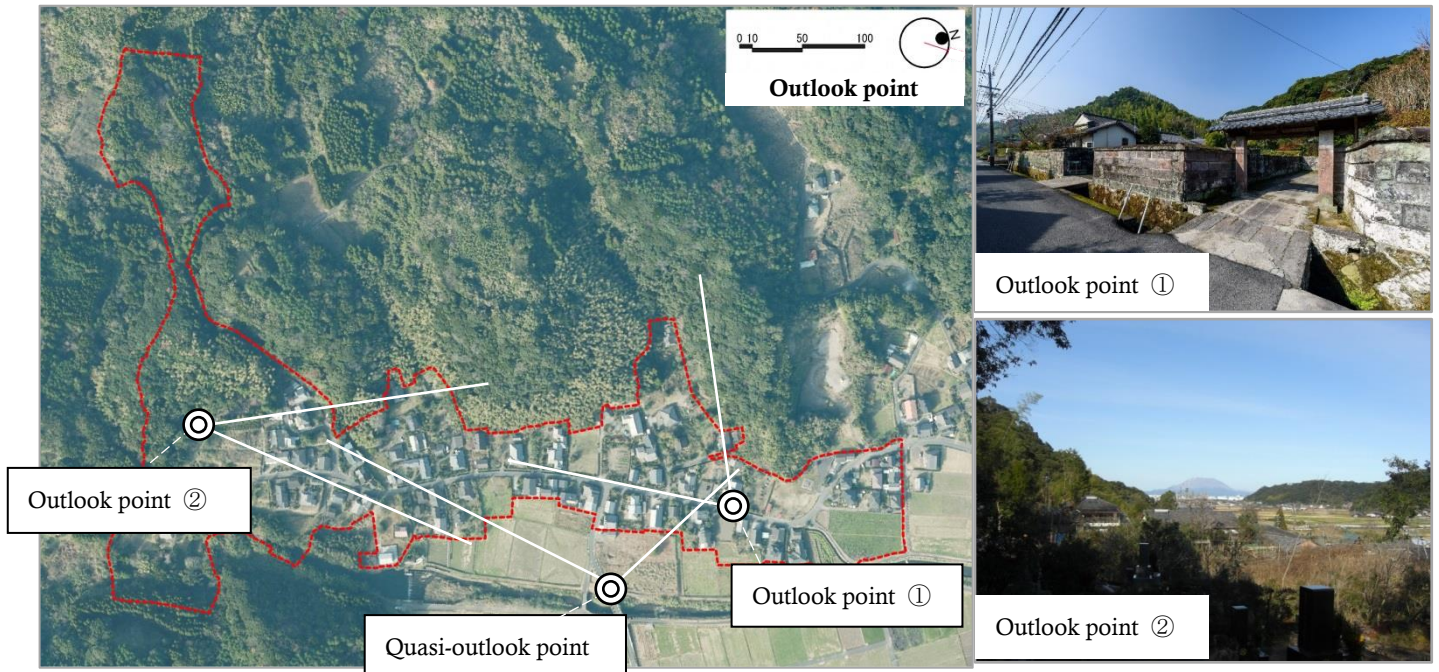




## The equipment of outlook points

### Location, concept and outlook range

- Outlook point ① : [31° 21' 33" N4818, 130° 32' 15" E8156, elevation of 5.5m]
- Outlook point ② : [31° 21' 20" N 6064, 130° 32' 09" E1894, elevation of 26.8m]



### Our approach to the formation of the landscape

Buildings in the Kiire Motofumo area are to be built and/or arranged so as not to obstruct views of Sakurajima, the Miyasaka-Hitokura municipal road route and the historical elements of the canals that run alongside it.

(Reference) Our approach to the quasi-outlook point

We will install a “quasi-outlook point” outside of the area in accordance with our approach to the two outlook spots. We aim for any structures here to be arranged so as not to obstruct the landscape and to preserve a view of the natural environment and the Kiire Castle ruins.



[31° 21' 30" N3628, 130° 32' 17" E3152, elevation of 7.9m]