

総括：長門中世城館の調査を終えて

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The General Survey on Medieval Castles in Nagato

“A Report on The General Survey on Medieval Castles in Yamaguchi Prefecture——
Nagato Province”, run in 2017

A basic structure of a castle was built on a level ground that was formed by flattening a circular-corn like mountain top. To secure a wide field for the castle, mountain-top soil was used. If the ground was not large enough, they built an overhang-style building by putting pillars into the slopes. However, the most important thing was water. If they could not have the water supply inside the castle ground, they must search for the safe place outside to get the water. The seaside castles in Nagato were mostly the beachheads. Hiyu-jo Castle that was built in the trading port Hiyu-ko (port) may be intended to be the beachhead for the international purpose. The most popular name for castles in Nagato is Chausu-yama (Chausu Mountain). That is because they look like a chausu (tea-grinding mortar), with the flat ground and the mountain ridge which is slightly slanting viewed from the side. Next popular name is Karouto (Karoto), meaning Karabitsu (Chinese-style chests). It comes from the same reason. Some are named Hinoyama (mountain of fire) that comes from a signal fire.