

An aerial photograph of the Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group in Japan, showing several large, walled burial mounds (kofun) and a river winding through the landscape. The image is overlaid with a green tint.

# Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group

Mounded Tombs  
of  
Ancient Japan

Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

## 1. State Party

Japan

## 2. State, Province or Region

Osaka Prefecture

## 3. Name of the Property

Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group: Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan

## 4. Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

**Table e-1 Component parts of the nominated property and their locations**

ID No.	Name of the component part	Region / District	Coordinate of the central point	
			Latitude	Longitude
1	Hanzei-tenno-ryo Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 34' 34"	E 135° 29' 18"
2	Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun, Chayama Kofun and Daianjiyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 53"	E 135° 29' 16"
	2-1 Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun			
	2-2 Chayama Kofun			
	2-3 Daianjiyama Kofun			
3	Nagayama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 34' 05"	E 135° 29' 12"
4	Genemonyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 54"	E 135° 29' 28"
5	Tsukamawari Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 46"	E 135° 29' 26"
6	Osamezuka Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 31"	E 135° 29' 16"
7	Magodayuyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 36"	E 135° 29' 06"
8	Tatsusayama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 40"	E 135° 29' 00"
9	Dogameyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 46"	E 135° 28' 56"
10	Komoyamazuka Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 34' 01"	E 135° 29' 03"
11	Maruhoyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 34' 01"	E 135° 29' 07"
12	Nagatsuka Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 29"	E 135° 29' 16"
13	Hatazuka Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 24"	E 135° 28' 58"



ID No.	Name of the component part	Region / District	Coordinate of the central point	
			Latitude	Longitude
14	Zenizuka Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 18"	E 135° 29' 03"
15	Richu-tenno-ryo Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 14"	E 135° 28' 39"
16	Terayama-minamiyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 22"	E 135° 28' 48"
17	Shichikannon Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 24"	E 135° 28' 46"
18	Itasuke Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 11"	E 135° 29' 09"
19	Zenemonyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 09"	E 135° 29' 11"
20	Gobyoyama Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 33' 17"	E 135° 29' 27"
21	Nisanzai Kofun	Sakai City	N 34° 32' 48"	E 135° 29' 58"
22	Tsудо-shiroyama Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 55"	E 135° 35' 37"
23	Chuui-tenno-ryo Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 33' 57"	E 135° 35' 39"
24	Hachizuka Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 04"	E 135° 35' 45"
25	Ingyo-tenno-ryo Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 23"	E 135° 37' 00"
26	Nakatsuhime-no-mikoto-ryo Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 55"	E 135° 35' 37"
27	Nabezuka Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 17"	E 135° 34' 53"
28	Suketayama Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 05"	E 135° 36' 47"
29	Nakayamazuka Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 05"	E 135° 36' 49"
30	Yashimazuka Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 05"	E 135° 36' 52"
31	Komuroyama Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 05"	E 135° 36' 34"
32	Otorizuka Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 34' 01"	E 135° 36' 32"
33	Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun, Konda-maruyama Kofun and Futatsuzuka Kofun	Habikino City	N 34° 33' 44"	E 135° 36' 34"
	33-1 Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun			
	33-2 Konda-maruyama Kofun			
	33-3 Futatsuzuka Kofun			
34	Higashiumazuka Kofun	Habikino City	N 34° 33' 50"	E 135° 36' 44"
35	Kurizuka Kofun	Habikino City	N 34° 33' 46"	E 135° 36' 45"
36	Higashiyama Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 33' 42"	E 135° 36' 19"
37	Hazamiyama Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 33' 42"	E 135° 36' 08"
38	Hakayama Kofun	Habikino City, Fujiidera City	N 34° 33' 28"	E 135° 36' 16"
39	Nonaka Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 33' 32"	E 135° 36' 16"
40	Mukohakayama Kofun	Habikino City	N 34° 33' 26"	E 135° 36' 22"
41	Nishiumazuka Kofun	Habikino City	N 34° 33' 22"	E 135° 36' 24"
42	Joganjiyama Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 33' 25"	E 135° 36' 07"
43	Aoyama Kofun	Fujiidera City	N 34° 33' 21"	E 135° 36' 02"
44	Minegazuka Kofun	Habikino City	N 34° 33' 09"	E 135° 35' 51"
45	Hakuchoryo Kofun	Habikino City	N 34° 33' 04"	E 135° 36' 16"

## 5. Textual description of the boundaries of the nominated property

The boundary of each of the 45 component parts, comprising 49 *kofun*, is in principle along the line delineating the area managed either as *Ryobo* (imperial mausola) based on the National Property Act or a Historic Sites under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

The buffer zones were drawn respecting the topographic features, hills, plateaus, and other, which are considered to have influenced the selection of location when the tombs were constructed. In addition, the delineation also took into account the boundaries of land-use patterns and zones determined under various related legislation, as well as topographic and landscape objects such as roads and railways.

## 6. Map of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone

Attached to the end of the Executive Summary.

## 7. Criteria under which property is nominated

(iii) and (iv)

## 8. Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

### a) Brief synthesis

The property “Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group” is a tomb group of the king’s clan and the clan’s affiliates that ruled the ancient Japanese archipelago and took charge of diplomacy with contemporary East Asian powers. The tombs were constructed between the late 4th century and the late 5th century, which was the peak of the Kofun period, characterized by construction of distinctive mounded tombs called *kofun*. A set of 49 *kofun* in 45 component parts is located on a plateau overlooking the bay which was the maritime gateway to the continent, in the southern part of the



Osaka Plain which was one of the important political cultural centers. The property includes many tombs with plans in the shape of a keyhole, a feature unique in the world, on an extraordinary scale of civil engineering work in terms of world-wide constructions; among these tombs several measure as much as 500 meters in mound length. They form a group, along with smaller tombs that are differentiated by their various sizes and shapes. In contrast to the type of burial mound commonly found in many parts of the world, which is an earth or piled-stone mound forming a simple covering over a coffin or a burial chamber, kofun are architectural achievements with geometrically elaborate designs created as a stage for funerary rituals, decorated with *haniwa* clay figures.

During this period, political turmoil in China triggered a change in the regional power dynamic throughout East Asia, thereby prompting the emergence of kingly powers in numerous parts of the region. While these various kingly powers built their tombs in their own styles, the mounded tombs on the Japanese archipelago developed a unique appearance as monumental forms rising above the ground. The significant size differences, the variety of mound shapes, and arrangement of the concentrated kofun observed in the nominated property visually demonstrate the hierarchical power structure of the kingly authority of the time. The funerary rituals practiced at kofun throughout the archipelago were instrumental in confirming and strengthening the succession of power, as well as in connecting the central and local powers. With the mounds possessing such high social significance, grandeur and structural beauty were pursued in kofun construction, showing a dedication which resulted in kofun becoming exceptional technical achievements of earthen construction. The fact that they still retain their exceptional form and character today, 1,600 years since the time of construction, shows how advanced their technical level was.

The nominated property bears outstanding witness to the history of the people of the Japanese archipelago, characterized by the expression of power through the formation of mounded tombs, which was a phenomenon that occurred as a response to the political turmoil in East Asia before Japanese society entered into a new phase of history with an established centralized state under the influence of the Chinese system of law.

### **b) Justification for criteria**

#### **Criterion (iii)**

The Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group is exceptional testimony to the Kofun period's culture, in which the socio-political structure of the time was demonstrated by the shape and the size of kofun built as a collective entity.

The property illustrates that there once existed a highly sophisticated funerary system

that suggested social class differences. The most fully and clearly demonstrated hierarchical structure of the property became the reference for kofun groups of the archipelago, situating this group at the top of their hierarchy. The way of social rule mediated by the kofun and the funeral rituals spread to a wide area of the archipelago and the number of tombs discovered to date totals more than 160,000.

#### **Criterion (iv)**

The Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group is an outstanding example of kofun, a type of burial mound original to the Japanese archipelago. It illustrates a unique historical stage of the archipelago - the period of formation and development of an ancient kingly power that emerged in response to the political turmoil in East Asia - in which ancestral tombs were created as monuments most clearly demonstrating the power of the different groups and societies.

The densely concentrated mounded tombs in the Mozu-Furuichi area are contemporaneous, yet varied; they come in four standardized plan types - keyhole shape, scallop shape, round and square - and in an extremely wide range in scale from 20 meters to nearly 500 meters in mound length. Moreover, a kofun is not a simple earth or piled-stone mound covering over a coffin or a burial chamber, which is often the case for burial mounds found in many other parts of the world. It is an exceptional architectural achievement that was designed as a stage for funerary rituals, decorated with paving stones and clay objects, and built with highly elaborate and geometry-based architectural planning and technology.

#### **c) Statement of integrity**

The nominated property fully possesses integrity as material evidence visually expressing the ancient kingly power through kofun, the burial mound type original to the Japanese archipelago which characterizes the culture of the Kofun period. The property's 49 kofun in 45 component parts were selected from the kingly power's tombs that belonged to the Middle Kofun period - those which most saliently demonstrate how the power governed the society and which are in a good state of conservation.

The property, in the whole set of all tombs related as a group, as it is the best and historically and geographically the most coherent example, demonstrates all three attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value: a wide range of types of mounded tombs grouped together; four standardized plan types; evidence of elaborate distinctive funerary rituals.

The individual component parts include their respective archaeological features

such as mounds as evidence of the Outstanding Universal Value. Their state of conservation is good overall and they have been managed properly by their owners or managing bodies. The area surrounding the property became urbanized over the long course of history, but buffer zone areas of sufficient extent have been set to protect the property, implementing conservation measures based on the Comprehensive Management Plan.

#### **d) Statement of authenticity**

The authenticity of the nominated property is supported by sufficient scientific and archaeological studies on the attributes of each component part contributing to the Outstanding Universal Value. The authenticity of the property has been retained in its form and design, material and substance, and use and functions.

The property's 49 kofun in 45 component parts are archaeological remains of what was constructed in the Middle Kofun period and they have survived in an almost perfect state. In the course of history, some of the tombs' mounds and moats were used for other purposes such as fortresses and reservoirs. However, the design, materials and facilities inside the mounds of the kofun remained almost intact. From the late 19th century onwards, some repair works were done for some kofun. They were, however, carried out with due consideration for the original shape.

#### **e) Requirements for protection and management**

The entire property is under legal protection and is appropriately managed by the national and local governments, in coordination with private owners. There are two systems to protect the property components and the components are designated as either or both of them: national properties designated as imperial mausolea, and properties designated as Historic Sites under the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties.

An adequate extent of area encompassing all of the component parts is set as the buffer zone with an aim to control development and other activities that could disturb the view of the kofun or cause any other negative impact on them. In the buffer zone, the height and design of buildings and outdoor advertisements are subject to restrictions in accordance with such laws as the City Planning Act, the Landscape Act and the Outdoor Advertisement Act. Moreover, the Comprehensive Management Plan was established to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to transmit it to future generations. Based on the plan, a system has already been established for the institutions concerned to discuss, on a regular basis and



as necessary, matters related to management of the sites and conservation of the surrounding environment.

As long-term efforts, measures to improve the sites themselves and visitor reception capacity shall be taken steadily along the lines of an annual plan, in order to communicate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole, taking each component's nature into account, while promoting the understanding and the cooperation of the local residents.

## 9. Name and contact information of official institution/agency

### **Monuments and Sites Division, Cultural Properties Department Agency for Cultural Affairs**

**Address:** 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8959, JAPAN

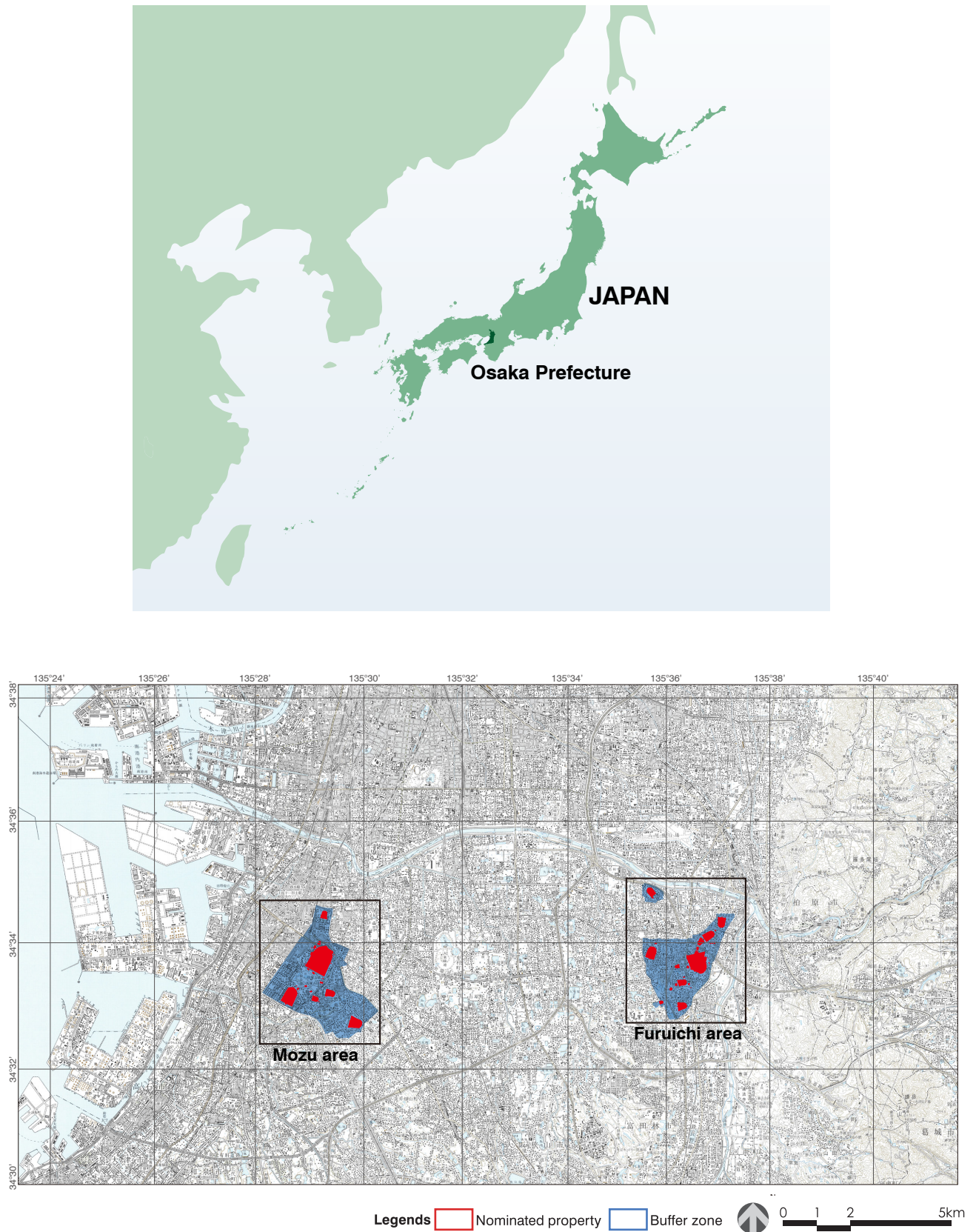
**Tel:** +81-3-5253-4111

**Fax:** +81-3-6734-3822

**E-mail:** w-isan@mext.go.jp

**URL:** <http://www.bunka.go.jp/english/>





**Figure e-1** Location of the nominated property, and the positional relation between the Mozu and Furuichi areas

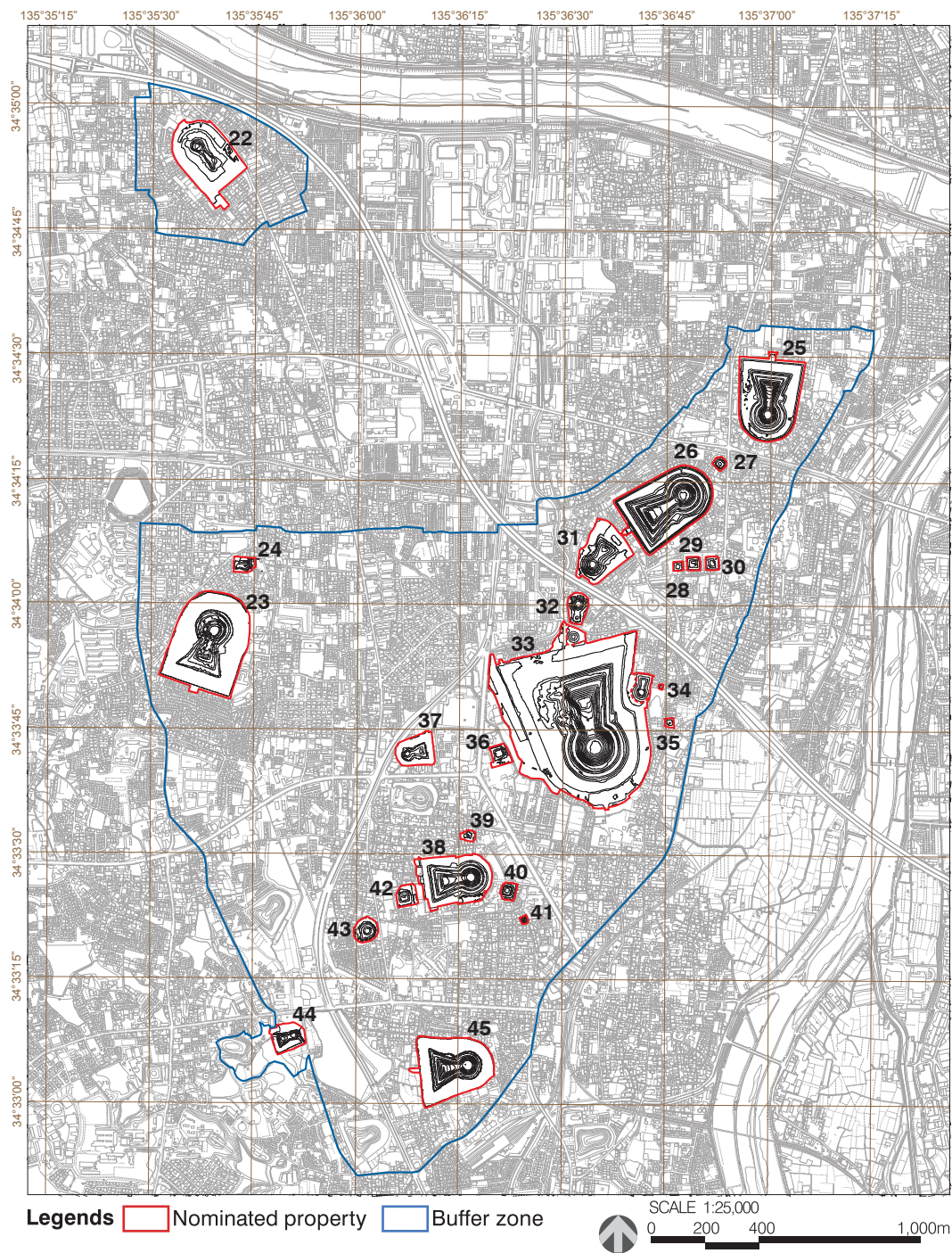




ID No.	Component Part's Name	ID No.	Component Part's Name	ID No.	Component Part's Name
1	Hanzei-tenno-ryo Kofun	8	Tatsusayama Kofun	17	Shichikannon Kofun
2	Nintoku-tenno-ryo Kofun (2-1)	9	Dogameyama Kofun	18	Itasuke Kofun
	Chayama Kofun (2-2)	10	Komoyamazuka Kofun	19	Zenemonyama Kofun
	Daianjiyama Kofun (2-3)	11	Maruhoyama Kofun	20	Gobyoyama Kofun
3	Nagayama Kofun	12	Nagatsuka Kofun	21	Nisanzai Kofun
4	Genemonyama Kofun	13	Hatazuka Kofun		
5	Tsukamawari Kofun	14	Zenizuka Kofun		
6	Osamezuka Kofun	15	Richu-tenno-ryo Kofun		
7	Magodayuyama Kofun	16	Terayama-minamiyama Kofun		

Figure e-2 Map showing the nominated property and the buffer zone (Mozu area)





ID No.	Component Part's Name	ID No.	Component Part's Name	ID No.	Component Part's Name
22	Tsudo-shiroyama Kofun	30	Yashimazuka Kofun	37	Hazamiyama Kofun
23	Chuui-tenno-ryo Kofun	31	Komuroyama Kofun	38	Hakayama Kofun
24	Hachizuka Kofun	32	Otorizuka Kofun	39	Nonaka Kofun
25	Ingyo-tenno-ryo Kofun		Ojin-tenno-ryo Kofun (33-1)	40	Mukohakayama Kofun
26	Nakatsuhime-no-mikoto-ryo Kofun	33	Konda-maruyama Kofun (33-2)	41	Nishiumazuka Kofun
27	Nabezuka Kofun		Futatsuzuka Kofun (33-3)	42	Joganjiyama Kofun
28	Suketayama Kofun	34	Higashiumazuka Kofun	43	Aoyama Kofun
29	Nakayamazuka Kofun	35	Kurizuka Kofun	44	Minegazuka Kofun
		36	Higashiyama Kofun	45	Hakuchoryo Kofun

**Figure e-3** Map showing the nominated property and the buffer zone (Furuichi area)



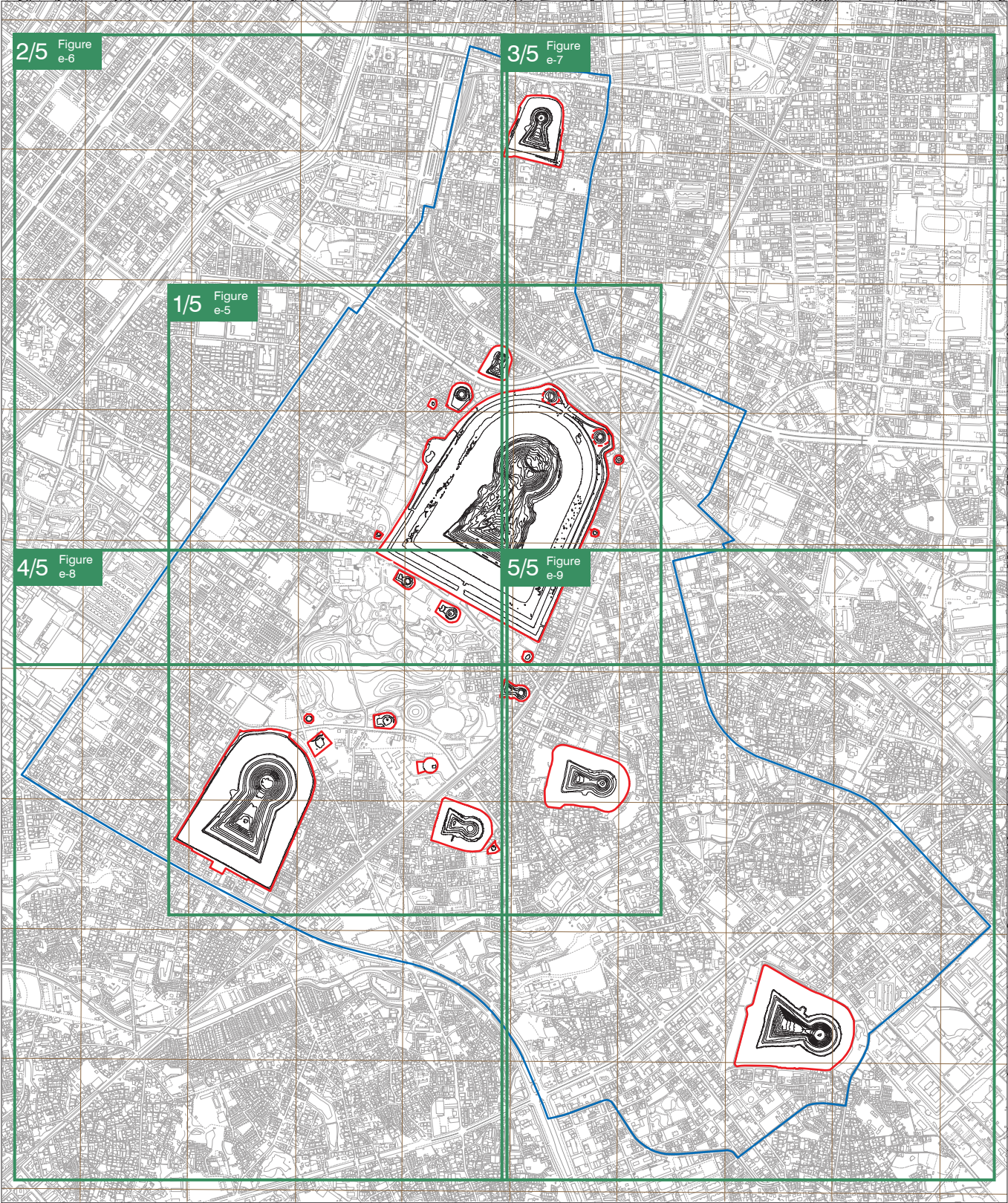
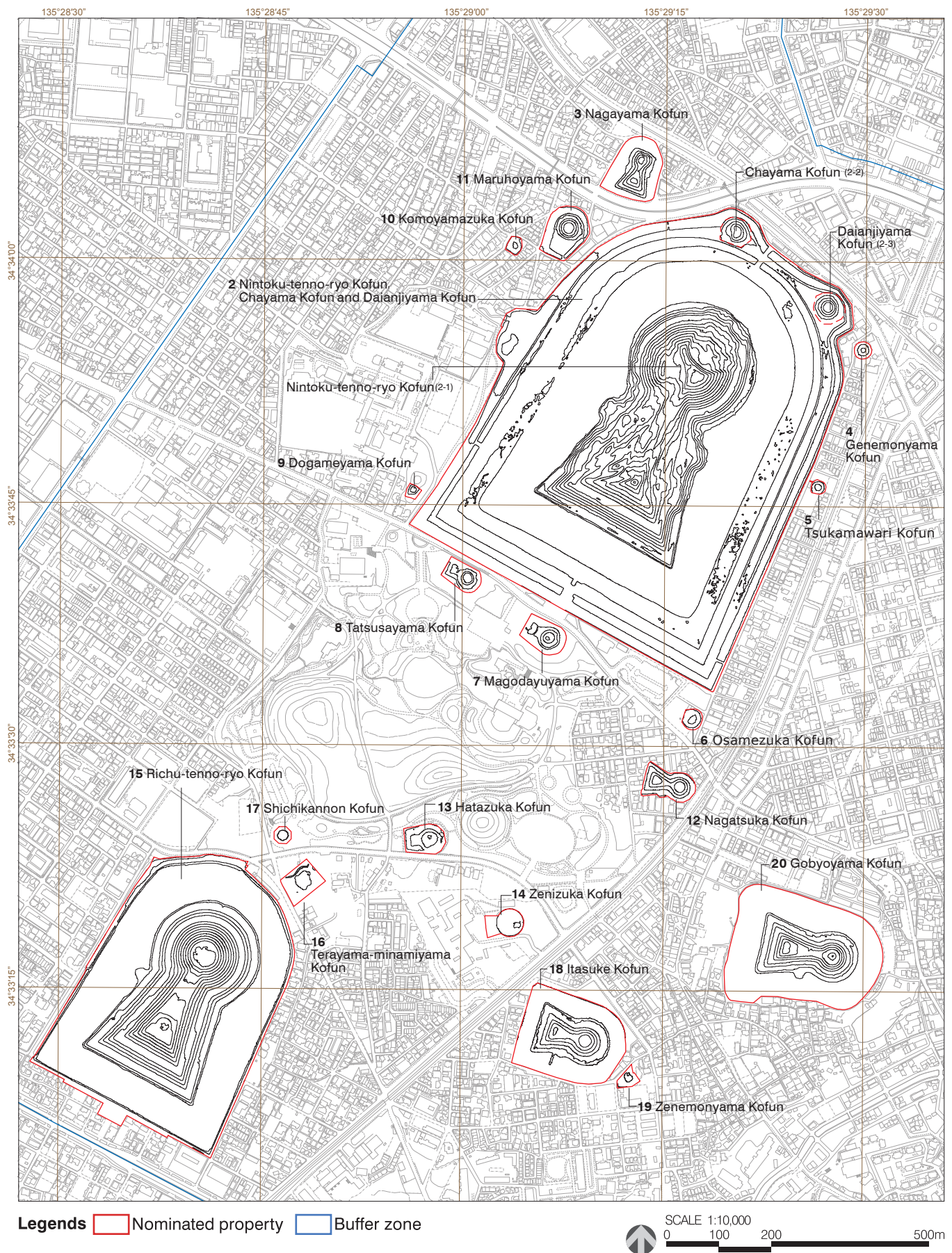


Figure e-4 Map showing the divisions of the enlarged maps (Figures e-5 to e-9) (Mozu area)





**Figure e-5** Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Moza 1/5)



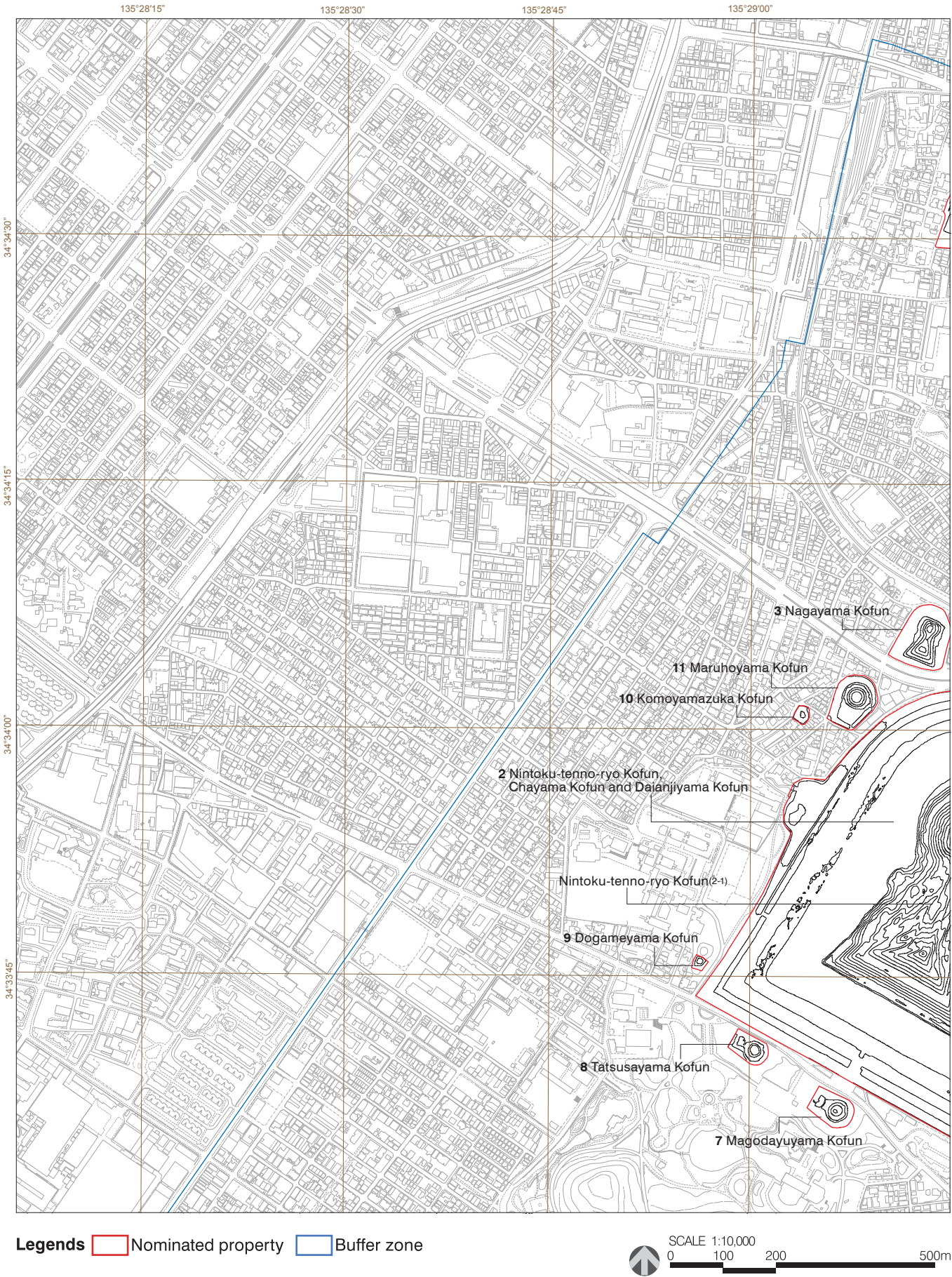
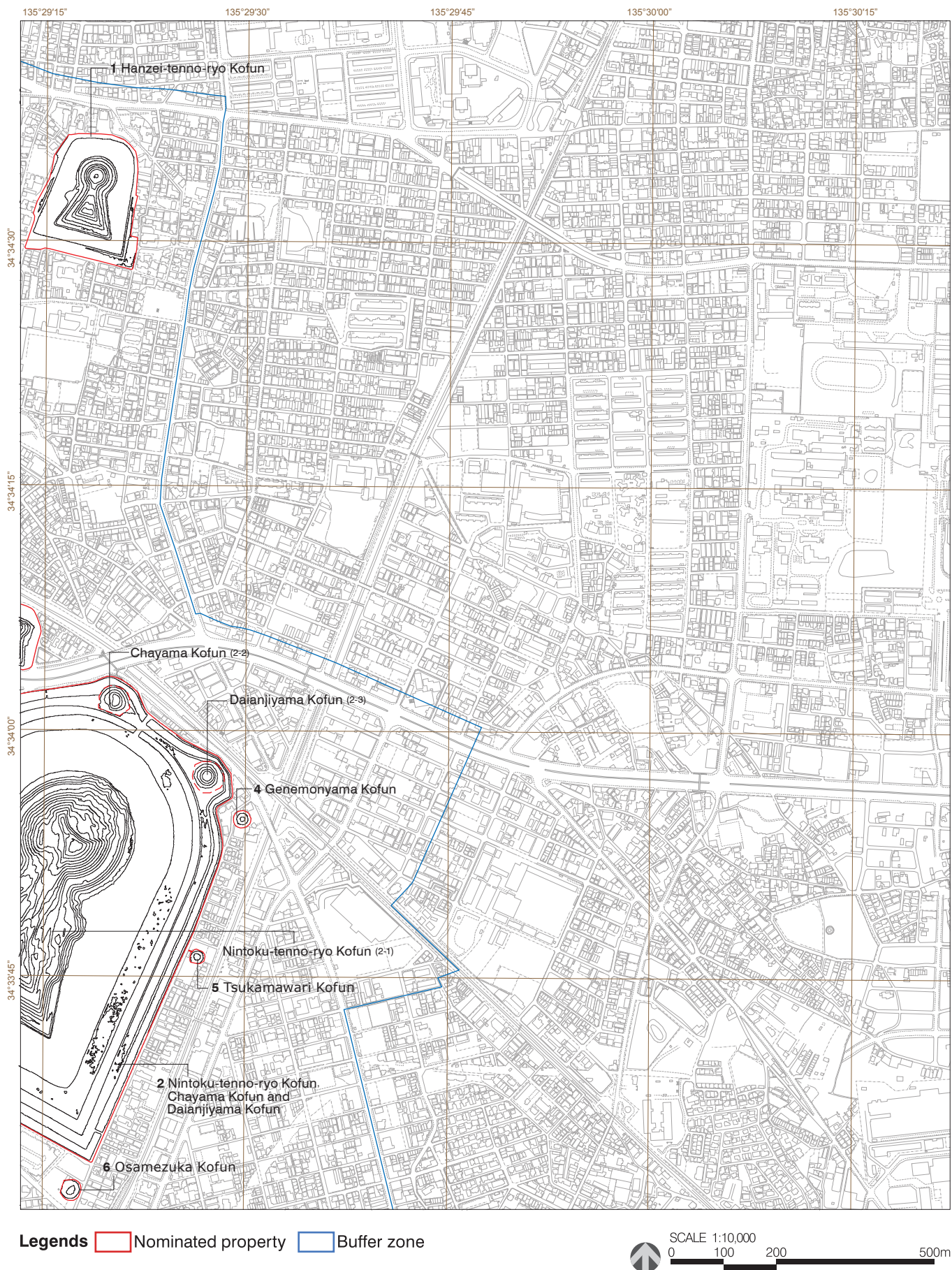


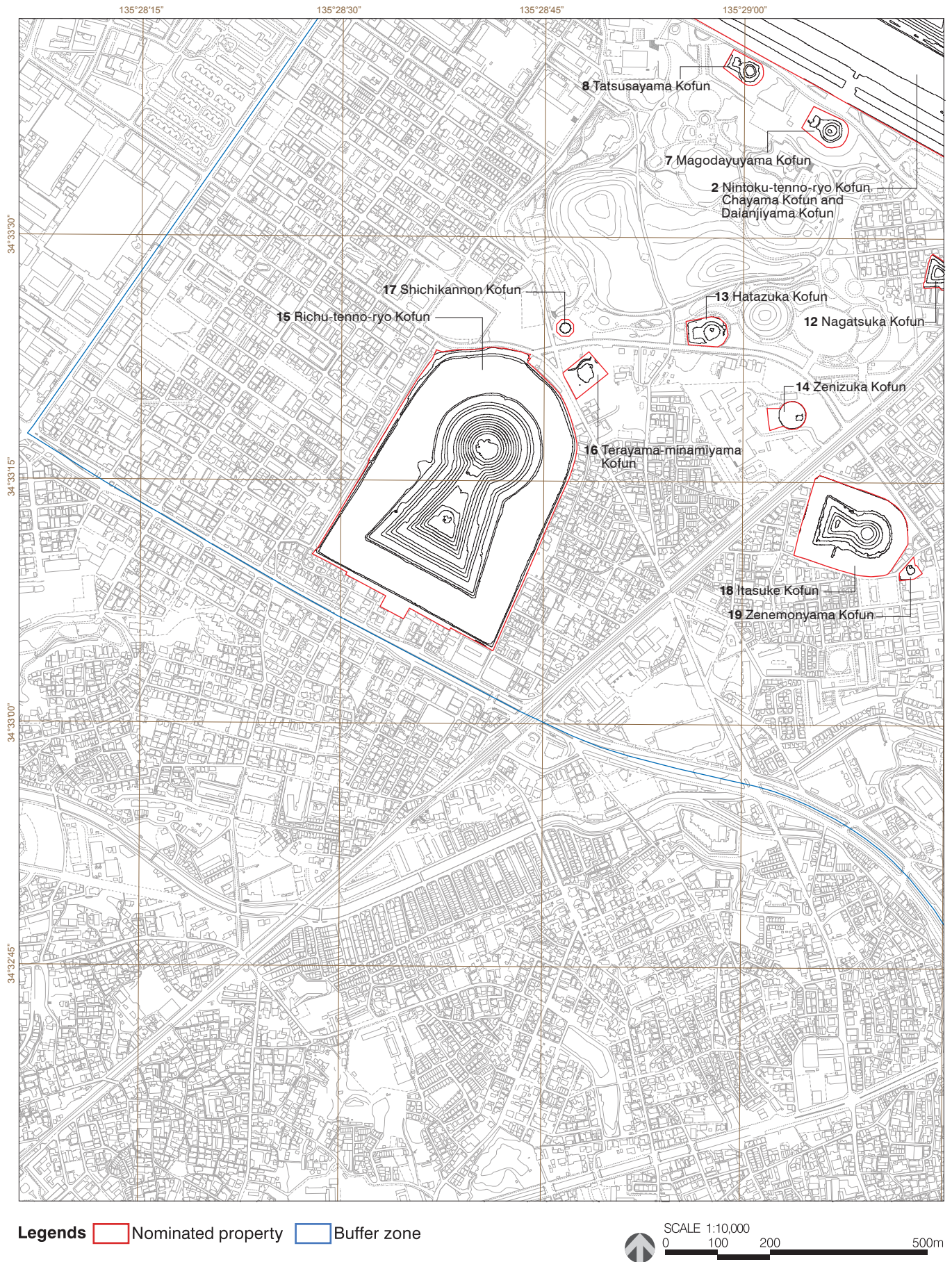
Figure e-6 Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Moza 2/5)





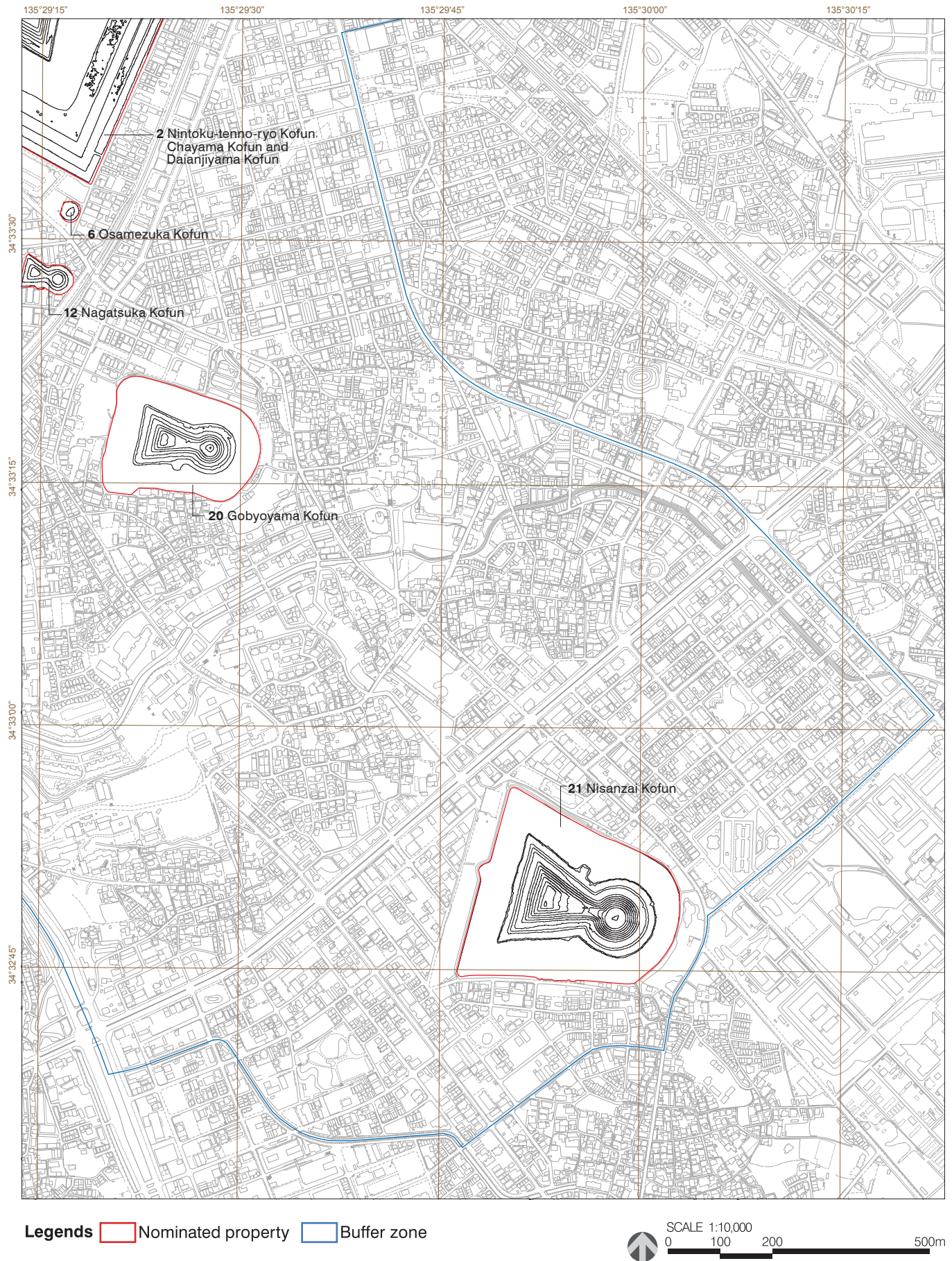
**Figure e-7** Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Moza 3/5)





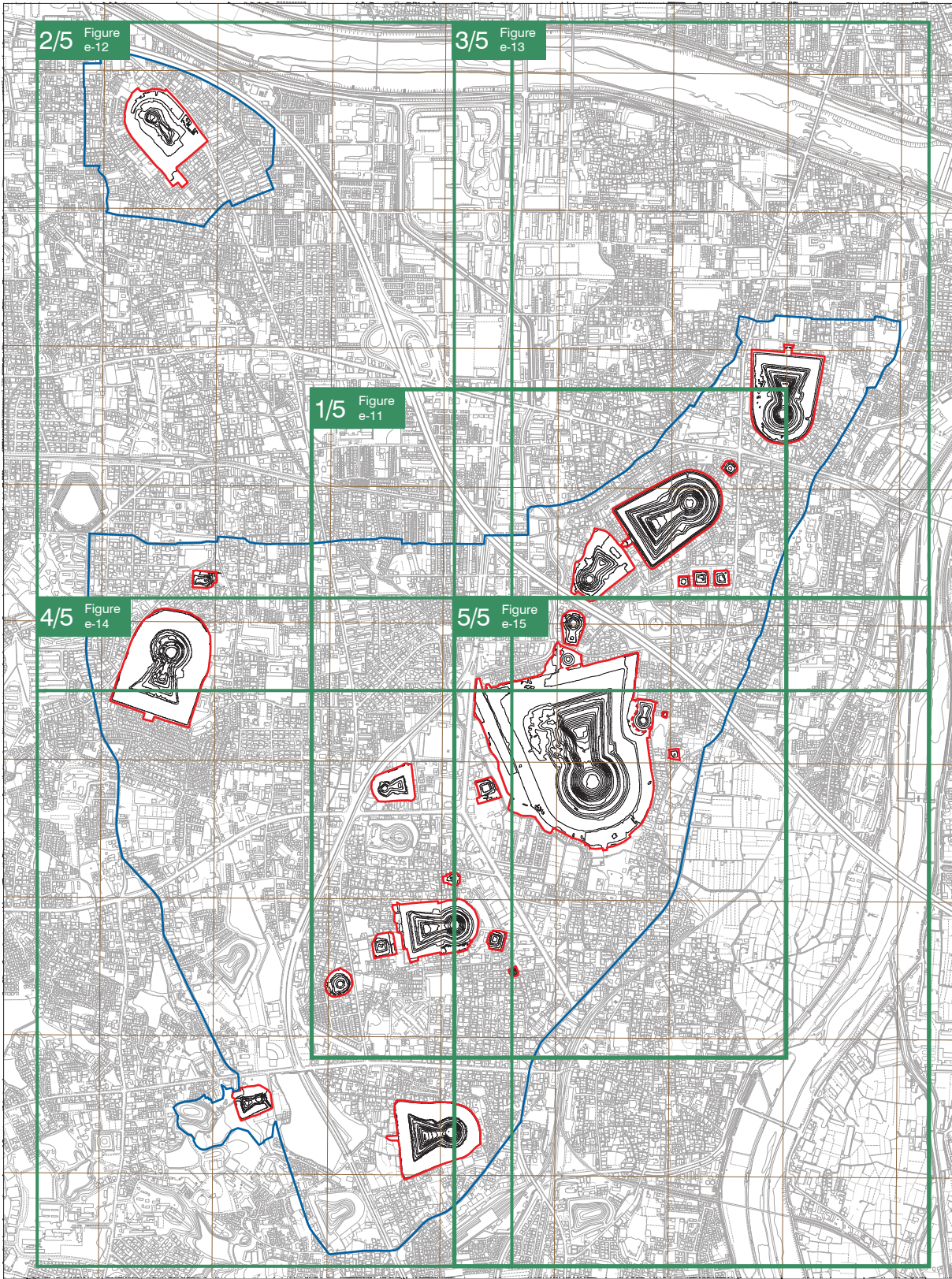
**Figure e-8** Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Moza 4/5)





**Figure e-9** Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Mozu 5/5)





**Figure e-10** Map showing the divisions of the enlarged maps (Figures e-11 to e-15) (Furuichi area)



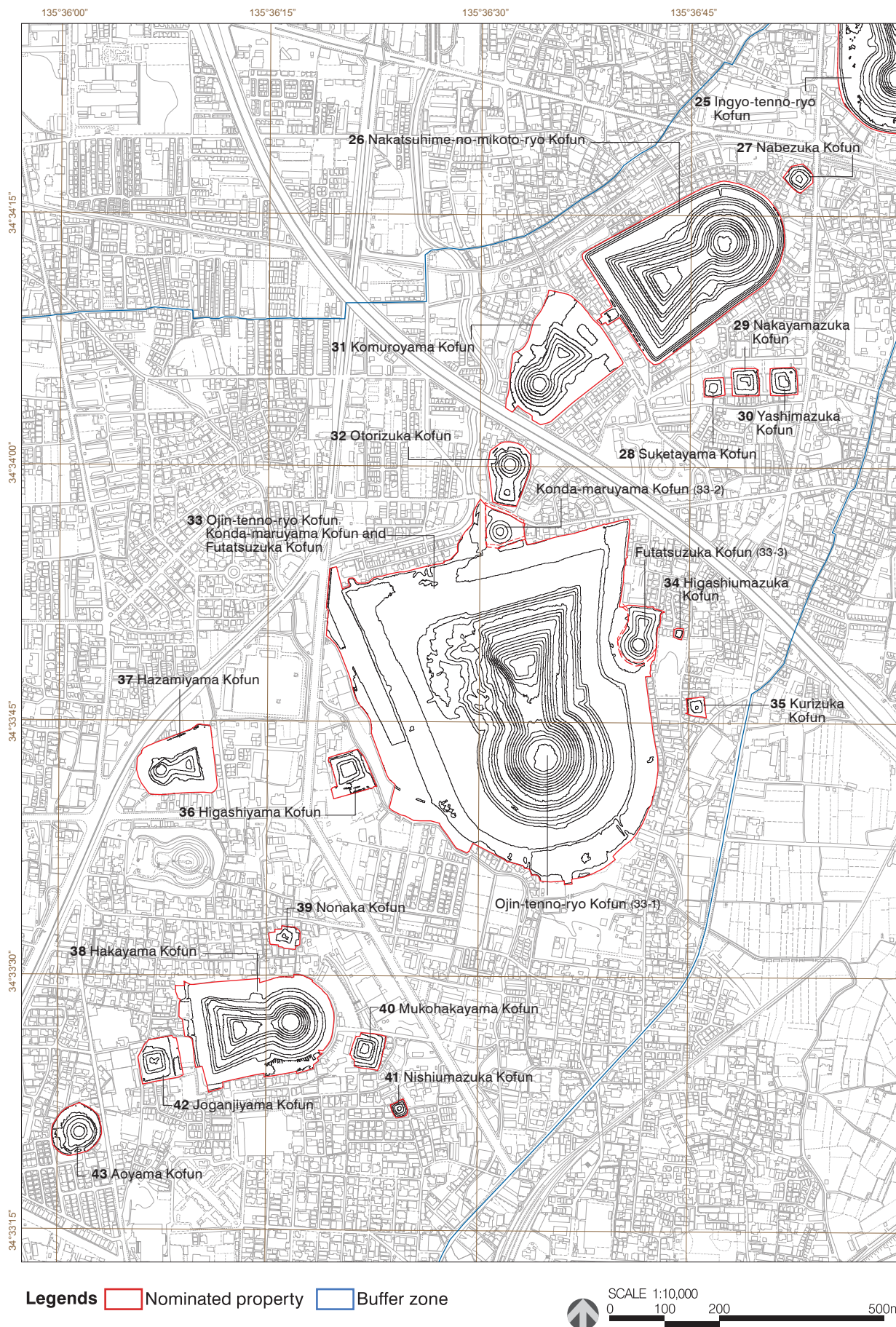


Figure e-11 Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Furuichi 1/5)



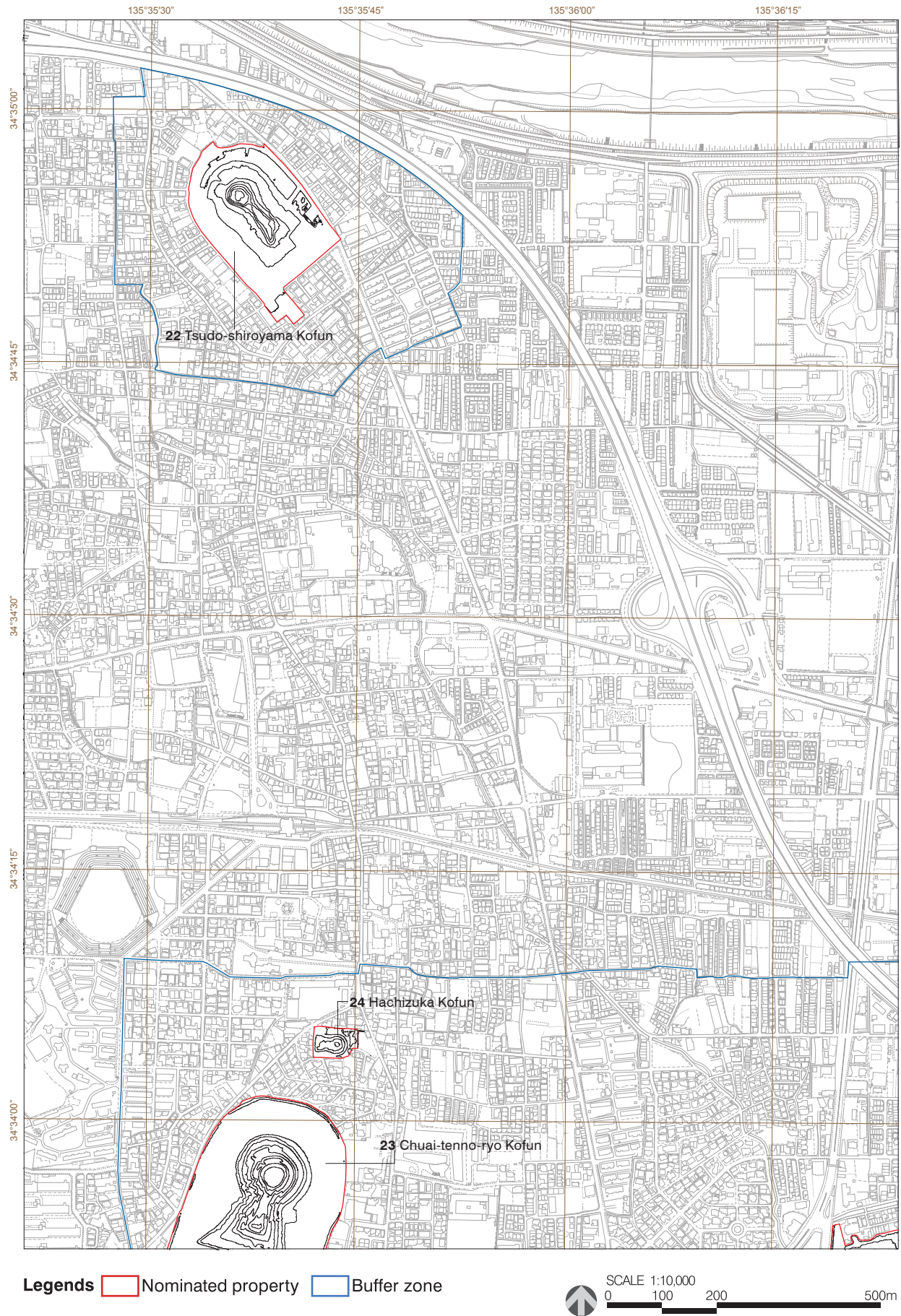
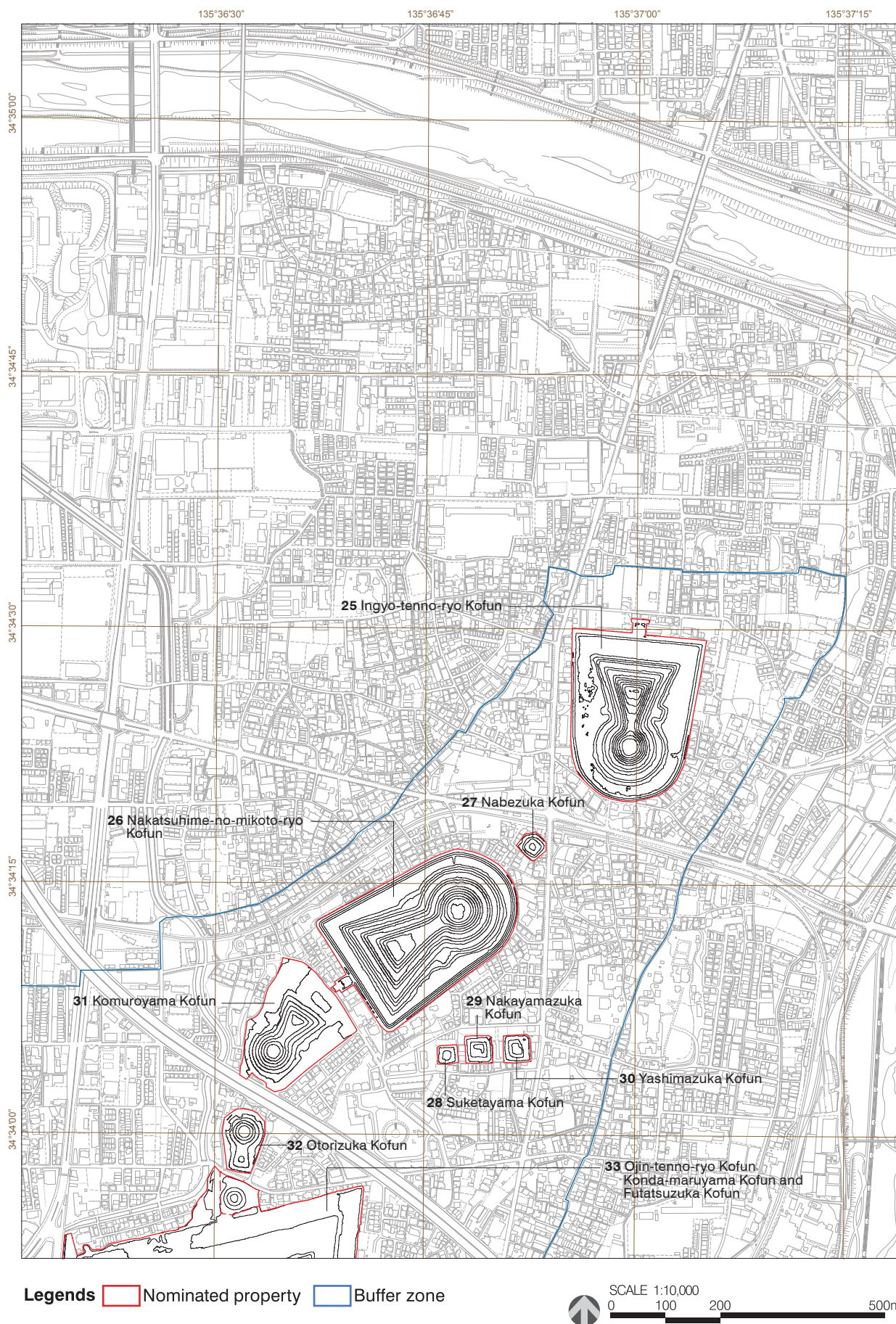


Figure e-12 Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Furuichi 2/5)





**Figure e-13** Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Furuichi 3/5)



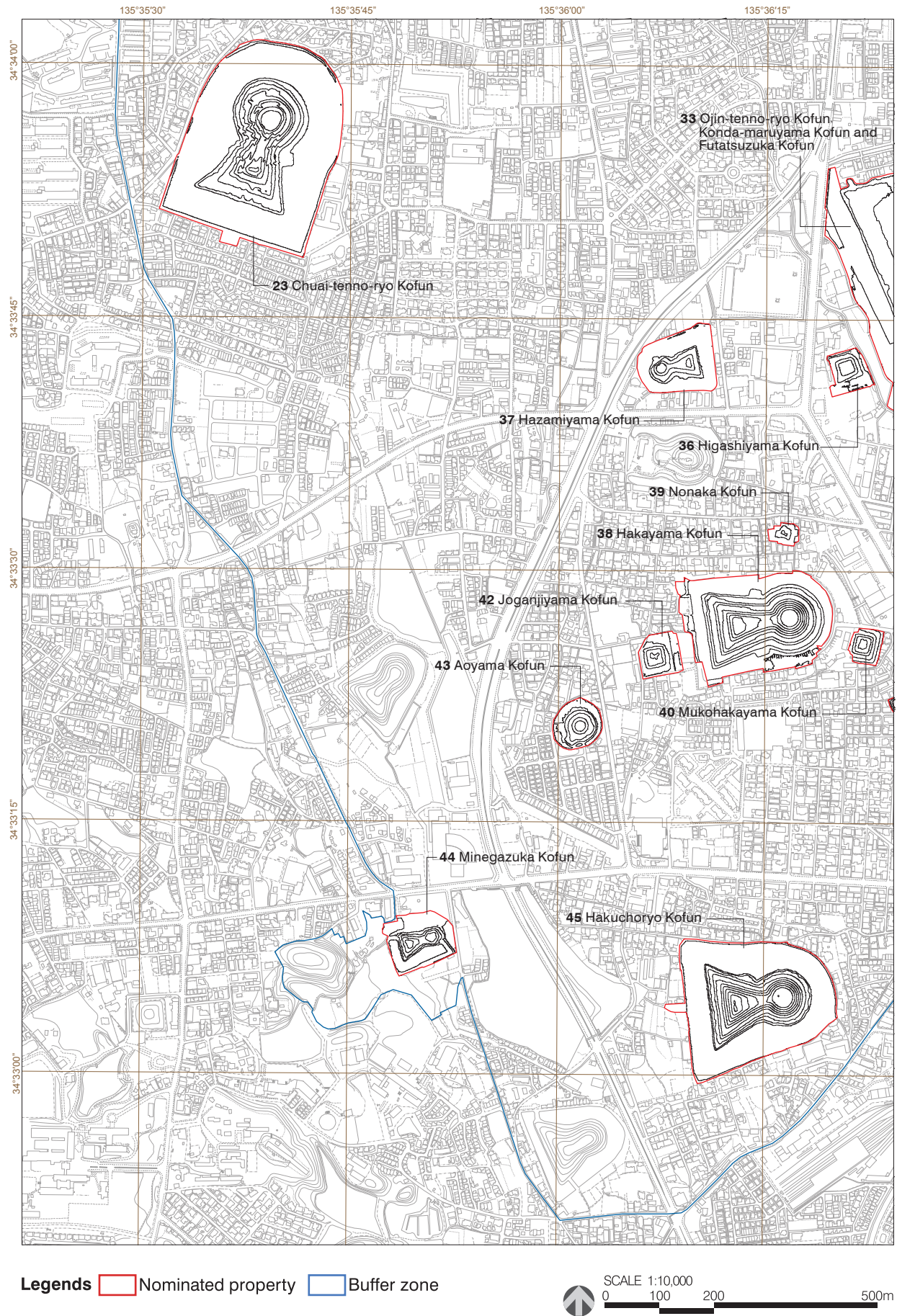


Figure e-14 Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Furuichi 4/5)



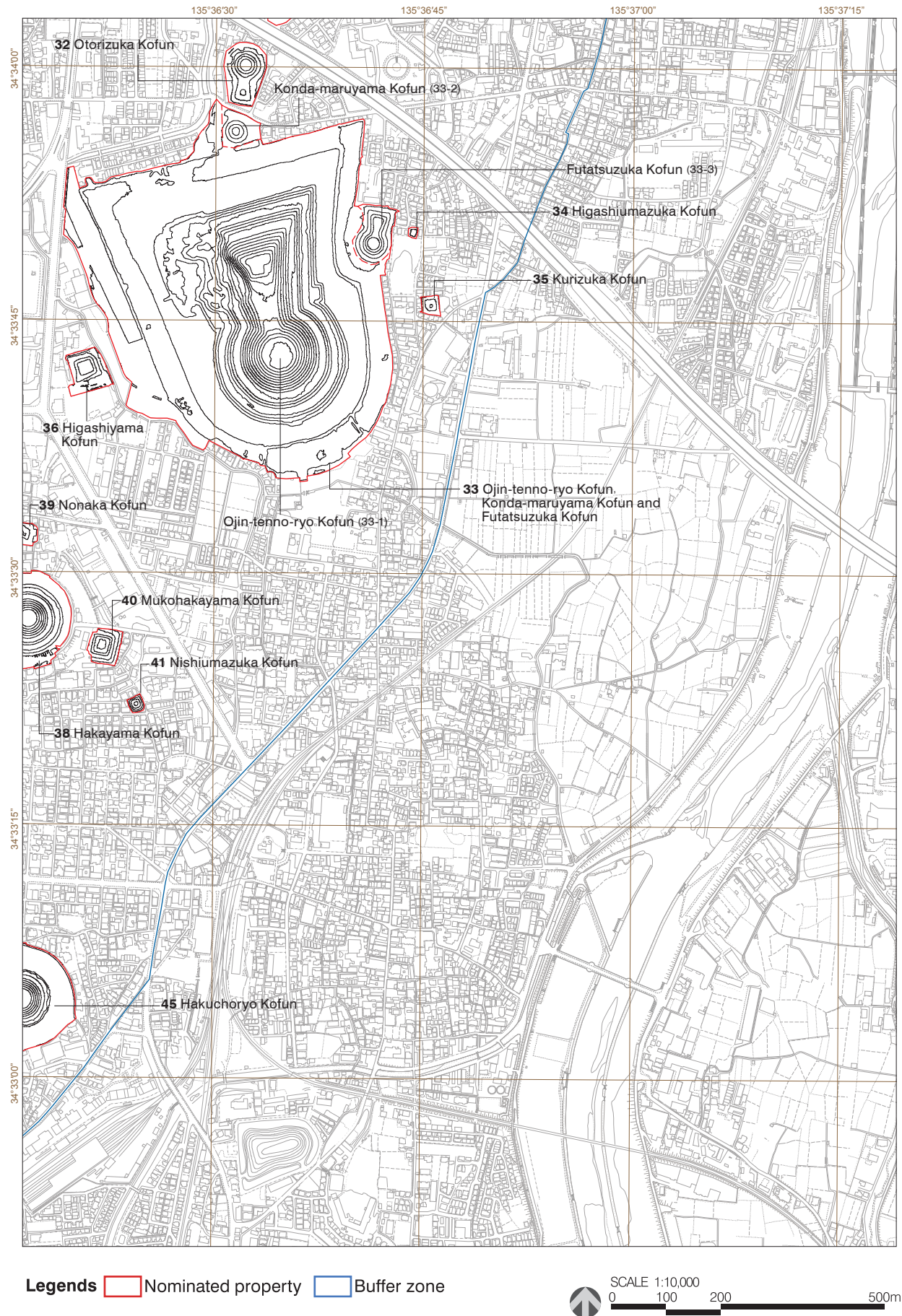


Figure e-15 Enlarged map showing the boundaries of the component parts and the buffer zone (Furuichi 5/5)



