

Tashibunoshō is the only *shoen* field that has maintained its original shape for over a thousand years. Designed in the eleventh century to provide irrigation to the fields below, the rice paddies follow the natural geography of the valley. In 2010, they were designated an Important Cultural Landscape. Usa Jingu still uses some of the rice grown at Tashibunoshō for ritual ceremonies and festivals. From December to January, the fields are illuminated with strings of lights, which has brought more visitors to the area. While this influx of tourism has helped to support the present generation of farmers, it is unclear who will maintain the paddies in the decades to come.