

K1045 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 13/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 13/02/2012

Conservator: Natalie Harding

Time Taken: 3hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 61mm (Th.) 2mm

Weight before: 4.32g

Weight after: 4.21g

X-ray: L82, L83

Catalogue number: 216

Digital photography:

Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera, under daylight or bulbs and Meiji Techno RZ Stereo microscope with an Infinity 1 camera (with analyses capture software) and fibre optic lights, 7-75x magnification. Taken before, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: n/a

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

A length of gold wire. Beaded wire twisted around itself to create a thicker wire. These thicker lengths of wire are then twisted together (six in total with a seventh central wire) to make a large thick rope-like wire length. Attached at one end of the rope wire is a 'tab' of sheet gold.

The wire is bent and distorted in a 'hook' shape.

Associated Objects: n/a

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification

Soil fills all crevices obscuring detail of the wire. The wire is damaged; bent and twisted in a 'hook' shape.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study / Analysis

Aim: Total cleaning – as much as possible.

Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, thorn in pin vice/holder, IMS on metals, 50:50 water/IMS on metals, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72.

The granular soil all over the piece was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS or water was used to soften the soil to facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small swab of IMS.

No corrosion products were found.

The paper K number was adhered to the back with HMG brand Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a cocktail stick.

A storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was made for housing the object. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used as a cushion for the object and to help lift it out of the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The wire is a solid piece of craftsmanship, although damaged and bent this piece remains stable. The 'tab' at one end is made of sheet gold in a half tube which is cupped around the wire and soldered on. This may have been a junction or fitting for the wire to be attached to another piece.

Key Features:

- A 'rope' of gold wire constructed from seven individual twisted lengths of beaded wire.
- Unidentified gold sheet 'tab' soldered to one end of the wire, could possibly be a joining mechanism.
- Fine, neat and well executed piece of wirework.

Analysis Undertaken: n/a

Samples: Not enough soil was collected to obtain a decent sample amount.

References: n/a