

K1131 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 02/05/2013

Conservation Finished: 08/05/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.25 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 18mm (W) 8mm (D) 2mm (Th.) <0.5mm

Weight before: 0.91g

Weight after: 0.40g

Catalogue number: 682

X-ray: L91

Digital photography:

Taken with a Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification. Taken before and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: SSH09, 1971, P11, 1001, 11/8/09, 459 (in a triangle)

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

Plain, roughly rectangular gold fragment.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The fragment is rectangular, bent and appears to be plain gold. ~10% of the front and ~95% of the back of the fragment are covered with soil that contains no remarkable features or inclusions. Visible surface has abrasions (some old and some recent) and a bent/'wavy' appearance on one edge. There is a small hole in the gold and a crack adjacent to it.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope

Purpose: Study

Aim: Total cleaning

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 on the front/back 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.

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:

Soil removal revealed that the object is plain gold. One of the long edges might be finished; both short edges appear to be old breaks.

The back has patchy discolouration and two distinct, old-looking scratches.

The condition of the front of the object is the same as pre-conservation apart from removal of a small amount of soil.

Key Features:

- Plain, rectangular gold fragment
- Hole in gold

Samples:

1. soil