K1134 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 21/03/2013
Conservation Finished: 22/03/2013
Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle
Time Taken: 2.5 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L.) 36mm; (W) 35mm; (Diam) 2mm
Weight before: 2.44g
Weight after: 2.38g
X-ray: L49
Catalogue number: 201

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: K1134, SSH09, BA1971, 498 (in a triangle/find number), Q9, 1001, 13/8/09, X-RAY: L49.

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

A long looped fragment of gold beaded filigree wire.

Associated Objects: None known at present.

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

The object is a long fragment of gold filigree wire with a beaded design across the length. Both ends of the object appear to be break edges, both of which are broken along the beads with pointed ends visible. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil. The filigree wire is bent in a circular shape with one arm pointing away from the loop, which may be either its originally intended shape, or damage suffered during/after it was disassembled. The object is covered in a light/moderate layer of loose and compact soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope
Purpose: Display / Study / Analysis
Aim: Total cleaning / Stabilisation
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.

Corrosion products were left in situ; corrosion was not active and can be further cleaned or stabilised at a later date.

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 object is a long fragment of gold filigree wire with a beaded design across the length. Both ends of the object appear to be break edges, both of which are broken along the beads with pointed ends. One of the break edges on has the cut on one side and flattening damage on the opposite side. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil. The wire is flattened on one side which may indicate where the wire was attached to the surface of another object and/or where the wire has suffered damage. One corner of the loop there is a pronounced damage, in the form of flattening and indentation, which may be the result of tool marks. The filigree wire is bent in a circular/loop shape with one arm pointing away from the loop, which may be either its originally intended shape, or damage suffered during/after it was disassembled. The object appears to be gold with tarnish/corrosion products visible on the surface; the gold is yellow/orange/red in appearance. The surface appears to be covered in nicks, scratches and general wear and tear of the surface.

Key Features:
- A length of beaded gold filigree wire.
- Flattening of the metal visible damage on two areas on opposite sides.
- Tarnish, corrosion products, nicks, scratches and general physical damage visible.

Samples:
Not enough for a viable sample.

References: