

K1159 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 23/04/2013

Conservation Finished: 24/04/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 1.25 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 18mm (W) 5mm (D) 1.5mm

Weight before: 0.59g

Weight after: 0.57g

Catalogue number: 614

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: BA1971, SSH09, J7, 429 (triangle), EVSC, 7/8/09, 1001

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

Rectangular section of undecorated silver gilt strip. The front is gently convex and gilded and the back is gently concave and unglided; the fragment is slightly c-sectioned. Three of the four edges are breaks.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The object is a fragment with one finished long edge; the other edges are old-looking breaks. The front is gilded and has patchy, moderate tarnish (possibly post-excavation), surface abrasions and widespread bumpy, purple corrosion (likely silver chloride corrosion). There are a few distinct, old-looking scratches on the front.

The back is unglided and largely covered with a thin layer of soil that obscures surface detail.

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.

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:

Soil removal revealed that about half of the front and back of the object is covered with a thick layer of bumpy, purple corrosion product (likely silver chloride). Corrosion products were left in situ as they could potentially aid finding joins with other objects. The corrosion can be removed at a later date if desired.

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

Key Features:

- Rectangular section of c-sectioned, undecorated silver gilt strip
- Corrosion (likely silver chloride) on both sides

Samples:
None