

## K11 Condition Report

**Conservation Started:** 29/04/2013

**Conservation Finished:** 29/04/2013

**Conservator:** Cymbeline Storey

**Time Taken:** 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L) 32mm (W) 13mm (D) 8mm

**Weight before:** 4.37g

**Weight after:** 2.97g

**Catalogue number:** 614

### Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and 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:** None

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

Gently curved section of undecorated silver gilt strip. The front is convex and gilded and the back is concave and ungilded; the fragment is c-sectioned. The long edges are finished and the short 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 intact finished long edge and one partially-broken finished long edge; the short edges are old-looking breaks.

The object is almost completely encased in a thick layer of soil. Only a very small area of the front surface can be seen through the soil. The soil contains a few unknown black inclusions but is otherwise unremarkable. Soil removal is necessary to describe and assess the condition of the object.

**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 95% of the surface of the object is covered with a thick layer of bumpy, purple corrosion product (likely silver chloride).

Part of one of the finished edges is broken. There is no corrosion on this break edge and it looks as if it might be recent.

A small patch of the front (gilded) surface can be seen; it is abraded and has patchy, dark tarnish.

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.

#### **Key Features:**

- Curved section of c-sectioned, undecorated silver gilt strip
- Almost completely covered with corrosion (likely silver chloride)

#### **Samples:**

1. soil – front
2. soil – back