K1205 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 11/02/2013
Conservation Finished: 11/02/2013
Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle
Time Taken: 3.5 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L.) 45mm; (W) 21mm; (Th). 3mm
Weight before: 3.92g
Weight after: 3.65g
X-ray: L48
Catalogue number: 227

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: K1205, X-Ray: L.48.

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

Silver-alloy, possibly gilded, length of silver ridged 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 fragment of metal wire with a ribbed design across the length. The visible surface on one side appears to have a portion of the surface flattened. Only a small area of the surface of both the front and reverse is visible as it is covered in a heavy layer of loose and compact soil. The two ends are obscured but appear to be break edges, one end also appears tapered. The length of the metal wire itself is not straight; there is a gentle 180 curve on one end.

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.

12/11/2015- K. Fuller
Re-boxed with pair K1205

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:
The object length of silver alloy wire with ribbed decoration. The length of the metal wire itself is not straight; there is a gentle 180 curve on one end.There are break edges on both ends with material missing, one end has pronounced corrosion products visible and the opposite end is tapered with a pointed end with severe damage/loss visible. The object appears to be silver alloy; there is silver tarnish, corrosion products and possible copper and or iron corrosion products visible on the surface. There is cracking damage visible in various areas between the ribbed sections, especially near bends in the metal and on the inside of the bends. The surface is covered in nicks, scratches and what appears to be pitting on the surface, this may be evidence of possible casting. The wire is flattened along the length on one side which suggests that the object was attached to a surface on this one side.

Key Features:

- A length of ribbed silver alloy wire with a curve on one end.
- Flattening damage on one side and pitting, cracking damage along the length.
- Tarnish and corrosion products visible.

Samples:
Sample 1 - soil from the surface of the object.

References: