

K1212 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 05/02/2013

Conservation Finished: 06/02/2013

Conservator: Jen Leigh

Time Taken: [Conservation: 5.08 hours, Documentation: 3.58 hours] 8.66 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 56.5mm (D) 4.0mm across widest part [3mm outer dia of main body, core wire 1.75mm]

Weight before: 6.59g

Weight after: 6.20g

X-ray: L48

Catalogue number: 220

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 and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: SSH09 1971 (1001) N8 323 4/8/09

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

The object is a gold curved length of wrapped beaded wire and seam. It is possibly made up of beaded wire wrapped horizontally (across the width) around a core but it has a beaded wire seam so this may not be the case. Further details are obscured by heavy soil cover.

Associated Objects: K1343

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

The object is curved and distorted. At least one end appears to be broken off from a parent piece, although it is most likely that both are. It has around 40% soil coverage, particularly in the recesses between the wire detail. There appears to be some orange enrichment coloration to the beaded surface.

The object seems generally intact.

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, cotton wool swabs, cocktail stick, Paraloid B72

The granular soil from all over the object was mechanically removed or reduced where possible using a fine thorn tip secured in a pin vice and a small pure bristle brush. IMS was used to soften the soil to

facilitate removal. Loose particles of soil were then removed with a small dry pure bristle brush and a wash of IMS with a soft pure bristle brush was used to further remove soil residue.

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.

The object was replaced in its storage box padded with white polyethylene foam. A strip of Tyvek (spun bound polyethylene fibres) was used to help lift it out of the foam.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:

The object is composed of a central core wire (approx 1.75mm) which has been bound tightly with beaded wire and a further beaded wire spine (approx 0.75mm) runs along the outer full length. The wound wire is fused together (in bands of two or three) in places and tacked together in others. Where the object has been distorted these beaded wire turns have opened up (or broken apart) creating voids exposing the central core but these have filled with soil.

Some soil still remains below the turns.

The beaded spine is tacked on to the main body of the object.

There are breaks in the spine in three places, and there is an exposed end in the wrapped beaded wire. This looks as if it is an intentional end from when it was made as it is rounded off. Underneath this is a crack in the core wire and it may have been an original join perhaps. There is a strange cut diagonally lengthways through the beaded wire adjacent to this finished end. It also has a large flattened area close by also possibly suggesting an original join of some kind.

The shorter end has a double-edged chisel tip to the core wire (see associated photomicrograph "k1212 AT cut end [short]") suggesting two blades have cut it coming together (as you would get from a pair of snips) with a leading edge across the beaded wire.

There are abrasions, probably from wear, to the top surface of some areas of the beaded wire turns, particularly in the longer straighter section.

There is a large gouge in the beaded surface approximately 4mm from the longer straighter end, on the side with the spine on the inner curve, end on the left, with a few other score marks across the surrounding area.

There is visible orange enrichment coloration in the recesses of the beads across the object.

Key Features:

- Core wire bound by beaded wire
- Beaded wire spine

Samples:

1. soil