K1216 Condition Report

Conservation Started: Tuesday May 14, 2013
Conservation Finished: Tuesday May 14, 2013
Conservator: Aimee Sims
Time Taken: 1.5hrs
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 30 mm (W) 8mm (Th.) <0.5mm
Weight before: 1.34g
Weight after: 1.02g
Catalogue number: 344

Digital photography:
Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight bulbs and Photomicrographs taken using Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes:
K1216, AA3Z, CE5A, XRay Plate L91, SSH09, BA1971, 325, N11, 1001, 4/8/09

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification. Gold strip, rectangular in shape, no decoration. The strip is not flat but twisted at one end and bent at the other.

Associated Objects:

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification. The gold strip is in relatively good condition; however it is mostly encrusted with soil. The soil is compact and granular, with numerous small, round inclusions, which are likely quartz. Due to the amount of soil encrusting the plate, speculation about its stability cannot be determined at this point in time.

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 on the front and 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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:
The strip is stable and needs no consolidation. It has minimal corrosion. There is one weakness where the strip is bent back on itself and is fairly flexible; there is the possibility for this piece to become completely unattached if subjected to too much handling.

Samples:
1. Soil sample from front and back.