K1272 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 10.5.11
Conservation Finished: 10.5.11
Conservator: Deborah Cane
Time Taken: 2hr 15 mins
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 15.6 mm (W) 7.1 mm (D) 7.5 mm
Weight before: 3.82g
Weight after: 3.70g
Catalogue number: 46

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: none

Description: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification
The end of a pommel consisting of what looks like the end of the fitting with two pins within their fittings.
The pins have domed heads and working (possibly hammering) marks are visible on the shaft of the pin.
Each end of the pin shafts have a different finish/shape, one appears flat the other cut at an angle, creating a point. All surfaces appear to be plain gold although partially covered with soil.

Associated Objects: May join pommel K1160

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

The pin shafts are both bent in one direction and do move in their sockets. There are scratches on the surface, these appear to be wear. At present partially covered with soil

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope
Purpose: Analysis
Aim: Total cleaning
Materials: Soft natural/synthetic brushes, cotton swab, cocktail stick, thorn in pin vice/holder, water on garnets, water/IMS on metals

The granular soil on the exterior/interior surface 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/water

The paper K number was adhered to the interior surface with Paraloid B72 (ethyl methacrylate copolymer) from the tube, applied with a fine paint brush.

A new storage box padded with white polyethylene foam was constructed to house 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:
The construction is clearly visible now cleaned, the remaining piece of structure has itself been pulled further apart, showing what looks like solder lines. These areas of gold have a different surface texture.
There is general wear to the objects as well as some obvious deeper scratches; these appear pre deposit as soil was removed from these areas. There is however a scuff and a couple of shiny marks in the central area of the reverse side of the object. These may be from the soil or excavation.
Working marks are visible on the pin shafts (see images), from tooling marks to a newer scuff to what looks like a seam in the gold (possibly suggesting a rolled piece of gold that has then been worked into the shaft.

XRF analysis of the object will be performed in Cardiff, awaiting results

Samples:
1. Soil from exterior