K1315 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 14/03/2013
Conservation Finished: 14/03/2013
Conservator: Natalie Harding
Time Taken: 3hours 30mins
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: Distorted (L) 44mm (W) 27mm (H) 4mm
Weight before: 5.34g
Weight after: 5.18g
X-ray: L72, L83
Catalogue number: 131
(K1315b copper-alloy fragment renumbered to K1965, catalogue number 691)

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: n/a

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

A bent, curved length of gold filigree wire edging; bent in two places. The piece is curved, looking as if it was originally shaped around something cylindrical. The piece is decorated with a double length of filigree in a 'rams head' style, divided and bordered by a single row of beaded wire. Soil fills and obscures the filigree details.

Associated Objects: n/a

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

It appears this piece has been worked on before, although only minimal cleaning was undertaken.

This piece is bent in two places o form a triangular shape. Twisted and distorted more at one end then the other. Filigree is cracked and broken off from the piece at this point. Soil fills the cupped/curver cavity and some green copper alloy corrosion product and other fragments are intermingled with the soil.

Treatment: Carried out using a Meiji stereo microscope
Purpose: Study / Analysis
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 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:
On one torn end (the untwisted one) there is a small length of green copper alloy corrosion firmly attached to the filigree. This may have been part of another object and has been left in-situ.
Some areas of the filigree have been flattened and won down, possibly due to wear.

Within the twisted pinched cavity there are clumps of soil intermingled with green copper alloy corrosion product. The corrosion product is about 2mm-3mm in length and may have been part of the inner supporting material (possibly silver alloy) for this piece.
The filigree is of alternating 'rams head' shapes and 'C' scrolls with interspersed circlets of beaded wire.

The beaded border edges are made of a twisted wire where the beads are not fully round, they are more square shaped with a flattened look.

The gold is quite dull in colour, black, brown and red coloured tarnish throughout especially in recesses between the filigree decorations.

Key Features:

- Rams head and C scroll filigree decoration.
- Fragments found in the pinched bend of the piece, possibly silver alloy fragments of inner support?
- Beaded filigree.

Samples:
1. Soil – all over.