K1343 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 07/03/2013
Conservation Finished: 08/03/2013
Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle
Time Taken: 2.5 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L.) 41.5mm; (H). 15mm; (Th). 3mm; (W) 4mm
Weight before: 3.85g
Weight after: 3.80g
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, during and after.

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: K1343, X-Ray: L48.

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

A long fragment of gold wire, made up of a thick core of plain gold wire with lengths of beaded filigree wire wrapped around it in a spiral pattern and with a thin gold filigree beaded wire running over the top.

Associated Objects: K1212

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

The object is a long and thick fragment of gold filigree wire. The wire is constructed of a long, thick and unadorned wire (approximately 1.5mm in thickness) upon which lengths of thin filigree wire, with beaded a design over the length of the wires, wrapped around the central wire in a spiral pattern. There is a single long thin filigree wire attached across the length of object, this wire appears to have been broken in two areas. Both ends of the object appear to be break edges, with possible evidence of cut marks visible. The object is covered in a light/moderate layer of loose and compact soil. The filigree has a generally rounded/curved shape, which may be either its originally intended shape, or damage suffered during/after it was disassembled. The object is covered in a moderate/heavy layer of loose and compact soil.

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.

Post-Conservation Condition/Findings:
The object is a long and thick fragment of gold filigree wire. The wire is constructed of a long, thick and unadorned wire (approximately 1.5mm in thickness) upon which lengths of thin filigree wire, with beaded a design over the length of the wires, wrapped around the central wire in a spiral pattern. There is a single long thin filigree wire line attached across the length of object, this wire appears to have been broken in one place and to be made up of two separate wires, one thicker than the other. The filigree around the central wire has gaps visible, within which soil, stones, etc are trapped and difficult to remove without damaging the gold surface, so they were left in situ. There are occasion gaps between the beaded wires, which reveal the inner gold wire. Where there is a large gap, the singular wire on the top surface can be seen to be interrupted. The two ends appear as if they have been cut, one side especially shows this damage compared to the opposite side.

The outer surface of the object is flattened on a number of areas across the surface, such as a noticable line of continuous flattening on one area. The areas of damage on the surface may indicate where the wire was attached to the surface of another object and/or where the wire has suffered damage by removal. The object is gold with tarnish/corrosion products visible on the surface; the gold is yellow/orange/red in appearance. The surface appears to be covered in nicks, scratches, flaking of the gold surface and general wear and tear of the surface.

Key Features:

- A length of wire made of a central gold wire with lengths of beaded gold filigree wire wrapped around the central shaft and with single length of beaded wire across the length on top of the object.
- Flattening damage on the surface of the object.
- Tarnish, corrosion products, nicks, scratches and general physical damage visible.

Samples:
No enough soil for a viable sample.

References: