K1456 (gold filigree snake panel) Condition Report

Conservation Started: 31 May 2013
Conservation Finished: 31 May 2013
Conservator: Kathy Hall
Time Taken: 1 hour
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 18mm (W) 4mm (Th.) 1mm
Weight before: 0.83g
Weight after: 0.79g
Catalogue number: 559

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:

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

Associated Objects:

Pre-Conservation Condition: Visual and microscopic examination using Meiji stereo microscope 7-75x magnification. Reverse is already clean, and on the front side most of the filigree design is visible. The low parts of the filigree are covered in compact soil, which is cracked as if it was wet on excavation and later dried out.

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, 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.

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 gold is covered with a coppery coloured patina.

No soil was saved –there was only a tiny amount present