**K1500 Condition Report**

**Conservation Started:** 30/01/2013
**Conservation Finished:** 31/01/2013
**Conservator:** Ciarán Lavelle
**Time Taken:** 2.5 Hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

**Dimensions:** (L). 50mm; (W). 27mm; (Th). 12mm.
**Weight before:** 5.34.34g
**Weight after:** 5.25g
**Catalogue number:** 287

**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:** K1500. X-RAY: L57.

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

Gold, sheet-metal hilt-plate.

**Associated Objects:** None known at present.

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

The object is a small hilt plate which has been heavily damaged and warped but relatively intact. The object is covered in a moderate layer of loose and compact soil. The surface of the hilt plate appears to be unadorned with a polished surface where visible, with filigree decoration in a circular shape around the two boss rivets, which are not present. There are two further rivet holes beside each of the bosses, which are on the inside, between the hilt plate hole and the boss. There is a break edge visible on one side of the object, approximately half way along the hilt handle hole in the centre of the object, which has resulted in one side of the hilt being bent/warped to over a 90° angle. There appears to be evidence of tool marks across the surface, especially around the 6 rivet holes.

**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 small hilt plate which has been heavily damaged and warped but relatively intact. The surface of the hilt plate appears to be unadorned with a polished surface where visible, with beaded filigree decoration in a circular shape around the two boss rivets, which are not present. There are two further rivet holes beside each of the bosses, which are on the inside, between the hilt plate hole and the boss. There is a break edge visible on one side of the object, approximately half way along the hilt handle hole in the centre of the object, which has resulted in one side of the hilt being bent/warped to over a 90° angle. There is evidence of compression/folding damage across the centre of the rivet holes with the end of the hilt plate folding upwards slightly. There appears to be evidence of tool marks across the surface, especially around the 6 rivet holes. Both of the rivet holes beside the boss and closest to the most damaged end of the object have small holes beside them coming up from below, this correlates with the evidence on the underside of tool marks possibly caused by the removal process.

The object has a polished metal finish with impressions of where the hilt collar/handle visible on the top surface. There are holes and cracks, tears and peeling of the gold surface visible, there are also scratches and indentations visible on the surface; including what appears an 'X' impression between the rivet holes on the base which may be the result of a makers mark or tool marks.

There are tears and cracking damage on the sides and edges of the square hole in the centre of the hilt plate, which has a tear and beak edge on one side. The gold sheet at this break edge has peeled back slightly and points downwards away from the base. Around the tear/cut there are tool marks which suggest that it was caused by removal process. The lip around the edges of the hilt plate are flattened down across the majority of the object, only staying somewhat intact around the rounded edge of the end that is relatively intact/undamaged.

The surface of the object is covered in an un-uniformed layer of tarnish and some corrosion products. The gold is orange/red/yellow in appearance with blackened areas in places, especially around the rivet holes on the more damaged section. The gold has dents nicks and scratches visible on the surface, especially around the flattened and warped areas and the sides/edges. The corrosion products and tarnish were left insitu as they do not obscure any decorative or informative surfaces and removal may result in further damage to the surface.

**Key Features:**

- Hilt plate with a warped and misshapen surface.
- Hilt plate contains no bosses but retains filigree border.

- Two sets of three rivet holes.
- Impression of handle/hilt colour.
- Incisions, cracking and flaking of gold surface visible on surface.
- Break visible on one side half way along hilt handle hole.
- Tool marks on top and underside of the hilt plate.

**Analysis Undertaken:**
XRF analysis of the object was performed. See document 'KXXX XRF Report'.

**Samples:**
Sample 1 – Soil from surface of the object.

**References:**