

K165 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 18/04/2013

Conservation Finished: 18/04/2013

Conservator: Cymbeline Storey

Time Taken: 2 hours

Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions: (L) 13mm (W) 17mm (D) 8mm (Th) <0.5mm

Weight before: 1.90g

Weight after: 0.57g

Catalogue number: 347

Digital photography:

Taken with a Canon EOS digital camera under daylight or bulbs and Keyence VHX-1000 3D digital microscope with LED and/or fibre optic lights, 20-200x magnification. Taken before and after.

X-ray: L91

Annotation on any of the storage bags or boxes: None

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

Plain gold hilt plate fragment with one round, empty fastening hole.

Associated Objects: TBC

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

The object is an unknown gold fragment almost completely encased in soil. A small area of plain, bent gold sheet can be observed through the soil. The soil appears to be unremarkable. It will need to be removed to assess and describe the object.

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, 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.

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 soil was found to contain some plant matter and a few larger than average pink crystals (quartz?).

Soil removal revealed that the object is a fragment of a plain gold hilt plate (curved end section) with one round, empty fastening hole. A lip of raised metal is around the hole on the front, suggesting that it was punched through from the back.

Around the fastening hole the ghost of a now-missing boss can be seen. The object has a wavy/'crimped' appearance along one edge. The cause of this is unknown.

The gold has general surface abrasion (including several distinct scratches) and dents as well as patches of light orange discolouration (probably tarnish from burial).

Key Features:

- Fragment of plain gold hilt plate
- Ghost of boss on surface
- One round, empty fastening hole
- 'Crimped' appearance along one edge

Samples:

1. soil