K1703 Condition Report

Conservation Started: 18/02/2013
Conservation Finished: 22/02/2013
Conservator: Ciarán Lavelle
Time Taken: 2.5 hours
Including digital photography, report, conservation and packing.

Dimensions of Largest Fragment: (Diam). 5.5mm; (Diam) shank 3mm (H). 4mm (H) head 2mm

Weight before: 0.33g
Weight after: 0.33g
Catalogue number: 666

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: K1703, Rivet Boss, X-Ray: L44

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

Silver-alloy Rivet head/boss with gold gilt.

Associated Objects:

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

The object a silver alloy metal rivet head with possible gold gilt visible on the domed surface. The shaft of the rivet is missing except for a small amorphous fragment on the base of the rivet head. The surface is covered in silver tarnish and corrosion products as well as possible iron corrosion products. The surface has evidence of flaking of the top layers of the metal surface. The object is covered in a light layer of loose and compact soil, especially the front.

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 silver alloy rivet head with a fragment of the shaft remaining attached and with gold gilt visible on the surface. There are areas of insoluble crustations on the remaining surface of the rivet shaft and the base of the rivet head. There is visible evidence of gold gilding on the front. As there were no decorative features on the object, some of this corrosion product and insoluble crustation was left in-situ to prevent the potential loss of further gold gilt and damage to the surface. There is evidence of tarnish, nicks and scratches on the surface. As well as some warping on the side of the dome of the rivet head and some flaking of the metal surface on the top and the base of the rivet head. There is evidence of possible iron corrosion on localised areas of the object from the burial environment; this was left in-situ to prevent the potential loss of further gold gilt and damage to the surface. The object required minimal interventive conservation, removal of excess soil.

Key Features:

- Fragments of a silver alloy rivet boss.
- Gilding visible on the front of the object.
- Iron/Silver alloy corrosion products and insoluble crustations visible on the surface.

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

Samples:
Not enough soil for a sample.

References: