

CONSERVATION TREATMENT RECORD

Lab number: 8430
 Brief description: Cu Alloy Brooch
 Name of owner: S. Thomas
 Owner's number: n/a

Name of student: Robyn Haynie
 Date allocated: 06/02/2009
 Date completed: 02/06/2009

<p>Material type The brooch is a copper alloy, gilded on the front and tinned on the back.</p>	<p>Dimensions Diameter: 2.3cm Weight: Before: 6.69g After 5.95g</p>
<p>Technology The brooch was likely cast, and would have fastened with a sprung pin device. Ferrous corrosion present on the back of the brooch indicates that this pin was likely iron. The 'S' shaped decoration on the front of the brooch was stamped in the surface, and the centre of the brooch would likely have contained a decorative element, likely a conical shaped glass embellishment.</p>	
<p>Pre-treatment condition The brooch was corroded, and dirt and soil remained on the surface. The corrosion had been partially removed on the back, and the tinned surface scratched. A small amount of gilding remained on the front of the brooch.</p>	
<p>Significance The brooch is likely associated with a Roman settlement at Thwing in East Yorkshire, and its decoration suggests it may date to the 4th century.</p>	
<p>Examination Microscopic examination revealed gilding remaining on the front of the brooch, and textile pseudomorphs present in the corrosion products on the back of the brooch.</p> <p>Tests / analysis The brooch was examined using optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, and x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy.</p>	
<p>Justification for treatment Treatment was undertaken in order to remove dirt and soil remaining from burial, as well as to remove disfiguring corrosion. In order to enable future study the object was not given a protective surface coating.</p>	
<p>Cleaning The brooch was initially cleaned by submerging it in Industrial Methylated Spirits and cleaning with a soft brush. This was followed by careful glass bristle brushing to emphasize the surface decoration.</p>	
<p>Stabilisation N/A</p>	
<p>Reconstruction / repair N/A</p>	
<p>Loss compensation N/A</p>	

Other	
Packaging The object was packaged for return to its owner. Silica gel was not included in the packaging as it is unlikely it would be maintained upon return of the object.	
Condition after treatment The object is stable, and the excess soil and dirt was removed from the surface. The surface decoration has been emphasized through the careful glass bristle brushing.	
Student evaluation of treatment The object was successfully cleaned, and the textile pseudomorphs present on the back of the brooch were documented through scanning electron microscopic imaging. No gilding was damaged during the cleaning process.	
Recommendations for further care The object should be checked regularly for further corrosion. The object should be handled carefully to prevent dislodging any remaining gilding or damaging the pseudomorphs on the back of the brooch.	
Photography / other illustrations <i>Colour slides/prints enclosed</i>	Other documentation (analytical, object report, etc) XRF and SEM data enclosed
Student signature	Date
Staff signature	Date

Before Treatment



After Treatment

