An archaeology of dementia
Nyree Finlay*

* School of Humanities: Archaeology, University of Glasgow, UK (✉ Nyree.Finlay@glasgow.ac.uk)

Descriptive catalogue of Fiona Gorman dementia works: bi-compartment foil containers

Overall original foil container dimensions: Length 200mm; Width 13mm; Height 37mm; smaller compartment: length 70mm; width 115mm; larger compartment: length 85mm; width 115mm. Gorman label writing on reversed lid is landscape orientation unless specified below. All flint gravel finds are unwashed unless stated otherwise.

Unit 12
Bi-compartment foil container, squashed: smaller compartment: a large quartz water-rolled pebble fragment that takes most of the space that is packed with flint gravel pieces (MNI = 26), one schist pebble; larger compartment: 26 pieces of flint gravel, two other, one sandstone hone stone (break in the middle glued together, L 91mm; W 26 mm; Th 21mm). Finds bag (86 × 56mm): label with ‘Quartz Crystal’ in capitals in Gorman neat hand with fine black pen is part of a label cut from the side of a rectangular white label positioned in the middle of the finds bag. It contains one piece of brown quartz crystal (L30mm) and two transparent fragments (L 88mm; L 14mm).

Plastic 35mm film cannister with white circular label on the lid with “F7” (see Unit 85 below) in faded red marker pen and red small (Dia. 8mm) sticker on side of the middle. This contains two retouched flakes, eight flakes, two microliths and three microlith fragments and a piece of small fraction debitage. Non-flint finds comprise: one quartz flake and three small fraction chunks, one pitchstone flake and one quartzite flake.

Unit 24 (Figure 3:3)
Bi-compartment foil container: lid present. Original label B (in circle) date: 30-4-13 and M (in circle); the uppermost foil surface Gorman has written: “Flint Tools” in capitals. An earlier version appears scored out with zigzagging lines underneath, the only clear letter is N.
This is all written in black marker pen. Smaller compartment: four pieces of flint gravel, five quartz (two potential pareidolic faces), one pitchstone, one other; larger compartment: eight pieces of flint gravel, five quartz (one of these (Figure 3a) has a pareidolic face with two eyes and a mouth formed from vugs. Overall dimensions 31mm, W 27mm, Th 14mm), one pitchstone, two other, and one piece of rolled sea glass.

Unit 35 (Figure 3:2 upper container A)
Two stacked bi-compartment foil containers (upper: A; lower: B): Container A: rolled sheet of dot circular pattern kitchen roll laid across both compartments. Smaller compartment: five pieces of flint gravel, two quartzite. Single non-flint find is a flower petal; larger compartment: seven pieces of flint gravel, one beach pebble. Container B: Larger compartment: 1 piece of quartz, 4 other.

Unit 36 (Figure 3:7)
Bi-compartment foil container: lid present (foil surface Gorman has written “Flint Tools”). Liner is a perforated dot circular pattern folded kitchen roll sheet folded in half directly under the lid, and two sheets of the same dot circular pattern neatly folded in each of the compartments. Smaller compartment: 16 pieces of flint gravel, four other; larger compartment: 18 pieces of flint gravel, one other.

Unit 38 (Figure 3:8)
Bi-compartment foil container: lid present. Original label: handwritten “Brodick Roast Chicken 2/7/13”; foil surface (uppermost) Gorman has written in black marker pen “Flint; Tools Tools” with wavy line under Tool.s, all in capitals; the writing is landscape orientation). A possible face drawn on full stop and another dot added. Smaller compartment: 19 pieces of flint gravel. Larger compartment with a liner of a perforated dot circular pattern toilet roll sheet laid across the compartment and up both sides: 21 pieces of flint gravel; one granite.

Unit 53
Two stacked bi-compartment foil containers, lower tray empty. Dust and fluff particles present. No lid or liner. Smaller compartment: seven pieces of flint gravel; two quartz; four other; one pebble has an “x” scored on it at an intersecting inclusion; larger compartment: 11 pieces of flint gravel.
Unit 68 (Figure 3:4)
Bi-compartment foil container: the lid has original label: “Pudding B 11-6-13” on foil now outer surface Gorman has written “Flint” in capitals with exclamation mark on row below; portrait orientation. Smaller compartment: 13 pieces of flint gravel; one quartz with pareidolic eye inclusion; larger compartment: 15 pieces of flint gravel; one quartz with two eye-shaped vugs.

Unit 84 (Figure 3: 1)
Bi-compartment foil container: slightly squashed. Lid has original label B and M in circles at either side and date of 13-6-13. Gorman has written “Tools” in rough black marker near the top (portrait, one side) and now faded “Flint” in caps underneath. The smaller compartment contains: 12 pieces of flint gravel; one other with random white emulsion paint (probably drips from exterior building whitewash). The larger compartment has 18 pieces of flint gravel. There is a strong potential for pareidolic (face/eye) pieces in this assemblage.

Unit 85
Bi-compartment foil container: the smaller compartment contains two pieces of flint gravel; one other. Non-lithic finds: a small white feather and desiccated unidentified leaf stem. There is a transparent 35mm film plastic container (Dia 30mm; H 52mm). This is labelled “Microliths” on the container, the label is a complete, thin 5mm wide rectangular shape with rounded edges. The writing has overwritten a faded label and is in capitals and smudged black marker. Inside on a cotton ball base are seven loose flint archaeological finds: a needle point microlith, a blade, a flake (ink Gorman archaeological labelling on ventral “F7 CB”), a chunk and three pieces of small fraction debitage. F7 is the identifier used by Gorman for a Mesolithic scatter site at Balnagore, Arran (NR8979 3279; Gorman et al. 1993, 1995). The larger compartment has a liner made from sheets of dot perforated circular pattern kitchen roll which cover the inside of the compartment and fold out over the sides of the container. It contains 16 pieces of flint gravel, two quartz, eight other (one with random white paint spatters, probably drips of exterior building whitewash), one pitchstone. On top of this loose lithic assemblage is a small rectangular transparent probable cake container (85.6, cf Unit 25), it has two limpet shells stacked together inside up, one piece of what appears to be charred bog wood and a larger split piece of heavily water-rolled pitchstone (L 60mm).
Unit 86

Bi-compartment foil container: slightly squashed; smaller compartment is full.
Smaller compartment: 36 pieces of flint gravel. A trimmed piece of reused Christmas card (36mm by 15mm) label. Gorman was written “Flint.” in capitals on plain side. Larger compartment: 23 pieces of flint gravel, one split quartz pebble. A cut-out white sticker label (89mm by 4mm) Gorman has written “Quarry Clauchlands Point: 0559 3200(7)” [the (7) is a later addition). This label has been overwritten with black marker pen and poor letter formation. The earlier lettering is faded, the label appears to be unassociated with this site as many of these finds are from the gravel path.

Unit 87 (Figure 3: 6)

Bi-compartment foil container: smaller compartment. Liner comprises two larger rectangular white labels two arranged and two narrow cut label strips upright at either side to completely cover the interior surface. Loose contents: two pieces of flint gravel; one flint flake (L 13mm) possibly archaeological; five aphyric pitchstone chunks weathered and washed; a schist pebble with irregular inclusion. Within this compartment is an opaque 35mm film cannister with black lid labelled “MICROLYTHS” and two other small circular red stickers (Dia 8mm). On the lid of the cannister is a round white sticker (13mm) with F7 in rough black marker pen over what looks to be a faded original red pen F7. This contains 18 flint pieces comprising three microliths, six microlith fragments, two microburin and related, 6 pieces of small fraction debitage and a fresher larger secondary flake. There are also two pitchstone microliths and an edge damaged blade (“B97” small Gorman assemblage analysis label) and unmodified other small chip.

Larger compartment: nine pieces of flint gravel, one quartz, one other. There is also a small glue stick lid or similar (Dia 30mm; H 22mm) that has been decorated with a drawing of red asterisk stars around the outside of the top rim. Inside laying on a bed of cotton wool is a decayed square (15mm, H 7mm) plastic lid with tiny quartz grains inside facing upwards. There is a 4mm piece of white plastic.

Unit 88
Bi-compartment foil container: slightly squashed. Both compartments contain separate liners of perforated dot decoration kitchen roll sheets folded and neatly pressed into the compartments.

Smaller compartment: seven pieces of flint gravel; one flint primary flake and one split beach pebble indeterminate if archaeological; two flint thermal gravel flakes; two quartz; one aphyric pitchstone chunk; two other pebbles; larger compartment: 10 pieces of flint gravel, one struck flint pebble probable archaeological core piece; one quartz; two other rolled pebbles and one piece of slate. Non-lithic: scrunched up cotton wool with bright pink paint/nail varnish. Finds bag (73 x 49mm) containing three pieces of aphyric pitchstone, one other flake.

Unit 89 (Figure 3: 5)
Bi-compartment foil container: archaeological finds.
Smaller compartment: this contains three finds bags and an unwashed water-rolled pebble (max L 41mm). Upper finds bag (89a) is face down and labelled “Clauchlands Point Quarry 0559 3285” in black marker, Pencil No.37 3 N has been erased. Gorman labelling is neat. There is also a label with five microliths, two microburins and one broken microlith. The ‘5’ is a cut-out small over stickered label. There is a large red sticker label in the centre of the bag (18mm) with a matching one stuck on the inside of the bag. A small red circular label (8mm) on the top of the bag. This bag contains a small agate pebble; three flint microliths, five blade/flakes and fragments and two chunks; one quartz flake; one pitchstone flake. The second finds bag (89b) has no label, it has a small red (8mm) red sticker and flint primary flake and a bifacial arrowhead fragment. The third (89c) has a single large flint blade (L68mm).

Unit 90
Bi-compartment foil container: mixed gravel and other finds.
Smaller compartment: non-lithic finds of a length of rolled pink cotton and white check fabric ribbon held in place with white Kirby grip. The thin serrated edge from a wire bound lined notebook with a strip remnant of ripped pages; larger compartment: three pieces of gravel flint; four other probable driveway finds; one large quartz chunk with “31.” written in Gorman neat black marker pen near the corner of the piece. Unclear is this is a genuine archaeological site/finds number or more likely a geology collection reference number; one pitchstone chunk.
References

GORMAN, F., E. LAMBIE & C. BOWD. 1993. Machrie, Arran (Kilmory parish) knapping site. *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 1993: 79–80.

GORMAN, F., B. MURRAY & E. LAMBIE. 1995. Machrie, Arran (Kilmory parish). *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 1995: 72.