

## **REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

### **FALCONER MUSEUM**

#### **GROUND FLOOR:**

All display cases and open displays were checked for changes in condition of the contents.

No change noted from the previous report.

#### **Insect Traps:**

Trap 1: Mostly spiders (4) and woodlice (2) plus a small beetle, which does not look to be a museum pest species.

Trap 2: Empty

#### **FIRST FLOOR:**

##### **Falconer Room:**

The elephant skull still showing evidence of minor flaking of the bone surface in some areas.

##### **Mezzanine:**

##### **Environmental data:**

Reading from the Tiny Tag sensor in the Archaeology Case: 18.7°C 53.4%RH

#### **Insect traps:**

Trap 1: (near dressing up corner) contained 10x woodlice (the trap should be changed next visit)

Trap 2: (near RAF case) contained 3x woodlice and 1x spider, also couple of psocids (booklice)

All cases and open displays were checked, there were no obvious changes in relation to pests or instability from the previous report.

#### **ACTION: Next visit**

- Replace the blunder traps with new
- Clean the dust under the collection box in the ground floor religion case

## MUSEUM STORE

### GROUND FLOOR

#### Current visit:

The ground floor store was checked.

**Environmental sensor: 18.3°C 67.4%RH**

There were numerous dead woodlice on the floor below the geology cabinets and some evidence of damp and salt damage to a small section of wall plaster near the floor. The area does appear to have higher humidity levels, evidenced by the sensor reading and the presence of numerous woodlice.

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined. Many of the trays still have dust and small stone fragments in the base due to the drawers not having adequate softening and the contents not being separated.
- As time allows during visits we will aim to clean and line the trays to reduce this problem
- Softening was added to three of the drawers on this visit. 18.3.4; 18.3.10 and 18.4.12
- There is quite a noticeable accumulation of dust on the tops of the cabinets and other surfaces
- The Chairs will continue to be monitored for wood worm activity, no activity was noted on this visit.



Plastazote softening



Damp/Salt plaster damage

#### **ACTION: Next visit**

- Continue cleaning the trays to remove insect debris
- Add silica gel sachets to the pyrite affected specimens
- Add softening to reduce physical damage where necessary
- General clean to remove dust accumulation

## GROUND FLOOR FOYER AREA OPPOSITE OFFICE

Large incised stone in case. Acc. No. 1992-16

Monitored – no change this visit, but comparative photographs were taken

## FIRST FLOOR STORE

### Insect Trap Check 22/08/2023

Moth lures all clean, no evidence of flying clothes moth

Blunder traps are located the radiators at front and rear of store – 3x spiders

**Environmental sensor: Stack 6: 18.8°C 59%RH**

A walk-through visual check was made for all the stacks and shelving bays.

- Taxidermy, stacks 14 & 15 appear stable no evidence of live moth or beetle. Surface dust on the shelves and some broken hairs but otherwise in fair condition.
- Entomology cabinets and contents, stack 11, historic damage especially in unglazed drawers, appears stable
- 11.9.1 Model rattan house on stilts, the underside shows some evidence of active woodworm, small mound of wood powder noted under the model. This item will need to be treated by a localised insect treatment application, the model is too large to fit into the freezer.
- Art Racks: The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked. No new damage noted.



11.9.1 Rattan house model

All the stacks and bays were checked along with a randomly selected check inside closed boxes and similar for the trays from stack 7

During the checks, there were items showing some evidence of surface loss, mostly from objects having iron components, such as coopered items with iron bands or other attachments. The losses mainly involved minor flaking of loose surface rust onto the shelf. No active or new flash rusting was noted.

Dust accumulation is becoming noticeable in some areas.

**ACTION: Next visit**

- Specimens and shelving require basic housekeeping measures to remove dust accumulations.
- Treat the Model house for woodworm
- Start a preventive programme to freeze some of the entomology drawers with ill-fitting or no glazing, especially those showing (probably historic) specimen damage.

**Jeanette Pearson ACR**

High Life Highland Conservation Service

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

Highland Folk Museum

29th August 2023