

REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 16th November 2023

FALCONER MUSEUM

GROUND FLOOR:

All display cases and open displays were checked for changes in condition of the contents.
No change was noted from the previous report.

The only exception being the large domestic case, the packets of washing blue appear to be losing their structural integrity allowing the contents to spread.



Insect Traps:

Trap 1: Mostly spiders and woodlice

Trap 2: Woodlice

New blunder traps were placed

FIRST FLOOR:

Falconer Room:

The elephant skull still showing evidence of minor flaking of the bone surface in some areas. More dust noted although some is from the extraneous material present in the internal structure of the skull.

Mezzanine:

Environmental data:

Reading from the Tiny Tag sensor in the Archaeology Case: 18.5°C 46.2%RH (please see the attached environmental report)

The floor area below the skirting boards in site of the 'Dressing up' corner area to the front of the building shows plaster dust , grit and some old insect frass accumulating below the skirting boards. Possible high moisture content induced deterioration of the wall fabric behind the skirting, also indicated by the presence of woodlice. The dust and debris was cleaned away so that the area can be checked for new accumulation on our next visit.



Plaster debris



Contents of the blunder trap

Insect traps:

Trap 1: (near dressing up corner) contained 12+ woodlice and large spider

Trap 2: (near RAF case) contained 5+ woodlice and 1x spider, also couple of psocids (booklice)

There looks to have been some predation of the dead woodlice, probably by spiders.

New blunder traps were placed.

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

ACTION: Next visit

- Monitor the level of insect (woodlice) numbers.

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, the sensor reading was 13.4°C 63.1%RH.

The dead woodlice were cleaned away so that the area can be monitored next visit for re-occurrence. The tops of the cabinets were vacuumed to remove dust.

- 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
- The Chairs will continue to be monitored for wood worm activity, no activity was noted on this visit.

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

GROUND FLOOR FOYER AREA OPPOSITE OFFICE

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

Monitored – no change this visit

FIRST FLOOR STORE

Insect Trap Check

Moth lures all clean, no evidence of flying clothes moth

Blunder traps are located the radiators at front and rear of store – New blunder traps were placed.

Environmental sensor: Stack 6: Please see the attached environmental report

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. Surfaces were vacuumed to remove dust accumulation.
- 1986.77 European Rabbit, powder around the feet noted, plinth cleaned to remove, check next visit.

- 13.10.2 Coopered barrel has white salt deposits appearing on the lower iron bands, cleaned to remove.
- 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. Will need to be treated by a localised insect treatment application, the model is too large to fit into the freezer. Dust was removed to allow monitoring for next visit.
- Art Racks: The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked. No new damage noted.
- The Silica gel was replaced in the Archaeological metal-work boxes to maintain a low humidity environment.



White salt deposit



Dust cleaned away from feet and plinth, monitoring.

All the stacks and bays were checked along with a randomly selected checks inside closed boxes and trays.

ACTION: Next visit

- Continue 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

24th November 2023