



REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 18th July 2024

FALCONER MUSEUM

GROUND FLOOR:

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

Ground Floor Insect Traps:

Trap 1: Spiders

Trap 2: Spider and small flies and booklice.

Change traps next visit.

FIRST FLOOR:

Falconer Room:

The cases are all stable and clean, no change apparent.

The elephant skull, no further flaking of the bone surface.

Mezzanine:

Environmental data: sensor reading in Archaeology case: 21°C and 59.2% RH

Insect traps: All traps were changed for new.

Trap 3: (near dressing up corner): numerous woodlice (x15). This corner of the mezzanine shows a build up of dust and particulate debris emanating from beneath the skirting boards.

Trap 4: (near RAF case): 1x woodlouse, 2x silverfish,

these are all indicators of higher humidity and are incidental rather than serious museum pest species.

All cases and open displays were checked, there are no obvious changes in relation to pests.

One possible source of concern is the Aurochs skull in the Archaeology case, a deposition layer of dust was visible on the upper glass shelves of the case, closer examination suggested that the dust came from the surface of the horns of the Aurochs Skull. The surface appears friable and is shedding particles. This was visually checked during the visit, debris accumulation does not appear to be any worse, the surface of the Aurochs horn shows no significant change from that noted during the previous visit.

Low level tarnish of the silver medals in the Agriculture case, not serious, they will require simple cleaning in the future.

Commerce case: One of the farthings, looks to have a very small spot of potential bonze disease, I haven't done a close examination. Would need to confirm.



Trap 3: woodlice



Dust & debris near trap



Debris from Aurochs



Medals, silver tarnish.

ACTION: Next visit

- Maintain a check on the environment and the pest monitoring of the gallery spaces.
- Monitor the Aurochs skull, for any further deterioration. open the case and clean the area and continue to monitor
- Check the farthing in the Commerce case

MUSEUM STORE

GROUND FLOOR

Current visit:

The ground floor store was checked.

Environmental sensor reading: 17°C 71%RH

Insect Blunder traps: one beetle present, possible pest species, will identify next visit.

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- The specimens affected by pyrite decay in trays 18.3.1 and 18.3.2 and in several of the other trays are bagged and separated but are continuing to deteriorate, these will continue to be monitored.

ACTION: Next visit

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

GROUND FLOOR FOYER AREA OPPOSITE OFFICE

Large incised stone in case. Acc. No. 1992-16
Monitored and photographed – no change this visit

FIRST FLOOR STORE

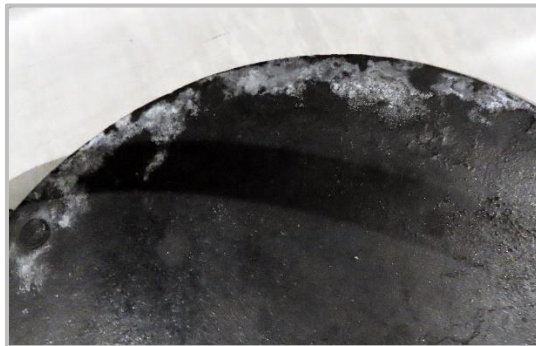
Insect Trap Check - Woodlice (x1) and silverfish (x2)
Moth lures all clean, no evidence of flying clothes moth
Blunder traps are located the radiators at front and rear of store
Environmental sensor: Stack 6: 18°C 63%RH

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.
- Shelf 13.2.3: woodworm to rear panel of bird (partridge) diorama 1873:26, this has been noted previously. There is no dust to suggest current activity, will continue to monitor.
- Stack 7: Percentage check of trays
- 9.2.2 Painted Iron Trivet (1978.08A) showing white (fungal or salt) powdery accretion on the surface, this was easily wiped away, but unsure as to its cause. Otherwise the item is robust and in good condition. Further white accretion noted during this visit, it does purely appear to a surface issue it does not look to be causing corrosion of the metal surface. Continue to monitor.



Iron Trivet (1978.08A)



- Art Racks: The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked. No new damage noted.

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

ACTION: Next visit

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

Comments:

The 18th July collections check was carried out in conjunction with hosting a visiting researcher. All cases and shelves were visually checked, however, no remedial actions were completed during this visit.

Jeanette Pearson ACR

High Life Highland Conservation Service

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

Highland Folk Museum

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