

REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 26th November 2024

FALCONER MUSEUM

GROUND FLOOR:

Environmental data: please see the separate environmental report.

Ground Floor Insect Traps:

- All traps were checked and replaced with new traps.

Contents of the traps were mostly spiders and a few psocids, not necessarily museums pests but indicators of higher levels of humidity.

GROUND FLOOR:

All cases and displays were visually checked.

No new changes to condition were noted

FIRST FLOOR:

Falconer Room:

The cases are all appear stable and clean.

- The elephant skull was checked no new suspicious accumulations of dust were noted.

Mezzanine:

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

- All the taxidermy appears to be stable.
- The Aurochs skull in the Archaeology case - there was a deposition layer of dust, visible on the glass shelves and stands in the case, closer examination indicated that the dust came from the surface of the horn cores of the Aurochs Skull. The surface is shedding particles. During this visit, more dust was cleaned from the shelves and mounts for monitoring purposes.

ACTION: Next visit

- Maintain a check on the environment and the pest monitoring of the gallery spaces.
- Monitor the Elephant skull, Aurochs skull, Shark jaw for any further deterioration.
Continue to monitor.

MUSEUM STORE

GROUND FLOOR

Current visit:

The ground floor store was checked.

the sensor reading was 62.5%RH and 13°C (see separate environmental report)

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- Drawers 18.9.2 and 18.9.3, 18.8.2 and 18.8.3 containing mixed palaeontological material was cleaned, relined or had softening placed around certain specimens to reduce potential friction damage.



18.9.2



18.8.2

- The furniture was checked, there is still a white bloom on some of the chairs by the rear wall. This has not changed from the last visit.

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

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. Minor surface dust on the shelves and broken hair fragments from the mounted trophy heads but otherwise in fair condition.
- Stack 13: the lower band from a coopered barrel is showing signs of salt efflorescence, this is a recent change.



Stack 13.10.2



Salt efflorescence, corrosion and flaking of the iron

- Stack 12: A selection of herbarium storage boxes were opened and checked, all were clean.
- Stack 11: some of the entomological cabinets where the glazing for the drawers is damaged or missing were covered over the front with polythene as a preventive measure against pest ingress.
- Stack 7: A percentage check of the trays was carried out.
- Stack 6: Silica gel change. Reconditioned silica gel at 40%RH was placed in the boxes of archaeological metalwork, saturated gel taken away for re-conditioning.
- Art Racks: The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked. The large portrait of James Black Esq is showing some changes to the surface, there is a fine layer of dust that reflects the light giving a glitter like appearance, I am unsure as to the cause, it could be deterioration of the varnish layer. The surface shows small circular marks, possibly linked to damp/mould which also suggests ongoing deterioration.
- Art Racks: There is a framed photograph of James 5th Earl of Fife in particularly poor condition, with mould and debris inside the glazing, this may be a pre-existing issue from before it came into the museum collections, however, it is causing disfigurement and damage to the photograph.
- The Australian Speckled Ducks diorama was checked, no change was noted from the previous observations.

ACTION: Next visit

- Specimens and shelving require ongoing basic housekeeping measures to remove dust accumulations.
- Check all highlighted objects/ specimens

Jeanette Pearson ACR

High Life Highland Conservation Service

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

Highland Folk Museum

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