

REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 6th February 2025

FALCONER MUSEUM

Environmental data: please see the separate environmental report.

Ground Floor Insect Traps: All traps were checked and replaced with new traps.

GROUND FLOOR:

All cases and displays were visually checked. Some cases were opened to allow repositioning of contents. Items that were or had been previously noted to be out of position, such as too near the edges of shelves or not central on their mounts were re-positioned. This included items in the medical case, religion case and the marine cases.

Shark jaw , no further deterioration appears stable, the jaw was repositioned further onto the shelf.

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. No Change.
- The Aurochs skull in the Archaeology case - there was a fine deposition layer of dust, visible on the glass shelves, 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.
- The wall behind the case has significant water staining, probably from the window. The window was dry and free of condensation on the day of the visit. The staining was mostly towards the right side of the rear of the case.



Medical case



repositioning



Wall behind the Archaeology case

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.

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- Drawers 18.1.3 – 18.1.9 ; 18.2.1 ; 18.4.2 ; 18.4.3 ; 18.4.4 and 18.3.12 also 18.9.5 and 18.9.6 containing mixed palaeontological material was cleaned, relined or had softening placed around certain specimens to reduce potential friction damage.



Geological



18.1.5 Falconer material

- 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. There was dust accretion around the edges of some of the old exit holes, will continue to monitor.

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 12: Rearranged some of the framed prints to make more room for storage of a moulded gilt frame with portrait MORMS.1985-118n – John Simpson, added more softening.



Stack 12.11.2



- Stack 12: A selection of herbarium storage boxes were opened and checked, all were clean.
- Stack 7: A percentage check of the trays was carried out.
- Art Racks: The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked.
- The Australian Speckled Ducks diorama was checked, no change was noted from the previous observations.

ACTION: Next visit

- Add more interleaved softening to separate the framed prints shelves 12.11.1 – 12.11.4, 12.10.1 – 12.10.4 and 12.9.1
- Specimens and shelving require ongoing basic housekeeping measures to remove dust accumulations.
- Check all highlighted objects/ specimens

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High Life Highland Conservation Service
Inverness Museum & Art Gallery
Highland Folk Museum

24th February 2025