

## FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE

### Collections Condition Check visit 21st August 2025

#### MUSEUM STORE

**Environmental data:** please see the separate environmental report.

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

#### GROUND FLOOR

##### Current visit:

Collections in the ground floor store were checked for any obvious change in condition.

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- Drawers A10 – A12; containing mixed palaeontological material had softening placed around certain specimens to reduce potential friction damage.



Basic softening layer

- The furniture above the geology units was inspected, 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. No new dust, noted this visit.

#### ACTION: Next visit

- Continue cleaning the trays to remove incidental insect debris
- Add silica gel sachets to the pyrite affected specimens
- Continue to 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.

The stone still has the white surface (salt) deposit but this does not appear to be changing.



## FIRST FLOOR STORE

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

- All objects previously highlighted as having potential issues were checked.
- Taxidermy, stacks 14 & 15 appear stable no evidence of live moth or beetle.
- Stack 13: the head of one of the skin rugs showed some minor physical damage, the head was protruding from the shelf. The rug was repositioned to reduce any potential further damage.
- The Mountain Hare from shelf 15.4. was removed from the freezer and left to acclimatise.
- Stack 12: Added more interleaved softening to separate and reduce friction damage to the framed prints. Carried out a search for specified RNLI framed prints and plaques, upon request.



Snake skins



Affected woollen baize

- Stack 11: A percentage check of the entomology cabinets and drawers was carried out.
- Stack 7: A selection of trays were inspected, all appear clean and stable, specific checks were made on some of the natural history items in Bays 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18 and 17. Tray 7.19.1 contains a woollen baize backed snakeskin, old moth damage and pupal case remains were noted on the surface, there does not appear to be current activity. Will monitor again next visit.
- Stack 7: Shelf 7.5.3 two wax seal impressions show evidence of deterioration, there is crystallisation and separation of the component waxes. This appears to be old damage that has been progressing over time.
- Stack 6: Three Burghead stone fragments MOMRS 1981.170 a, b and c were made available for examination by two researchers as requested, also, access to the plaster cast of the Burghead Bull 1896.6d
- Art Racks: The frames/artworks checked, no changes noted.

**ACTION: Next visit**

- Add more interleaved softening to separate the framed prints shelves stack 12.
- Specimens and shelving, ongoing basic housekeeping to remove dust accumulations.
- Change the silica gel for the archaeological metalwork.
- Check all highlighted objects/ specimens

**FALCONER MUSEUM BUILDING**

**Environmental data:** please see the separate environmental report.

**Insect Traps:** All traps were checked and replaced with new traps. The trap located on the mezzanine near the dressing up area, is still attracting numerous woodlice.

**GROUND FLOOR:**

- Each of the cases and displays were visually checked. No apparent additional changes were noted to any of the objects on display except for specific issues highlighted in previous reports.
- The mirror backed open display of mixed taxidermy and social history was manually checked, no condition issues were found.

**FIRST FLOOR:****Falconer Room:**

The cases all appear stable and clean.

- The elephant skull was checked no new suspicious accumulations of dust were noted.
- The cases were clean, no changes.

**Mezzanine:**

- All the case contents on the mezzanine and the open displays were visually checked, there are no obvious changes in relation to pests or other forms of deterioration associated with material type, except for specific issues previously highlighted in earlier reports.
- The Mammals and Birds taxidermy cases were visually inspected using a torch, open display specimens were manually checked, they all appear to be stable.
- The Aurochs skull in the Archaeology case - there was a no more dust apparent during this visit. The only other point to note for condition monitoring purposes is the split in the upper surface of the skull, this is old damage, however, it should be regularly checked for any signs of movement or deterioration.



Aurochs skull top view

**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.

**Jeanette Pearson ACR**

High Life Highland Conservation Service

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

Highland Folk Museum

29th August 2025