

FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE

Collections Condition Check visit 5th November 2025

MUSEUM STORE

Environmental data: please see the separate environmental report.

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

One adult moth, probably a Brown House moth (*Hoffmannophila pseudospretella*) was noted in the first floor store.

GROUND FLOOR

Current visit:

Ground floor store collections were checked for any obvious change in condition.

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- Drawers E1 – E5; containing mixed palaeontological material had softening placed under the loosely carded specimens to reduce potential movement and 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. The bloom was cleaned from the legs and under seat surfaces with a soft dry cloth, we will monitor to see if it re-occurs. No new wood worm dust noted this visit.



White residue removed

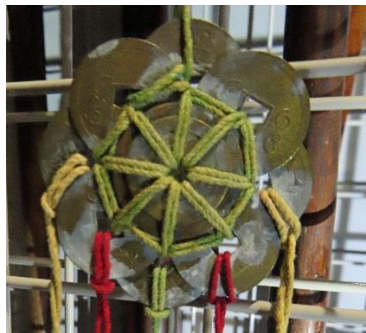
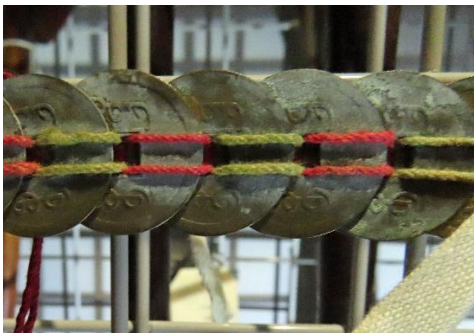
ACTION: Next visit

- 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

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.
- The Mountain Hare from shelf 15.4. was replaced to its location after freezing treatment was completed.
- Stacks 12 & 13 - no obvious changes noted
- Stacks 10 & 11 – no obvious changes noted (entomology drawers checked)
- Stacks 8 & 9 – Foreign weapons, there is a 'sword made from perforated Chinese coins which is showing a surface bloom which is disfiguring, this could eventually develop into more serious corrosion. This is probably not new damage but now it has been noted we will monitor.



Thin film of surface alteration/ corrosion over some areas of the coins

- Stack 7: All trays were inspected, all appear clean and stable, specific note was made of were made of 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, checked no current activity.
- Stacks 5 & 6 - no obvious changes noted
- Stacks 3 & 4 – Checked edges of rolled textiles - no obvious changes noted.
- Stacks 1 & 2 – Checked selection of the hanging costume - no obvious changes noted
- 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:

- The Tyvek covers have been removed from the display cases.
- Each of the cases and contents 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, there was some dust and debris but no new suspicious accumulations were noted.
- One Museum beetle *Anthrenus (verbasci)* larva was found on the edge of the blunder trap, still alive. It may have entered via the chimney, but we will continue to monitor.
- The cases were clean, no changes.



Museum beetle larva

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, no new dust or debris that would indicate a pest issue.

ACTION: Next visit

- Maintain a check on the environment and the pest monitoring of the gallery spaces.
- Check the area near the elephant skull for any further occurrence of dermestid beetle larvae.
- 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

5th November 2025