

FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE

Collections Condition Check visit 19th February 2026

FALCONER MUSEUM BUILDING

Environmental data: please see the separate environmental report.

The museum heating was non-operational at the time of the visit, temperature low, average 5°C.

Insect Traps: All traps were checked and replaced with new traps. Very little activity noted.

GROUND FLOOR:

- The large Trade case showed evidence of internal movement, cause unknown.
 - Leaflets, product boxes and signs including the enamel 'Lipton's Tea' sign were displaced, had fallen over or been knocked of their stands.
 - The soap and wrapping from a bar of 'Preservene' looked to have been nibbled, this is recent damage the packing paper was still whole in images taken Nov 2023, Feb 2024 and May 2025.
 - A small packet of 'Reckitts dolly blue' (1987.124) was missing, the other packet of 'Reckitts Paris Blue' was overturned with the contents spilled onto the case floor.
 - Polystyrene balls had been displaced out of the milk bottle and were loose on the base of the case, the acid free tissue stopper had been removed.

The suspicion is that a mouse or other rodent had gained entry to the case. The case is not a free-standing secure case, it is a construction built into the corner of the gallery with secure doors to the front. The case has a raised floor level with two open recesses one at each end of the case, it is also likely that there is a space between the rear panel of the case and the wall. A potential point of entry is the heating pipe grill on the mezzanine balcony above the case. There was no other evidence of mice, no droppings or smell. The only other option is entry by persons using the building, although, this is unlikely to account for the damage to the soap wrapper.



Feb 2024



Feb 2026 (Packet of Reckitts blue is missing / moved)



Feb 2024



Feb 2026

Fallen objects were re-positioned and placed back on their stands, and the case checked.

- All the other display cases and contents were visually checked. No 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.
- The hide covered leather trunk used as a donations box, is deteriorating. The leather is brittle and is fragmenting, it is separating from the wooden carcass. (the chest is probably a display prop, not part of the accessioned collection)

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

ACTION: Next visit

- Check the trade case for new movement or changes to the display.
- 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.

MUSEUM STORE

Environmental data: please see the separate environmental report.

Insect Traps: All traps were checked and replaced with new traps. Very little activity noted.

GROUND FLOOR

Current visit:

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

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- Drawers 18.5.6 and 18.5.7 containing mixed palaeontological material had softening placed under the loosely carded specimens to reduce potential movement and friction damage.
- The furniture above the geology units was inspected, no new wood worm dust noted this visit.

ACTION: Next visit

- Continue cleaning the trays to remove incidental insect debris
- 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.
- Stacks 13 - no evidence of live moth or beetle, no obvious changes noted
- Stack 12 – Interleaving and softening placed between the framed prints, bays 10 & 9.
- Stacks 10 & 11 – no obvious changes noted (selected entomology drawers checked)
- Stack 6 - Archaeological metalwork, silica gel was changed for new conditioned gel.
- Stacks 3 & 4 – Checked the 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 recent changes noted.



Stack 12 bay 10 shelf 3: Before



Stack 12 bay 10 shelf 3: After

ACTION: Next visit

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

Jeanette Pearson ACR

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

26th February 2026