

# REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021

## Museum Store

### GROUND FLOOR

Contains: mostly non-organic material (except for a few pieces of furniture).

- Archaeological stonework – querns etc
- Architectural stonework
- Geology & Palaeontology, trays in cabinets.
- Furniture, mostly chairs
- Burgh Weights and Measures
- Sewing machines
- Marble Statue
- Loans boxes

All appears stable, most items are covered or stored in cabinets/trays although larger (heavy) items are on the floor. No obvious pest issues.

The area is also used to store collections storage materials as well as other miscellaneous materials and equipment.

#### **ACTION:**

Marble statue of 'Shakespeare Wood Spirit' needs to have a Tyvek dust cover.



Quern stones



Palaeontology



Marble Statue



Weights & Measures



Palaeontology & Geology



## FIRST FLOOR, MAIN STORE

A walk-through check was made for all the stacks.

Three pheromone lure traps for flying clothes moths were placed in the store to monitor activity:

- Trap 1 hung on the art rack near the end of Stack 2, (Textiles)
- Trap 2 next to the art racks opposite stacks 14 & 15 (Taxidermy)
- Trap 3 front end of the stack 14.

Blunder traps for crawling insects were placed by the radiators at front and rear of store.

### Environmental data on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021

23.1°C, 45.5% rh Tiny tag data logger in stack 1, battery replaced.

22.9°C, 44%RH (2:45pm) Stack 11

### Art Racks

7.2 Landscape painting with steeple (1996.90d) has at least two deep cracks extending through the paint & varnish layers. Located to the lower right corner, the fragments are raised, but given their position will probably not separate easily. The damage may well be pre-existing it can be seen in images taken in 2016, although the damage was not as prominent.

All other material on the art racks looks unchanged.



1996.90d Landscape with church and steeple.



### Stack 1

1.5.2 6 x historical leather bindings - recommend boxes are made.

### Stack 4

Bindings, 3 books to assess

4.4.1 2 x paper-back , 1 x reback

### Stack 5

Bindings

5.3.3 / 5.3.4 Large outsize volumes

**5.3.3** Red volume from 1906 spine and boards collapsing

**5.3.4** Metal spine bars broken, pages loose, nothing supporting volume.  
bindings approximately 412 x 412 x 152mm

**5.5.5 - 5.6.1**

Several damaged books are in polyester enclosures to help protect the volumes, which are not an exact fit and could cause potential micro-climate inside.

**ACTION:** There is no air ventilation inside the polyester enclosures, so recommend hole punching the polyester to help aid ventilation and minimise micro-climates.

**ACTION:** Further assessment of bindings if required.

## **Stack 6**

**6.3.3** All the saturated silica gel in the boxed archaeological metalwork was replaced with new reconditioned gel to 35% RH. Listed for action in the previous report.

## **Stack 11**

**11.2.1** Hawk moth collection 3/5 uncovered – drawer requiring new Perspex cover. Several of the insect drawers and display boxes have incomplete lids or covers.

## **Stack 14**

**14.10.3 & 14.11.3** One Basket and some wooden slats, were wrapped in polythene and placed in the freezer to treat for active woodworm. Woodworm issues were listed for action in the previous report.

**Stack 13,14 & 15** Taxidermy specimens show no obvious signs of new insect activity.

## **FALCONER MUSEUM**

Environmental data: 23.4°C, 44.4% RH

The exhibits high-lighted in the previous report (November 2020) as having potential issues were checked, no changes were noted.

Insect traps were placed by the music display on the ground floor and on the balcony area by the Tortiphant Sculpture to monitor insect activity.

## **The Main Gallery and Balcony**

There is a lot of light coming in from the sky light, some of the exhibits in the cases are light sensitive and will fade over time. The Museum is likely to be closed for an extended period and whilst the collections secure in the display cases they can still be affected by exposure to light. The central skylight allows bright daylight/sunlight into the gallery which will cause fading in susceptible

materials. The cases currently exhibiting a buddhist manuscript, chemist book, photos, taxidermy and textiles are most at risk.

**ACTION:** Suggest a cover for the top and front section of each of the cases, using Tyvek material off a roll, to protect from daylight and fading. To be done within the month, as a high priority.

**The Tortiphant Sculpture** showed signs of major new insect/rodent damage, the most likely culprits are mice. The potential point of access could be the balcony floor grills.

The main areas attacked are the head and legs, the raised detail has been nibbled, taking off the top layers of Papier Mache. There was plenty of debris from the head area and rear feet areas, however not any noticeable signs of mouse droppings.



Tortiphant Head & Debris



Front Leg

**ACTION:** Requested that the sculpture be moved to the store, but also to install rodent boxes in the museum galleries.

As an interim precaution insect traps were placed near the Tortiphant.

The handling textiles located in the same area were checked for pest activity, none was found.

### **Recommendations**

A return visit in the next month to cover the cases and to check on the condition of the Tortiphant.

Richard Aitken ACR, Jeanette Pearson ACR  
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15<sup>th</sup> June 2021