

REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT FEBRUARY 24th 2022

Museum Store GROUND FLOOR

Area not checked on this visit.

ACTION: Next visit

- Marble statue of 'Shakespeare Wood Spirit' needs to have a Tyvek dust cover.
- Additional softening for some of the palaeontology trays
- Freeze or treat chair for wood worm

FIRST FLOOR

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

Three pheromone lure traps for flying clothes moths are located as follows:

- Trap 1 hung on the art rack 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 are located the radiators at front and rear of store.

Trap Check 24/02/2022

Moth lures all clean, no evidence of flying clothes moth

Blunder traps clean.

Environmental data, sensor readings:

Tinytag data logger From Stack 1	15.5°C / 40% RH
HLH handheld thermohygrometer (used for comparative purposes)	20°C / 34% RH

It is recommended to get the tiny tags re-calibrated, calibration costs around £80; <https://atp-instrumentation.co.uk/collections/calibration-services/products/humidity-meter-calibration-certificate-traceable>

Temperature as measured by the handheld thermohygrometer was higher than ideal for a store with mixed collections and is likely to encourage pest activity. The radiator thermostat controls were turned down slightly to reduce this. Reducing the room temperature will also help to increase the % relative humidity to a level above 40% RH.

Stacks 1-7 General check, all are clean, no changes noted from the previous visit

7.18.11 – Drawer containing fluid preserved natural history specimens.

Trays were purchased and placed in-situ to contain potential spills from the sealed case displays of wet specimens.

The damaged wet specimen remains in the fume cupboard, I will try to find a specialist to look at this item and ascertain if the specimen can be conserved and whether the case can be repaired or a new acrylic sealed case unit would need to be sourced.

Stack 8 – 15 General check, all are clean, no changes noted from the previous visit. Stacks 13,14 & 15 Taxidermy specimens show no obvious signs of new insect activity.

There are several wooden objects with potential for active woodworm, these will be carefully checked on the next visit, which will be scheduled during the adult emergence/flight season for anobid beetles (common woodworm).

ACTION: Next visit

- In depth insect activity check for all vulnerable organic collections.
- Check store temperatures/ RH, adjust heating if required.

FALCONER MUSEUM DISPLAYS

Environmental data: Sensor readings 17.1°C 40.8 %RH

A request had been made by the client to check the condition of the Bronze age leaf shaped sword (Ref: 1992.20) on display in the balcony archaeology case.

The sword is in 4 fragments displayed to show the shape and form of the sword. The surface is smooth with a good even patina. The individual sword fragments appear to be robust, in cross section the internal copper alloy metal is solid, compact and not showing any obvious signs of corrosion.

There is a small lighter green area approx. 10mm x 5mm on the upper surface to the shoulder area near the tang, this may represent a small, localised outbreak which had been historically active prior to previous treatment of the sword. Currently, it looks to be stable.



Upper surface



Lower surface

However, looking at the surfaces of the sword fragments in contact with the display fabric, there were some very small surface indentations with pale green corrosion which may indicate recent instability. These areas can be locally treated to stabilise any active corrosion, but the sword fragments would need to be properly examined under the microscope and treated in the laboratory.

I would also advise that when the sword fragments are re-displayed we either place a clear polyester barrier between the surface of the sword and the display fabric, or change the display fabric for inert plastazote foam. The purple display fabric is not of museum quality.

Additionally, I recommend that the small copper alloy and enamel heraldic pendant should also be treated for active bronze disease, there is a pale powdery efflorescence visible on the surface. This item was highlighted in a previous report as a potential object for treatment.

The Tiny tag T/RH sensor has been moved from the Falconer room and placed inside the archaeology case to measure environmental levels and fluctuations.

Other actions:

- The Elephant skull was covered as requested with a Tyvek dust sheet.
- The open display otter (balcony) was given a dust cover
- On the ground floor the Otter in the Temporary mixed display was also covered.
- The exhibits high-lighted in the previous report (September 2021) as having potential issues were checked, no changes were noted.
- Insect traps placed by the music display on the ground floor and on the balcony area were checked no new activity noted.

To reduce the possibility of pest issues developing, we advise that the 'Dressing up' clothing, much of which is woollen based fabric, be removed from display, bagged and treated by freezing.

ACTION: Next visit

- Monitor for pest activity.
- Check environmental data from the archaeology case
- Remove and Freeze treat the 'dressing up' clothes.

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02/03/2022

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