

REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 1st June 2023

FALCONER MUSEUM

All display cases and open displays were checked for changes in condition of the contents.

GROUND FLOOR DISPLAYS

- Religion case, the wooden church collection box has been replaced after treatment by freezing, however, the base of the case needs cleaning of residual wood dust.
- The large multi-display case 'Forres for a thing' - has a couple of small changes.
 - A grinder is showing some instability of the surface paint layer, there is minor flaking and loss.
 - A package of Dolly blue has some of the blue powder outside its wrapping.
- Insect blunder traps checked - no pest species noted.



Dolly Blue



Grinder

FIRST FLOOR DISPLAYS

- Falconer Room – No change all appears stable
- Balcony displays – Archaeology case tiny tag sensor readings 20.4°C and 45.3%RH, the sensor by the post office sorting unit 20.8°C and 48.7%RH, both within acceptable parameters.



The insect blunder traps were checked, the trap located in the 'dressing up corner' contained the bodies of 7 woodlice, these may be coming from behind the skirting board, there is plaster dust / debris visible from underneath the wood. Woodlice are not specifically museum pests but are an indicator of damp conditions which they require to survive.

There was a water leak stain noted under the window behind the Archaeology case and another under the window behind the taxidermy case during the previous visit. It may be worth checking the moisture content in the wall plaster.

The display cases were assessed to ascertain which would benefit from having ProSORB cassettes to help stabilise and maintain a set humidity. I identified three that would be improved:

- Archaeology case
- Silver & Silversmiths case
- Commerce & industry case (two small copper alloy tokens/coins showing instability)

The cases do not appear to have separate drawers for RH control cassettes, so the assumption is that the cassette would normally be located underneath the base level display board. A little further investigation is required.

ACTION: Next visit

- Maintain environmental checks
- Vacuum and remove the wood dust from the religion case.
- Lift a base board in one of the cases to check for existing humidity cassettes.

MUSEUM STORE

GROUND FLOOR

Current visit:

The ground floor store was not checked, there were visiting researchers checking fossil material in that area.

ACTION: Next visit

- Continue cleaning the trays to remove insect debris
- Add silica gel sachets to the pyrite affected specimens
- Add softening to reduce physical damage where necessary

GROUND FLOOR FOYER AREA OPPOSITE OFFICE

Large incised stone in case. Acc. No. 1992-16

Monitored – no change this visit.

FIRST FLOOR STORE

Insect Trap Check 01/06/2023

Moth lures all clean, no evidence of flying clothes moth

Blunder traps are located the radiators at front and rear of store – no pest species only spiders.

Bay 6.3.2: T/ RH Sensor: 19.2°C and 49.2%RH

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

- All the natural history taxidermy mounts were checked for signs of active moth or beetle damage, no dust frass or other debris was noted.
- Entomology drawers also checked – no new damage noted.
- **Stack 9: 9.5.6** Spear with red hair binding on the shaft was shedding hairs, probably due to brittle condition rather than being insect related.
- **Art Racks:** The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked. No new damage noted. The vent cover on the far wall had been removed and was on the floor.
- Between Stacks 2 and 3 some of the taping from the ceiling was loose and hanging down, plaster fragments and dust were falling onto the floor near the textiles.
- Between stacks 1 and 2 the collar fitting around the light bulb was stained and discoloured (water, heat)? The bulb looked to be new LED, so it may be old damage.

ACTION: Next visit

- Specimens and shelving require basic housekeeping measures to remove dust accumulations.
- Start a preventive programme to freeze some of the entomology drawers with ill-fitting or no glazing, especially those showing (probably historic) specimen damage.

Jeanette Pearson ACR

Conservation Officer

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

Highland Folk Museum

13th June 2023