

REPORT: FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE, VISIT 2nd May 2024

FALCONER MUSEUM

GROUND FLOOR:

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

Ground Floor Insect Traps: All traps were changed for new.

Trap 1: Spiders and woodlice

Trap 2: Clean

FIRST FLOOR:

Falconer Room:

The cases are all stable and clean, no change apparent.

The elephant skull, no further flaking of the bone surface.

Mezzanine:

Environmental data:

Please see the separate environmental report.

Insect traps: All traps were changed for new.

Trap 3: (near dressing up corner): woodlice ,

Trap 4: (near RAF case): House fly, woodlice, silverfish,

these are all indicators of higher humidity and are incidental rather than serious museum pest species.

All cases and open displays were checked, there are no obvious changes in relation to pests.

One possible source of concern is the Aurochs skull in the Archaeology case, a deposition layer of dust was visible on the upper glass shelves of the case, closer examination suggested that the dust came from the surface of the horns of the Aurochs Skull. The surface appears friable and is shedding particles. I will keep a check on this.

Commerce case: One of the farthings, looks to have a very small spot of potential bronze disease, I haven't done a close examination. Would need to confirm if this is the case.

ACTION: Next visit

- Maintain a check on the environment and the pest monitoring of the gallery spaces.

- Monitor the Aurochs skull, for any further deterioration.
- Check the farthing in the Commerce case

MUSEUM STORE

GROUND FLOOR

Current visit:

The ground floor store was checked.

Environmental sensor: Please see separate Environmental report.

Insect Blunder traps: No pest species, 1 very small spider

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined. A softening layer of plastazote foam was added to trays C.18.3.11 and B 18.2.9
- As time allows during visits we will aim to clean and continue to line the trays to reduce damage to specimens caused by physical contact.
- The specimens affected by pyrite decay in trays 18.3.1 and 18.3.2 and in several of the other trays are bagged and separated but are continuing to deteriorate. There is no easily available treatment, will continue to monitor.
- The Chairs will continue to be monitored for wood worm, no activity was noted on this visit. However, there appears to be a layer of white residue, possibly mould or a moisture reaction with an old surface treatment on two of the chairs.



18.2.9



White residue visible on the underside and on the chair back adjacent to the wall.

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
- General clean to remove residues and dust accumulation

GROUND FLOOR FOYER AREA OPPOSITE OFFICE

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

Monitored and photographed – no change this visit

FIRST FLOOR STORE

Insect Trap Check - all traps changed for new

Moth lures all clean, no evidence of flying clothes moth

Blunder traps are located the radiators at front and rear of store

Environmental sensor: Stack 6: Please see separate environmental report.

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

- Taxidermy, stacks 14 & 15 appear stable no evidence of live moth or beetle. Surface dust on the shelves and some broken hairs but otherwise in fair condition.
 - Shelf 15.1.2 : Sparrowhawk has dust near its feet, the specimen was checked but no obvious other evidence of pests.
 - Shelf 15.2.2: Oystercatcher, some problems with the legs and feet but probably linked to the taxidermy procedures rather than pests.
 - Shelf 15.4.1: Trophy Heads are losing hair through breakage, no obvious active pest issues.
- Shelf 13.2.3: woodworm to rear panel of bird (partridge) diorama 1873:26, this has been noted previously. There is no dust to suggest current activity, will continue to monitor.



1873:26



Furniture Beetle in case



Rear exit holes

- Entomology cabinets and contents, stack 11, historic damage especially in unglazed drawers, appears stable.
- 9.2.3 Spinning wheel, wood dust falling out of the damaged top section, it may just be gravity on old dust rather than new activity. There is no other evidence around the spinning wheel that suggests activity.



Dust around damaged spindle



- Stack 6: 6.3.3 Archaeological metalwork, the dessicant was changed for new to maintain a level of 35%RH in the sealed containers.
- Stack 7: Percentage check of trays noted that:
 - Trays 7.7.5 – 7.7.7 contain WWII gas masks, with filters, these should be labelled as hazardous, (may) contain asbestos. This can be done next visit.
 - Tray 7.18.6 has taxidermy, a wildcat pelt. Potential for pests, note location for future checks.
 - Trays 7.22.1 – 7.22.8 contain entomology specimens, note location for future pest checks.
- Art Racks: The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked. No new damage noted.

All the stacks and bays were checked along with a randomly selected check inside closed boxes and similar for the trays from stack 7.

Dust accumulation is becoming noticeable in some areas.

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

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

2nd May 2024