

## **COLLECTIONS CONDITION CHECK, FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE. REPORT: 1st May 2025**

### **FALCONER MUSEUM**

**Environmental data:** please see the separate environmental report.

**Insect Traps:** All traps were checked and replaced with new traps.

#### **GROUND FLOOR:**

- Each of the cases and displays were visually checked. No apparent additional changes were noted to any of the objects on display except for specific issues previously highlighted in earlier reports.
- Shark jaw, no further deterioration or dust on the shelf.
- The mirror backed open display of mixed taxidermy and social history was manually checked, no condition issues were found.

#### **FIRST FLOOR:**

##### **Falconer Room:**

The cases are all appear stable and clean.

- The elephant skull was checked no new suspicious accumulations of dust were noted. A beetle crawling over the Tyvek cover was Identified as an *Anthrenus* sp, probably *A. museorum*, not common in Scotland. This is a single occurrence, the insect probably came down the chimney or in from the outside. At this point there is no suspicion of a pest issue.

##### **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 taxidermy in the cases was visually inspected using a torch, open display specimens were manually checked, they all appear to be stable. No new dust or frass, and no evidence of loose hair or feather fragments.
- The Aurochs skull in the Archaeology case - there was a very fine deposition layer of dust, visible on the glass shelves, closer examination indicated that the dust came from the surface of the horn cores of the Aurochs Skull. During this visit, dust was cleaned from the shelves and mounts for monitoring purposes. The mounts are acrylic and create static, so it is difficult to remove all the dust particles completely. Will continue to monitor.

#### **ACTION: Next visit**

- Maintain a check on the environment and the pest monitoring of the gallery spaces.
- Monitor the Elephant skull, Aurochs skull, Shark jaw for any further deterioration.

## MUSEUM STORE

### GROUND FLOOR

#### Current visit:

The ground floor store was checked.

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- Drawers 18.1.10 – 18.1.12 ; 18.2.3 – 18.2.6 ; containing mixed palaeontological material had softening placed around certain specimens to reduce potential friction damage.



Falconer material



- The furniture was checked, there is still a white bloom on some of the chairs by the rear wall. This has not changed from the last visit. There was dust accretion around the edges of some of the old exit holes, will continue to monitor. No new dust, noted this visit.

#### ACTION: Next visit

- Continue cleaning the trays to remove incidental 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.

The stone still has the white surface (salt) deposit but this does not appear to be changing.



## FIRST FLOOR STORE

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. Minor surface dust on the shelves and broken hair fragments from the mounted trophy heads but otherwise in fair condition.
- Stack 15: Manually checked all the closed boxes of taxidermy shelves 15.3.1 – 15.1.4.
- A mountain Hare on shelf 15.4.1 has evidence of previous moth attack, probably not active but this specimen will be checked again on the next visit and will be treated by freezing as a preventive measure.



Mountain Hare

- Stack 13: Manual check of boxes containing woodworking tools on shelves 13.11.3 and 13.11.4
- Stack 11: A percentage check of the entomology cabinets and drawers was carried out.
- Stack 7: Checked a selection of trays, all appear clean and stable, specific checks were made on some of the natural history items in Stack 7, Bays 22, 21, 20 and 19. Tray 7.19.1 contains a woollen baise backed snakeskin, old moth damage and pupal case remains were noted on the baise, there does not appear to be current activity. Will monitor next visit.
- Stack 6: Record photographs taken of 3x Burghead stone fragments as requested.
- Art Racks: The racks were pulled out and the frames/artworks checked.
- The Australian Speckled Ducks diorama was checked, no change was noted from the previous observations.
- The iridescent exotic birds diorama case, by the store entrance door looks to be deteriorating further, loose feathers and feather fragments on the base, some have been previously noted. This item is unlikely to fit in the freezer, We will continue to monitor and on the next visit will try to seal the large crack to the rear panel.

### **ACTION: Next visit**

- Add more interleaved softening to separate the framed prints shelves 12.11.1 – 12.11.4, 12.10.1 – 12.10.4 and 12.9.1
- Specimens and shelving require ongoing basic housekeeping to remove dust accumulations.
- Change the silica gel for the archaeological metalwork.
- Check all highlighted objects/ specimens

**Jeanette Pearson ACR**

High Life Highland Conservation Service

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery

Highland Folk Museum

1st May 2025