

FALCONER MUSEUM & STORE

Collections Condition Check visit 28th May 2026

This visit was combined with training sessions for Falconer Museum volunteers. The training covered environmental monitoring, use of silica gel, identification of pests and collections checking both in the store and the museum case displays.

FALCONER MUSEUM STORE

Environmental data: please see the separate environmental report.

Insect Traps: All traps were checked and replaced with new traps. Very little activity noted.

GROUND FLOOR

Current visit:

Ground floor store the collections were checked for any obvious change in condition.

- Selected geology / palaeontology trays were examined.
- The Stuart Geology Collection cabinet was opened and checked, some evidence of past woodworm, including bodies of dead beetles. The cabinet appears to be in its original condition, the packing for the specimens is mostly cotton wool/wadding. Debris, mostly wood splinters and dust, present in the bases of the drawers – requires cleaning.
- The furniture above the geology units was inspected, no new wood worm dust noted this visit.



Stuart Geology Collection



Furniture Beetle



ACTION: Next visit

- Continue cleaning the trays to remove incidental insect debris
- Continue to add softening to reduce physical damage where necessary
- General clean to remove residues and dust accumulation

FIRST FLOOR STORE

A walk-through visual check was made for all the stacks, shelving bays and art racks. A training tour given to the volunteers to show the range of the collections and explain the procedures, potential storage tasks and issues that may arise.

- All objects previously highlighted as having potential issues were checked.
- Taxidermy, stacks 14 & 15 appear stable no evidence of live moth or beetle.
- Stack 13 – (13.10.2) The barrel previously noted as having a soluble salt accretion is showing further signs of salt development.



Lower wrought iron band of the coopered barrel is showing evidence of increased salt development. Leading to flaking and loss. Next visit we will check the barrel and clean off the deposits and monitor.

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.

- Stack 6 - Archaeological metalwork, silica gel was changed for new conditioned gel in one of the boxes, as an example for the training session.
- Stacks 3 & 4 – Checked the edges of rolled textiles - no obvious changes noted.
- Stacks 1 & 2 – Checked selection of the hanging costume - no obvious changes noted

ACTION: Next visit

- Add more interleaved softening to separate the remaining framed prints shelves stack 12.
- Specimens and shelving, ongoing basic housekeeping to remove dust accumulations.
- Check all highlighted objects/ specimens – The barrel, shelf 13.10.2, inspect and remove salt accumulations.

FALCONER MUSEUM BUILDING

Environmental data: please see the separate environmental report.

Insect Traps: All traps were checked and replaced with new traps. Very little activity noted, mostly spiders and woodlice.

As part of the volunteer training, a walk-through visual check was made for all the displays, highlighting the procedures for case and specimen checking.

GROUND FLOOR:

- Trades display case visually checked all contents appear to be unchanged no displacement detected.
- No additional changes were noted to any of the objects on display except for specific issues highlighted in previous reports.
- The mirror backed open display of mixed taxidermy and social history was manually checked, no condition issues were found.
- The hide covered leather trunk used as a donations box, is deteriorating. The leather is brittle and is fragmenting, it is separating from the wooden carcass. (the chest is probably a display prop, not part of the accessioned collection)

FIRST FLOOR:

Falconer Room:

The cases all appear stable and clean.

- The elephant skull was checked, there was some dust and debris but no new suspicious accumulations were noted.
- The cases were clean, no changes.

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 Mammals and Birds taxidermy cases were visually inspected using a torch, open display specimens were manually checked, they all appear to be stable, no new dust or debris that would indicate a pest issue.

ACTION: Next visit

- Check the trade case for new movement or changes to the display.
- Maintain a check on the environment and the pest monitoring of the gallery spaces.
- Check the area near the elephant skull for any further occurrence of dermestid beetle larvae.
- Monitor the Elephant skull, Aurochs skull, Shark jaw for any further deterioration.

Jeanette Pearson ACR

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

28th May 2026