



PRESS RELEASE

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Mystery of sunken safe that stopped a 45 tonne boat in its tracks

A large safe has been discovered in the depths of the Regent's Canal in King's Cross this week by the charity that looks after the waterway.

The Canal & River Trust took nearly an hour to crane out the item, which was submerged under Camley Street bridge. It had only been detected after a 45 tonne work boat had crashed into it, stopping the vessel dead in its tracks.

The discovery came as the boat was transporting machinery away from St Pancras Lock, where the Canal & River Trust had recently completed a £150,000 restoration project.

The back of the safe had been broken open and it did not contain any valuables.

It is not the only unusual item to be discovered in the canal, at a time when wildlife is blooming and more people and boaters are using the waterway than ever before. In recent years the Trust's teams have also helped to recover more than 60 footballs in one spot behind a school in Willesden, a pizza delivery bike (including soggy pizza), and even an unexploded World War Two bomb.

In 2014, they also recovered a spate of abandoned safes from the water, including five from the canal adjacent to Regent's Park.

Stewart Qureshi, Canal & River Trust operative, who craned the safe from the water, said: "We do find unusual things in the canal from time to time, but it's usually when we drain the water out to make repairs. We suspect the raided safe was dropped off the nearby bridge and it's only because our work boat has a deeper hull than most boats that we discovered it. We've been in touch with the police to see what they have to say about it.

"The canals in London are more popular than at any time in living memory. There's more boats, people using the towpath and volunteers helping us to look after them. They're a secret part of London, that are probably becoming less and less secret every year. So probably not the best place to dump a something if you're trying to get away with a crime!"

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

The Canal & River Trust look after over 60miles of waterways in Greater London. This year the charity has spent more than £2.5million to repair and restore the 200-year old network. For more information about how you can donate or volunteer visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Notes to editors

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The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

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