

ABNORMAL LOADS

From time to time abnormal or unusual loads are transported on the smaller canals. This is usually because the normal road access is not big enough for a particular load or because a specific site has no longer got road access due to building developments.



Recently an 18m by 4m by 2m food processing cabinet was moved for the New Covent Garden Food Company into their premises in Willesden by barge. The food processing equipment was delivered by road from Germany to Powerday's wharf in Willesden. From there the equipment was loaded onto a motor barge fitted with rails and wheels so the equipment could be unloaded directly into the NCGF Co premises from the canal side.

When the motor barge was moored up alongside the New Covent Garden Food Companies premises rails were run ashore so the equipment could be moved off the barge and down the rails into the NCGF Companies food processing plant. The various parts of the equipment were then assembled on site to rebuild the full 18m long piece of equipment.



In another example a hydraulically operated lift bridge that had been installed in Paddington before the recent developments took place needed to be removed for servicing. The only access to this bridge was from the canal. Using a plant pontoon, a lifting turntable allowed the bridge to be lifted up off its fixings and to be rotated round 90 degrees and lowered into the pontoon. It was then moved along the canal to an access point for onward transport by road.

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