



JF Subtech supports the Canal & River Trust with UK-wide canal IRM

JF Subtech divers supported the Canal & River Trust with urgent underwater canal works in urban areas across the UK, including London, Leeds and Doncaster.

Location Tower Hamlets
Project completed 7 September 2022
Project scope Blocked lock gate debris clearance

Location Leeds Lock
Project completed 13 September 2022
Project scope Stop plank groove, silt level check and lock chamber inspection

Location Doncaster Lock
Project completed 14 September 2022
Project scope Sluice chamber inspection

The challenge

- Our popular waterways and canals can sometimes experience build-up of debris and silt at key locations, especially lock gates, sluices and weirs.
- An excessive build-up of silt and debris can lead to inoperable lock gates which become a hazard to navigation and stop leisure users enjoying the waterway.
- A wide variety of craft, from large wide beam vessels to narrowboats, utilise these canals daily, highlighting the importance for a quick response to any possible inspection, repair and maintenance (IRM).
- Visibility underwater for divers can be extremely limited, requiring experience and to use touch to successfully complete the IRM operations.

The solution

- JF Subtech divers were tasked at short notice to support with the IRM of three canal locations and arrived onsite.
- The team worked closely with the Canal & River Trust engineers, from planning to delivery, to ensure a smooth operation and high level of safety at all three sites.

The results and benefits

- The canals at each location were successfully inspected or repaired at a fast pace by the experienced JF Subtech divers, ensuring they were operational again for canal and leisure users.
- Any blockages were safely removed and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner to help reduce the risk to wildlife and the environment.
- We continue to be a close partner with the Canal & River Trust to maintain the tranquillity, accessibility and history of our waterways.

