

## Case Study

### Removing a complex liability for The Science Museum

#### The Client

The Science Museum was founded in 1857, with its origins in the Great Exhibition of 1851. The Museum has collections of historic artefacts relating to the history, development and understanding of science, technology and medicine.

#### The Need

As part of its ongoing process to reduce the risks associated with hazardous materials in historic objects, the Museum reviewed its radioactive artefacts with a view to removing and disposing of those items that did not meet the policies that govern acquisition to and development of the collections.

Over 300 items were identified for removal from three of the Museum's sites in London and Wiltshire over a three-year period.

#### The Solution

A unique Method Statement and Risk Assessment was first undertaken for each job. Safeguard International then fully identified and characterised the items, size reducing them where possible.

The inventory contained many fragile, unusual and complex items, which required bespoke packaging solutions to be devised so that they could be safely transported to their final disposal facility.

#### The Benefits

The appointment of a dedicated Project Manager and the liaison undertaken with the Environment Agency and the Museum's own RPA over Authorisation issues, provided the Museum with the peace of mind that the project would be completed in line with the expectations of the regulators.

By size-reducing many items, our experienced team of Technicians were able provide a cost-effective solution to the Museum. In addition, we were able to de-contaminate a number of items with particular historical significance, so that they could be displayed to the public.



Importantly, the flexible approach we took to scheduling the work avoided any Museum closures during the projects.

#### Client Comment

"Safeguard worked hard to ensure that our disposal went smoothly and efficiently from the start. The objects presented a range of challenges on both sides and Safeguard always found time to talk us through the processes and discuss the solutions with us to ensure that we complied with current Health and Safety and regulatory standards".

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