# Stolen £30,000 robotic arm recovered after four years in Kent



Machinery valued at approximately £30,000 has been successfully returned to its rightful owner after being missing for four years. The robotic arm, which can be adapted for a variety of industrial tasks, was stolen from a vehicle parked in Albion Lane, Herne Bay, in 2020. Initial investigations by Kent Police were hampered due to a lack of CCTV footage and minimal lines of inquiry, ultimately leading to the case's closure after 16 months.

Recently, the victim stumbled upon the robotic arm listed for sale online, prompting them to reach out to Kent Police. Following this tip-off, officers traced the item to a recycling business in Birchington. Staff at the business cooperated with law enforcement, aiding in the recovery of the stolen equipment, which was then confirmed to be the same item that had gone missing. Notably, the business has not been drawn into any suspicion and is collaborating with police on the ongoing investigation.

Detective Chief Inspector Keith Taylor commented on the significance of the recovery, stating that such cases, once thought cold, hold new potential for investigation. "The successful recovery of this equipment after such a long time highlights how important it is to report suspicious activity to the police," he remarked. He further noted that returning stolen possessions to victims is always gratifying for law enforcement.

The recovery of this robotic arm is part of a broader pattern within Kent Police's efforts to tackle property crimes. Just months prior, they had recovered over £100,000 worth of stolen plant machinery, including excavators and trailers, during an operation that led to the arrest of three individuals. In April 2024 alone, more than 1,000 suspected stolen items were recovered, showing a surge of efforts by local law enforcement to combat theft and return stolen goods to their owners.

Kent Police’s recent enforcement activities highlight their ongoing commitment to addressing theft-related issues. In another recent significant operation, over 3,500 tools valued at over £1 million were seized, all stemming from the tracking of a stolen drill. Additionally, a raid in February uncovered 14 stolen cars alongside firearms and illegal drugs, further illustrating the scale of theft-related crime in the region.

This recent recovery and the success of various operations underscore the importance of public vigilance and the collaborative efforts between citizens and law enforcement to tackle the issue of stolen property. With each recovered item, police are not only reinstating victims' rights but also gaining renewed opportunities to pursue leads in ongoing investigations.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/stolen-robotic-arm-worth-30k-10254695), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3g9kp1d4l2o)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/stolen-robotic-arm-worth-30k-10254695), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clke1w102yno), [[5]](https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/kent-police-find-14-stolen-cars-plus-guns-drugs-during-bust-suspected-chop-shop/HU45DLCRP5C3DFIZVW2UGFLQXI/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd1130vqpeko), [[6]](https://www.kentonline.co.uk/sheerness/news/stolen-plant-machinery-worth-100k-recovered-305737/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/stolen-robotic-arm-worth-30k-10254695> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clke1w102yno> - In April 2024, Kent Police recovered over 1,000 suspected stolen items, including power tools, a quad bike, and six caravans, valued at over £500,000. The discovery was initiated by tracking a stolen drill, leading to a warrant in Cranbrook. Seven individuals were arrested on suspicion of multiple theft-related offences and have been released on bail pending further investigations.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd1130vqpeko> - Kent Police recovered more than 3,500 tools worth over £1 million in June 2024. The operation began after a victim attached a tracker to a stolen drill, leading officers to a location in Swattenden. The haul included drills, saws, angle grinders, and nail guns. Seven individuals were arrested on suspicion of multiple theft-related offences and have been released on bail pending further investigations.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3g9kp1d4l2o> - In April 2024, Kent Police arrested three individuals after recovering over £100,000 worth of stolen plant machinery, including excavators, trailers, and power tools. The items were stolen from Wrotham between December 2023 and March 2024. Recovered property was found on the Isle of Sheppey and in Marden. The investigation is ongoing, and the arrested individuals have been released on bail.
5. <https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/kent-police-find-14-stolen-cars-plus-guns-drugs-during-bust-suspected-chop-shop/HU45DLCRP5C3DFIZVW2UGFLQXI/> - In February 2024, Kent Police recovered 14 stolen cars, along with guns, ammunition, methamphetamine, and suspected fentanyl, during a raid at a suspected chop shop on the city's East Hill. The operation led to the arrest of a 36-year-old Kent man. The investigation was supported by the Puget Sound Auto Theft Taskforce and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.
6. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/sheerness/news/stolen-plant-machinery-worth-100k-recovered-305737/> - In April 2024, Kent Police arrested three individuals after recovering over £100,000 worth of stolen plant machinery, including excavators, trailers, and power tools. The items were stolen from Wrotham between December 2023 and March 2024. Recovered property was found on the Isle of Sheppey and in Marden. The investigation is ongoing, and the arrested individuals have been released on bail.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3g9kp1d4l2o> - In April 2024, Kent Police arrested three individuals after recovering over £100,000 worth of stolen plant machinery, including excavators, trailers, and power tools. The items were stolen from Wrotham between December 2023 and March 2024. Recovered property was found on the Isle of Sheppey and in Marden. The investigation is ongoing, and the arrested individuals have been released on bail.