

# Travelling lochs to carry vessels in dockyard renovation scheme

Barrow link plan would rival Falkirk Wheel as engineering marvel, say consultants

A SYSTEM of travelling lochs to rival the engineering spectacle of the Falkirk wheel boatlift in Scotland is being planned for the docks in Barrow, Cumbria.

The proposed system would move yachts from the Walney Channel to the inner marina at the docks. It is part of a wider plan being developed by architectural and engineering consultancy Royal Haskoning to regenerate the dockside area in Barrow.

The consultancy has completed the outline design for the "marina link" with the company responsible for the design of the Falkirk Wheel, Bennett Associates.

Jamie Ellis, an engineer with Royal Haskoning working on the regeneration scheme, said: "The dock sys-

tem at Barrow is also used by BAE Systems for its nuclear submarines, and there are security and safety issues with opening the dock gates every time a yacht wants access, so the idea is to lift them up to the marina instead."

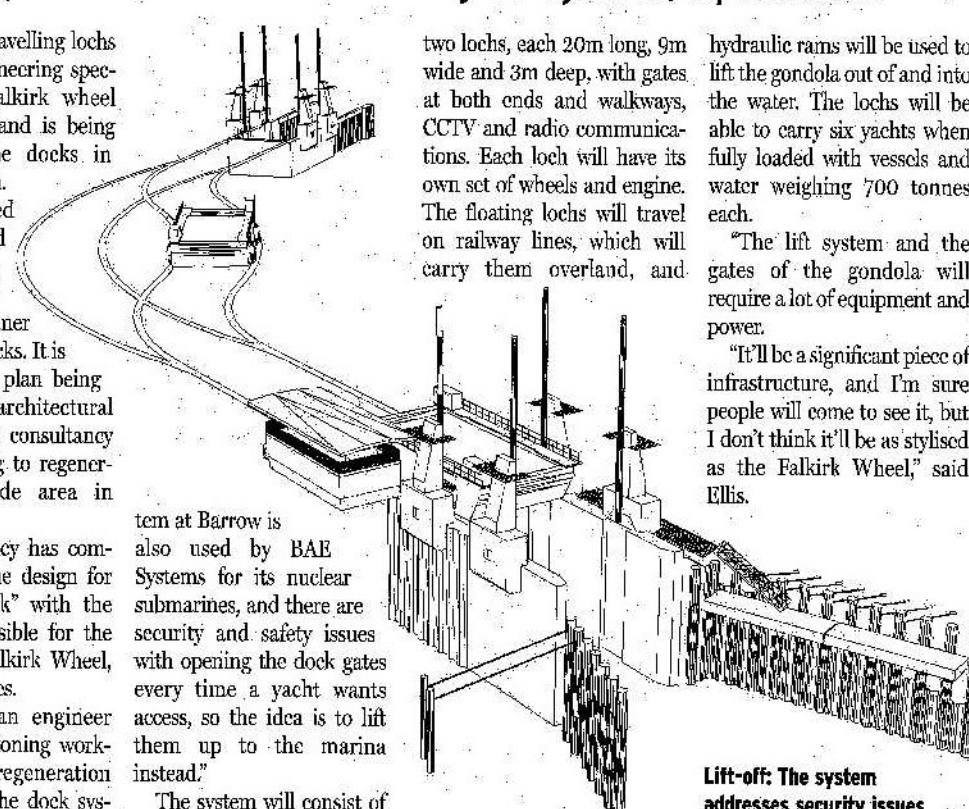
The system will consist of

two lochs, each 20m long, 9m wide and 3m deep, with gates at both ends and walkways, CCTV and radio communications. Each loch will have its own set of wheels and engine. The floating lochs will travel on railway lines, which will carry them overland, and

hydraulic rams will be used to lift the gondola out of and into the water. The lochs will be able to carry six yachts when fully loaded with vessels and water weighing 700 tonnes each.

"The lift system and the gates of the gondola will require a lot of equipment and power.

"It'll be a significant piece of infrastructure, and I'm sure people will come to see it, but I don't think it'll be as stylised as the Falkirk Wheel," said Ellis.



Lift-off: The system addresses security issues