

a **Waterspace Strategy**  
for the **Sustainable Development**  
of the **Liverpool South Docks**







# a Waterspace Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Liverpool South Docks

British Waterways identified that the Liverpool south docks, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, are under-used, and that there is no clear over-arching framework for introducing activity to the docks. Baca were appointed by British Waterways, to develop a long-term vision for activating the waterspace of the Liverpool South Docks.

The Liverpool Waterspace Strategy (LWS) is a guide to inform considered development of the waterspace within the south docks, from Canning Dock in the north to Brunswick Dock in the south. The LWS identifies potential uses within each of the docks, with illustrative examples of how these could be implemented.

Some of the key challenges to creating a successful waterspace within the Liverpool south docks are: the relationship with the World Heritage Site and the listed status of many of the dock walls, the difference in height between the dock edge (quayside) and the water level, the pedestrian access from the north and the lack of public activity or attractions further south in the docks.

The Liverpool Waterspace Strategy establishes three character zones within the south docks: **the Culture Zone**, encompassing Canning Dock, Canning Half-tide, Albert Dock and Salthouse Dock; the **Mixed-use Zone**, encompassing Wapping Dock, the former King's Dock and extending into Queen's Dock and the **Leisure and Aquatecture Zone**, encompassing Queen's Dock, Coburg Dock and Brunswick Dock. Duke's Dock sits on the overlap between the Culture Zone and the Mixed-use Zone.

The Liverpool Waterspace Strategy also identifies a range of activity/uses within the waterspaces of each of the docks, and guidance on the issues and objectives for each dock. There are examples of how these uses may take shape with three optional indicative plans for each dock. Some of the optional proposals for the docks include:

- 'Albert Dock Spectacular', providing space for boat festivals, cultural celebrations or a floating sculpture park.
- 'Salthouse Dock Shop Window', providing a gateway into the south docks and waterfront activity along The Strand. Concepts include a floating event space and a new 'Dockers' Umbrella' as a place to gather.
- 'Canning Canal Boat Terminus' and services at the entry point of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal Link to Canning Dock.
- 'Stepped Promenades' in Wapping and Salthouse to provide public realm at water level and a synergy between land and water uses, such as floating homes.
- 'Dukes Dock Park', providing a range of water activities for all the family.







SUMMARY OF USE AND PRIORITIES

SHORT-TERM	MEDIUM-TERM	LONG-TERM	USE
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CANNING & CANNING HALF-TIDE DOCKS

Agree code to increase maritime activity for assessing applications for vessels wishing to berth within the Canning Docks- prioritising historic boats.	Construct new pedestrian bridges over the graving docks to improve pedestrian permeability into the south docks.	Build Canal Boat Terminus within Canning Dock.	Used for Maritime and Canal Boats
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ALBERT DOCK

Agree code to increase maritime activity for assessing applications for vessels wishing to berth in Albert Dock- prioritising historic boats with masts.	Light spectacular to encourage additional footfall in the evenings and autumn/winter.	Large-scale floating sculpture park.	Used for Maritime and Events
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SALTHOUSE DOCK

Develop phased design strategy for floating infrastructure.	Enhance public realm between Albert and Salthouse Docks.	Replace fixed bridge to Albert Dock to allow access for large boats with masts into Salthouse Dock.	Used for Retail, Restaurant, Maritime or Canal Boats
Prioritise floating units along the western edge of Salthouse Dock to provide activity alongside the new dockside walk.	Construct floating infrastructure/structures and floating stage for 'spectacular' outdoor shows.		
	Create cascading or stepped public realm to encourage movement down to water level.		

DUKE'S DOCK & WAPPING BASIN

Remove concrete wall along 'The Strand' that prevents views into the south docks.	Construct floating waterpark with associated leisure craft moorings.	Create landmark building at the junction between Wapping Basin and Duke's Dock or a floating building in the adjacent waterspace.	Used for Recreation, Watersports and Events
	Provide kiosks and pavilions at the quayside to encourage year round activity.		

WAPPING DOCK

Align waterspace plan within masterplan for the HCA site.		Replace fixed bridges at Gower Street, Queens Wharf with openable bridges.	Used for Leisure boats, Floating Mixed-use units and Amenity
Replace low quality revetment with new quayside.			

QUEENS DOCK & BRUNSWICK DOCK

Expanded mixed-use potential consisting of either the expansion of the marina or a floating community at Brunswick and Queens Docks.	Construct pedestrian link spanning Queens Dock to extend the dockside walk.	Replace fixed bridge between Wapping and Queen's Dock with openable bridge.	Used for Leisure boats, Floating Homes and Amenity
Undertake study for new pedestrian connection to extend the dockside walk in front of Customs House.	Undertake study to access cost benefit analysis to replace fixed bridge between Wapping and Queen's Dock.		

BRUNSWICK & COBURG DOCKS

Feasibility study to review security and public access through parts of the marina.	Improve and enhance existing marina facilities.	Replace existing marina building with new landmark marina & hotel.	Used for Leisure boats, Floating Homes and Amenity
Code for assessing planning applications for floating development.	Expand moorings to the east side of the docks.		

CULTURE

MIXED USE

LEISURE & ACQUATECTURE



THE LEEDS-LIVERPOOL CANAL IS THE LONGEST CANAL  
IN NORTHERN ENGLAND AT 127 MILES LONG.



## ALBERT DOCK

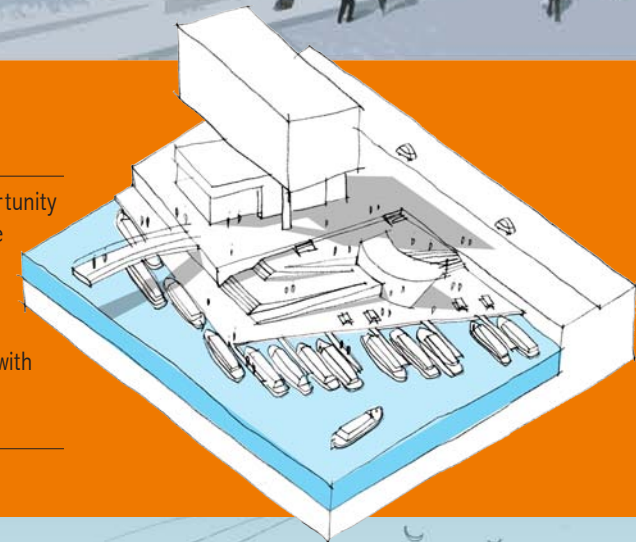
Situated in the largest group of Grade I listed buildings in the UK, the Albert Dock forms part the cultural epicentre of the Liverpool Waterfront. Proposals include preserving the openness and flexibility of the dock so that they can continue to function as a premier destination-mooring venue for future festivals and home for water tours of the south docks. Alternative, longer-term plans could include a floating sculpture park. In addition temporary light installations, emanating from either the water, dock walls or floating vessels could make a spectacular contribution to the World Heritage Site.

*Proposed use: arts, cultural, spectacle, mooring*

## CANNING DOCK & CANNING HALF-TIDE

The waterspaces at Canning Dock and Salthouse Dock represent a significant opportunity to create a 'shop window' into the Liverpool South Docks and gateway to the Maritime Mercantile City. Opportunity exists for a canal boat terminus at the junction of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and waterside public realm improvements at Mann Island. Proposals include new footbridges to improve pedestrian movement through the docks and improved moorings for historic vessels to provide an active and vibrant public face with a world class picture postcard backdrop.

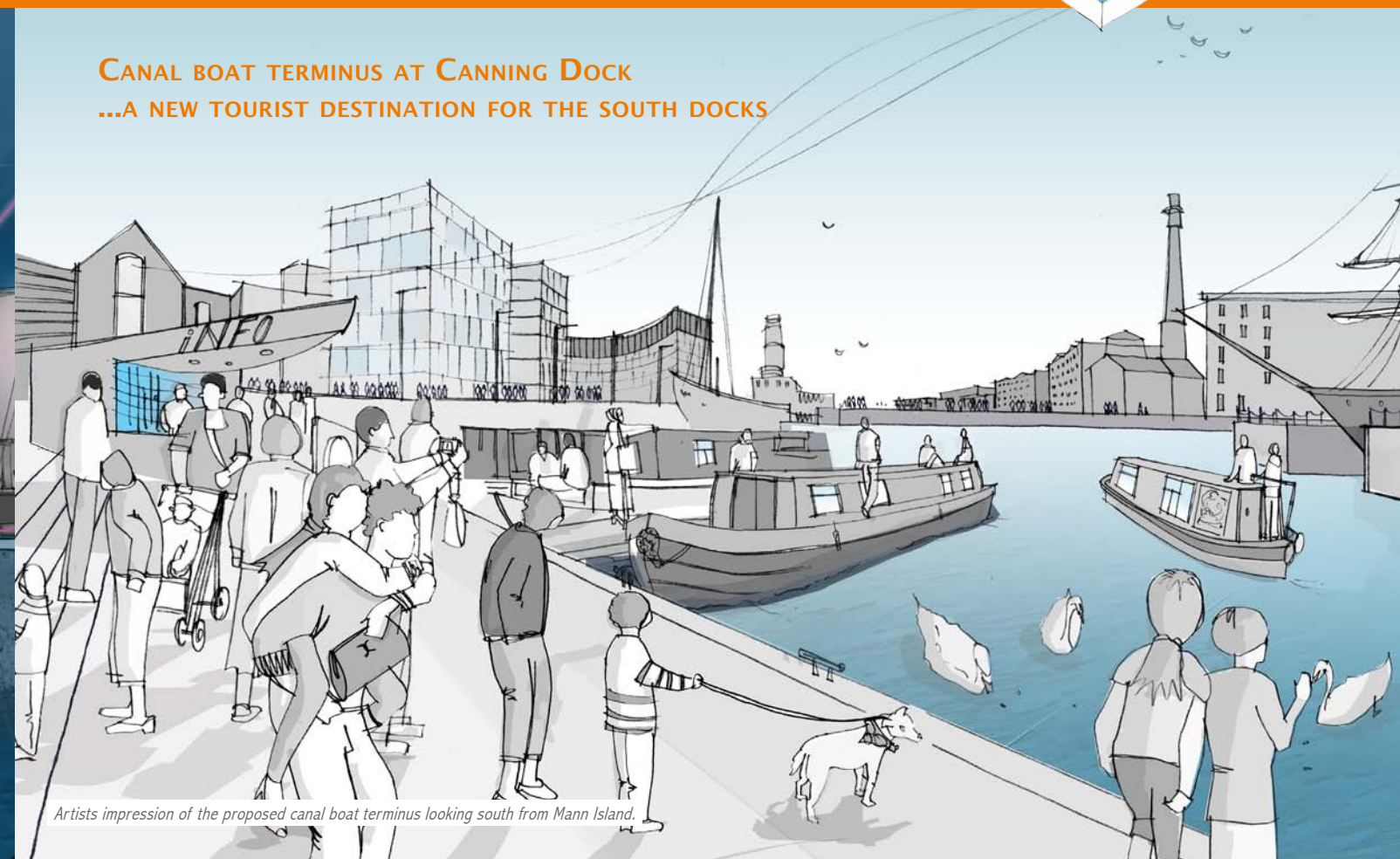
*Proposed use: canal boat terminus & historic vessels*



...A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT  
FOR ALBERT DOCK

*Working with the reflective nature of water, ideas include a wireframe galleon or projections from a light barge to create a world-class light show at in this historic setting.*

CANAL BOAT TERMINUS AT CANNING DOCK  
...A NEW TOURIST DESTINATION FOR THE SOUTH DOCKS



*Artists impression of the proposed canal boat terminus looking south from Mann Island.*



....WHERE THE INTERNATIONAL EYE FOCUSES  
ON LIVERPOOL'S NEW SHOP WINDOW



## DUKE'S DOCK & WAPPING BASIN

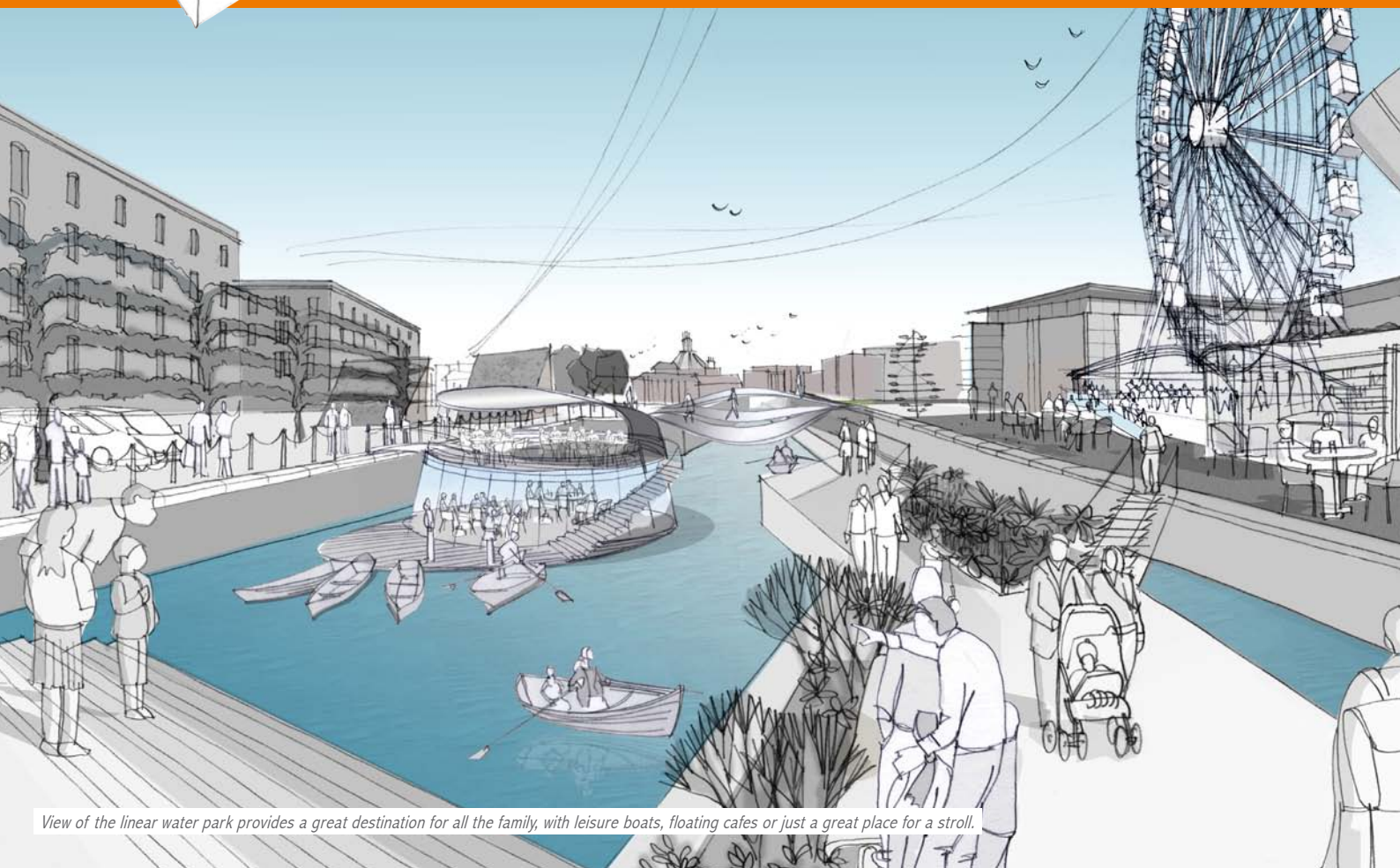
Dukes Dock and Wapping Basin could contribute to the objective of extending activity through the south docks by creating an overlap of activities between Albert Dock and the ACC Arena. Organised around linear waterpark activities could range from extreme watersports under an all weather enclosure to more formal gardens with leisure boating. A new 'worldclass' footbridge would replace the old timber bridge and could be integrated with a more efficient car-parking layout, adjacent to Albert Dock, to enhance this key dockside setting.

*Proposed use: public, civic and entertainment activities - such as public realm, park, civic or landmark building, bar and cafe uses.*

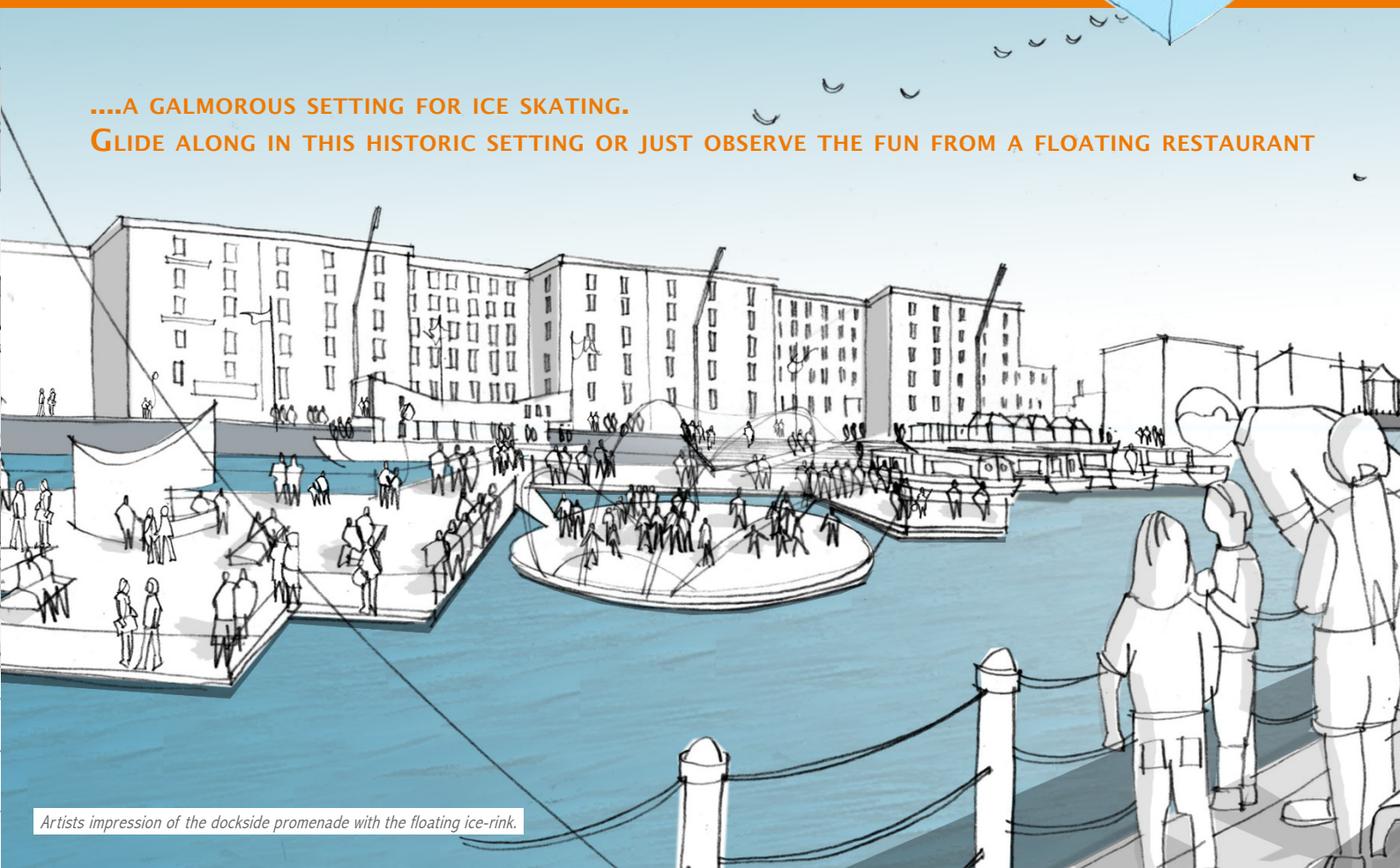
## SALTHOUSE DOCK

Salthouse Dock represents a significant opportunity to create a gateway and dynamic face to the Liverpool Waterfront that can also take advantage of the passing trade from The Strand. Comprised of floating buildings, structures and linked by floating promenade - entertainment and dining fuses with waterside moorings and activity. Platforms and stages could evolve throughout the seasons to host a variety of events from a boating regatta to a seasonal ice-rink. Proposals for floating building and structures might add a further dimension of interest by acting as light boxes at night, evolving and changing light spectacular.

*Proposed use: public, civic and entertainment activities - such as public realm, park, civic or landmark building, bar and cafe uses.*



*View of the linear water park provides a great destination for all the family, with leisure boats, floating cafes or just a great place for a stroll.*



*Artists impression of the dockside promenade with the floating ice-rink.*