

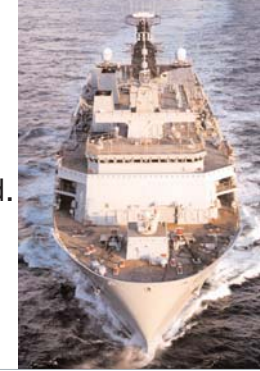
Amphibious Assault Ship Type LPD(R)

Major warships for the UK's new Expeditionary Amphibious Operating Forces



Amphibious operations are undeniably complex, involving the interface of land, sea and air forces. The naval vessel tasked with performing the central role of overall command, control and communications with units of the Amphibious Ready Group or Task Force is the Amphibious Assault Ship Type LPD (R).

BAE Systems built both of the Royal Navy's LPD(R) vessels, ALBION and BULWARK, at its Barrow shipyard. Designed to meet three criteria - affordability, survivability and speed of offload - they offer the versatility so essential in modern multi-task naval vessels, being equally effective when keeping peace afloat, projecting force ashore in sea-based assault operations, or undertaking humanitarian support roles.



Principal Characteristics

Primary Dimensions

Length Overall	176m
Width Overall	29.2m
Draft (Deep)	6.7m
Displacement (Deep)	17,227 tonnes
Speed (approx)	18 knots
Range	8000nm
Complement	325 crew plus an embarked military force of 305 (710 overload)

Armament

Two Merlin Helicopters operating from two flight deck spots and parking for a third.
 Two Goalkeeper Close-In Weapon Systems
 Two single 20mm guns
 Off-board decoys

Propulsion

Four medium-speed diesel engines
 Four medium-speed diesel generators
 Two electric propulsion motors
 Twin shafts driving fixed-pitch propellers

Roles and Functions

Transport of large Embarked Military Force (plus support equipment) across open oceans.
 Delivery or retrieval of in excess of 60 vehicles plus trailers, or equivalent weight in stores. Vehicles up to Main Battle Tank size can be carried.
 Support of flexible landing on hostile shores using the onboard helicopters and landing craft. The LPD(R) features a large floodable stern dock with gate, side ramp access and a large flight deck.
 Co-ordinating amphibious operations through integrated Command, Control and Communications facilities.



Bulwark - launched 15th November 2001, delivered in 2004.



Albion - launched 9th March 2001, delivered in 2003.

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