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Section of nuclear submarine welded on upside down

AN INQUIRY was under way at the VSEL shipyard at Barrow, Cumbria, yesterday, after it was revealed that a section of a nuclear-powered submarine had been welded on upside down.

The Triumph, a Trafalgar Class submarine, is due to be launched in a year's time. The mistake in her construction is believed to have been caused as a result of changes in shipbuilding methods at the yard.

Yesterday a union leader at Barrow described the welding as "a senior management cock-up that will cost up to a million pounds to put right".

A VSEL spokesman admitted last night that there had been a mistake. He said: "We

don't envisage there being any impact on the build programme or on the quality standards which apply to this submarine."

He would not comment on the likely cost of rewelding the Triumph or how the mistake had occurred.

In February it was revealed that two hull sections for a Trident submarine had been lost overboard in the Irish Sea from a cargo vessel bringing them to the yard from Scotland.

On Wednesday details were announced of the launch of the nuclear submarine Talent by the Princess Royal next week. The Talent will be the last vessel to be launched at Barrow by the traditional slipway technique.