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**MEDIA RELEASE
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**PIN MILL WRECKS TO BE REMOVED AS PARTNERSHIP WORKING
ACHIEVES RESULTS**

Five rotting hulks that have disfigured an internationally renowned coastline are to be removed thanks to the efforts of a Suffolk district council, other bodies and local people.

Pin Mill, situated on the southern bank of the River Orwell Estuary, is both a popular destination for yachtspeople, painters and walkers as well as being at the centre of a community comprising houseboat owners and residents of Chelmondiston village. But in recent years, a number of craft have been dumped by their owners and allowed to slowly rot, creating both an eyesore and a potential danger to other vessels.

Babergh District Council set up the Pin Mill Task Group to bring together all interested parties to tackle this problem plus others such as the condition of the 'Hard' (the concreted area that leads from the land into the estuary) and the future management of the area.

Having secured funding from a number of sources, a company has been contracted in order to establish the best method of breaking up the wrecks from the landward side. This will involve the use of a tracked excavator plus lorries to remove the debris. Work will start during the hours of low tide from 4th August, with the barge 'Maid of Connaught' likely to be broken up first.

"We are delighted that everybody's hard work and enthusiasm is being rewarded by this positive action. This shows that partnership working gets results" said Cllr. Bryn Hurren, Chairman of the Pin Mill Group. "Pin Mill is such a special place, for visitors and residents alike, that Babergh felt it was vital to get something done about these wrecks."

Bryn Hurren also pointed out that resources would be put into improving the condition of the Hard and that the Task Group would continue to make further improvements to the area in consultation with residents. ENDS

Note to editors:

- a. Babergh will be inviting all the organisations represented on the Pin Mill Task Group to attend the initial stages of the break-up operation at 1pm on 4th August. Cllr. Hurren will ceremonially begin the break up by delivering a blow to the 'Maid of Connaught' with a hammer. Media organisations are welcome to attend this event, but are asked to inform Babergh District Council of their intention to do so.
- b. The Pin Mill Task Group comprises representatives from Babergh District Council, Chelmondiston Parish Council, Suffolk County Council, Pin Mill Hard Committee, Pin Mill Preservation Society, National Trust, Environment Agency and local houseboat owners.

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