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Working To Teach, Preserve And Promote Traditional Maritime Skills

The Heritage Marine Foundation, is a registered charity with the following objectives

To advance Maritime Heritage for the public benefit in particular but not exclusively by:

The preservation, restoration and operation of historically significant vessels and in doing so provide training and work experience in marine skills to those unable to sponsor themselves through a dedicated program as well as to offer that training to others who can achieve funding themselves,

Advancing the education of the public and raising awareness of maritime heritage by maintaining and operating historic vessels, participating in public events, conducting research and offering education, information and advice.

To advance environmental protection for the public benefit by promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility in particular but not exclusively by:

Researching and promoting traditional methods of fishing under sail in order to educate, encourage and promote the concept of sustainable fishing.

Researching and developing carriage of cargo under sail in order to educate, encourage and promote the concept of sustainable waterborne freight.

Carrying out research and educating the public into the sources of pollution at Sea and promoting clean seas and responsibility for local marine environments.

The first ensures that vessels in the National Historic Fleet as well as traditional vessels and operators of all kinds can retain a core of personnel that are capable of conserving, operating and maintaining these vessels, both afloat in an operational role and ashore in a museum environment.

The second is to promote these vessels to a wider public, to ensure that there is an appreciation of the vessels and their socioeconomic importance to Britain as a nation.

The last three form part of this education and are to emphasise the importance of the marine environment to the country and how it should and could be protected.

This project will promote the East Coast including Maldon and the Blackwater as a center of Excellence for the Traditional Vessel Industry, not only ensuring the skills are retained for the unique Thames Barge and East coast Smack Fleet but for a wider collection of vessels, it should bring work to the region in the way of refits and restorations as well as the provision of education and public awareness of the industry