

Carbon-saving Cambridgeshire project to be showcased at COP26

Projects inspired by and delivered by nature to tackle the climate emergency in the UK will be showcased as world leaders gather at COP26.

The [Inter-agency Climate Change Group](#) will showcase 12 nature-based solution projects from across the UK at its stand in the Green Zone. One of the projects being highlighted is the restoration on the [Great Fen in Cambridgeshire](#)

The partners working on this project are [Natural England](#), [Environment Agency](#), [Huntingdon District Council](#), [Middle Level Commissioners](#) and [Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northampton Wildlife Trust](#).

It has been running since 2001 and is aiming to reconnect two ancient fen habitats, Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen National Nature Reserves. The project will create 3,700 hectares of fen landscape between Huntingdon and Peterborough.

Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen National Nature Reserves are two of the last remnants of fenland that once stretched from Lincoln to Cambridge.

The area was once 'wild fen', a landscape rich in wildlife, stretching between Lincoln and Cambridge, in Eastern England. However, in the 17th century the fenland was drained for agriculture, which resulted in 99% of the wild fen being destroyed. Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen National Nature Reserves are two of the last remnants.

The restoration is expected to take between 50 and 100 years to complete.

Improvements are already being seen as a result of the progress made so far including:

- reduced risk of flooding in the locality
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions by starting to restore the peatland
- increased numbers of wildlife, including bitterns, lapwing and snipe

The project will take 50 to 100 years to complete.

Catherine Weightman, Natural England Cambridgeshire team leader, said:

We are thrilled that this highly important project will be showcased at the Inter-agency Climate Change Group stand during COP26.

Our work with our partners will benefit wildlife and people for centuries to come.

Clive Walmsley, Chair of the Inter-agency Climate Change Group, said:

Our ambition at COP26 is to showcase the very best examples of nature-based solution projects from across the UK. Highlighting to new audiences how nature can provide important solutions to climate change and help achieve environmental improvements for the benefit of current and future generations.