FENS EAST PEAT PARTNERSHIP

National Trust

Tubney Fen

Location: Cambridgeshire, CB25 0JF

Pre-restoration: Modified grassland (tenant grazed)
Target: Mixed open fen and wet grassland with naturalistic grazing

Restoration activity:

- Clay bunding and borrow pits
- Replacement of old and installation of new water control sluices
- Installation of fencing and gates
- Track repairs

The restoration project will deliver interventions to increase water storage, help prevent peat degradation, and reduce greenhouse emissions over a 41ha area. By wetting up more areas, the aim is also to increase biodiversity and provide more wetland habitat to support wintering wildfowl and waders, as well as increase the breeding habitat for waders such as Lapwing and Redshank.

The restoration works on Tubney Fen, a former turf farm, include the construction of trenched clay bunds, like those being constructed on Burwell Fen (also a National Trust site). These bunds intersect the historic paleochannel (ancient, extinct river) to retain rainwater/winter abstracted water to saturate shallow peat (<1m deep) deposits. In constructing the clay bunds, the existing 20th century field drains have been disconnected. Water control sluices are being installed to manage water levels more effectively.

Cambridge Archaeology Unit have been commissioned to undertake peat paleo archaeology, including: dendrochronology, pollen sampling, profiling structure, insect and megafauna DNA. Further investigations are being undertaken for historic environment whilst the restoration works take place.

FEPP is funded by a Restoration Grant from the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme administered by Natural England.