The Institution of

Agricultural Engineers

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## Environmental Engineer Team Award

## Holme Fen Restoration Project Martin Parsons CEng CEnv FIAgrE

Martin works for Natural England and the Fens East Peat Partnership, funded by the Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme. This project is aiming to reduce GHG emissions from low-lying drained peatlands, where the emission can be up to 35-40 tonne eCO2 per hectare per year.

His work is focussed mainly on Holme Fen NNR a few miles south of Peterborough on the edge of the fens, where they are aiming to implement a drainage diversion scheme that will allow them to raise the water table within the NNR.

The project is very complicated, and touches into: Sustainable farming and Higher Tier schemes, Wetter farming and paludicture, Soil and peat preservation,

Management of winter water surplus for use in times of summer shortage through a new reservoir, Unacceptable sewage pumping discharges, Addressing climate change and Flood Risk Assessment, Restoration of stressed fenland flora and fauna in ‘raised bog’ communities, Habitat creation that involves translocating local water voles, licenses and permissions, Fixed-point photography via drone.

To deliver this they are working with many organisations including: Farmland owners, Wildlife Trust BCN,Fenland SOIL, Holmewood and District Internal Drainage Board, Middle Level Commission, Environment Agency, Network Rail, Ecological consultants, Local Earthworks contractors, Hydrological modellers and surveyors, Huntingdonshire District Council

It is a team effort, Martin Parsons (Peatland Restoration Officer, Natural England and Fens East Peat Partnership), Catherine Weightman (Senior Peatland Advisor, Natural England) and Jo Finlow (Project Manager, Fens East Peat Partnership).