

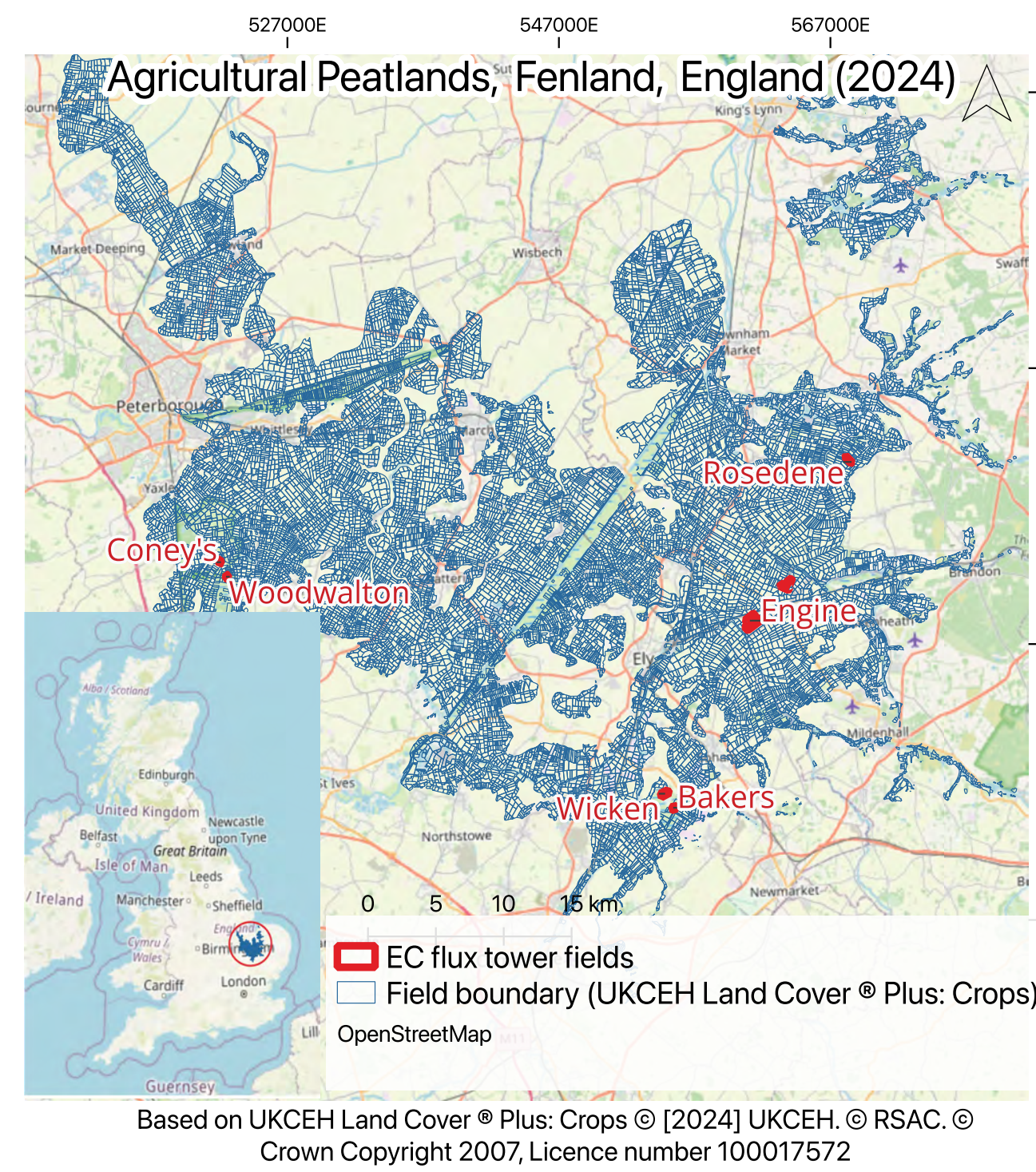
Development and implementation of geoML for CO₂ monitoring within Agricultural Digital Twins

Asima Khan¹, Muhammad Ali², Joerg Kaduk¹, Akshatha Mandadi¹, Ashiq Anjum², Heiko Balzter^{1,3}

1. Institute for Environmental Futures, School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, University of Leicester. 2. Institute for Environmental Futures, School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences, University of Leicester. 3. National Centre for Earth Observation, Space Park Leicester
* Correspondence: ak799@leicester.ac.uk

CO₂ emissions from agricultural drained peatlands

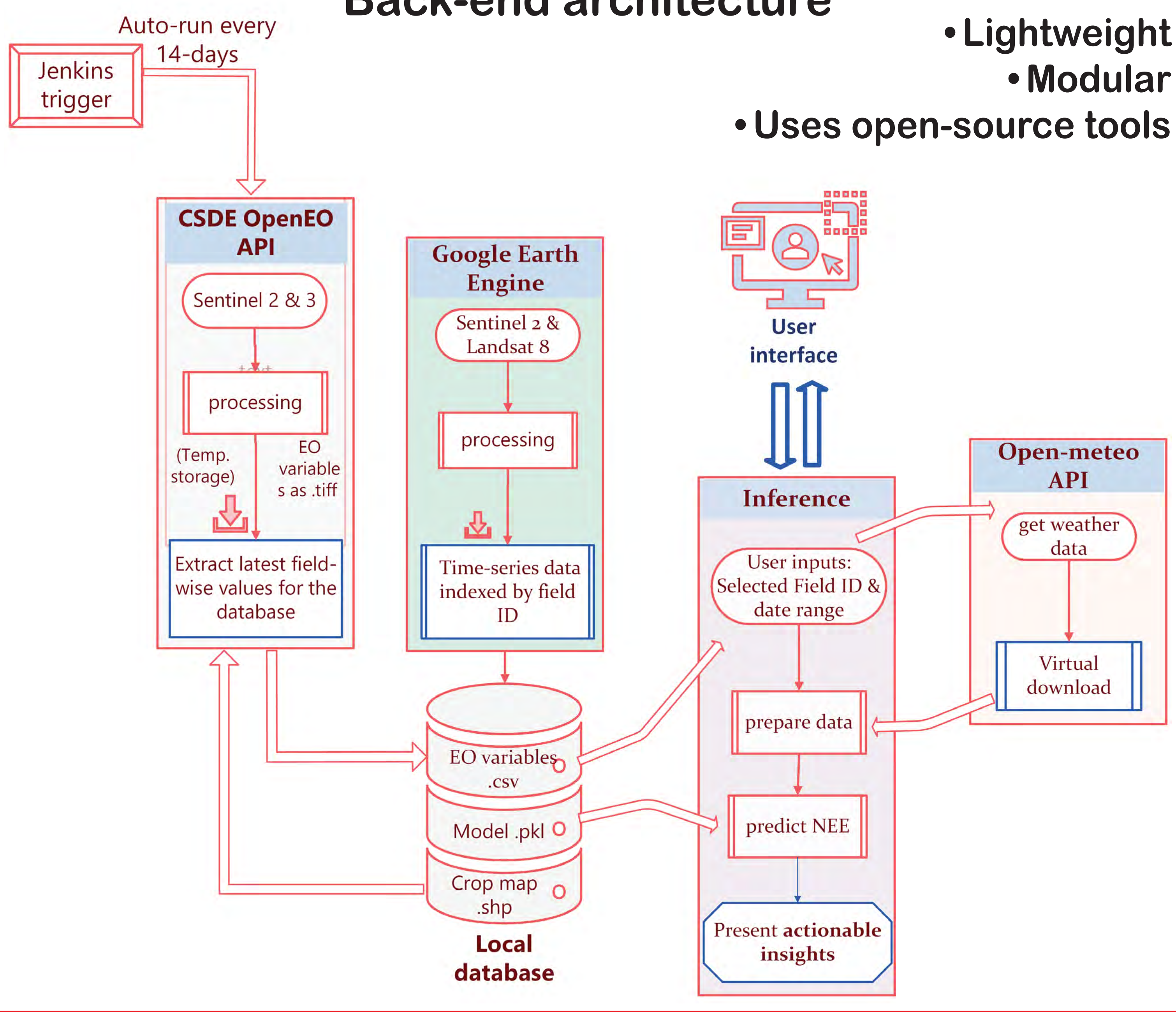
- Drainage of peatlands for cultivation increases **aerobic decomposition** in the peat layer, thereby accelerating GHG release.
- **>7.5 %** of world's wetlands had been drained for agriculture and produce **~833 Mt CO₂eq** annually¹.
- East Anglian Fens—one of UK's most important agricultural regions—produce **~24% of the UK's peatland emissions**².



Knowledge gap

- Need for multiscale, spatio-temporal monitoring of CO₂ fluxes to reach **Net Zero goals by 2050**.
- Existing Geospatial Machine Learning (GeoML) models are: a) not developed for/calibrated in **drained peatland ecosystems** b) static, **require specialized expertise** to operate or interpret.
- Lack of **operationalizing frameworks** for implementation of GeoML within decision support systems such as Digital Twins.

Back-end architecture



⁴Khan et al. (2025)

Our approach

- Develop a **Random Forest Regression model** trained on Eddy Covariance flux tower, Earth Observation, and meteorological data from drained agricultural peatlands to **predict Net Ecosystem Exchange of CO₂**
- Develop a lightweight, modular **framework to implement GeoML** within Digital Twins systems.
- Deploy the framework to operationalize the model into a **biweekly, field-scale CO₂ flux monitoring system**.

Results

- The RF model shows an accuracy of **77%** with **R² = 0.79**; **NRMSE = 8.67%**; The average predictive uncertainty of **±1.69gC/m²/d** for biweekly fluxes.

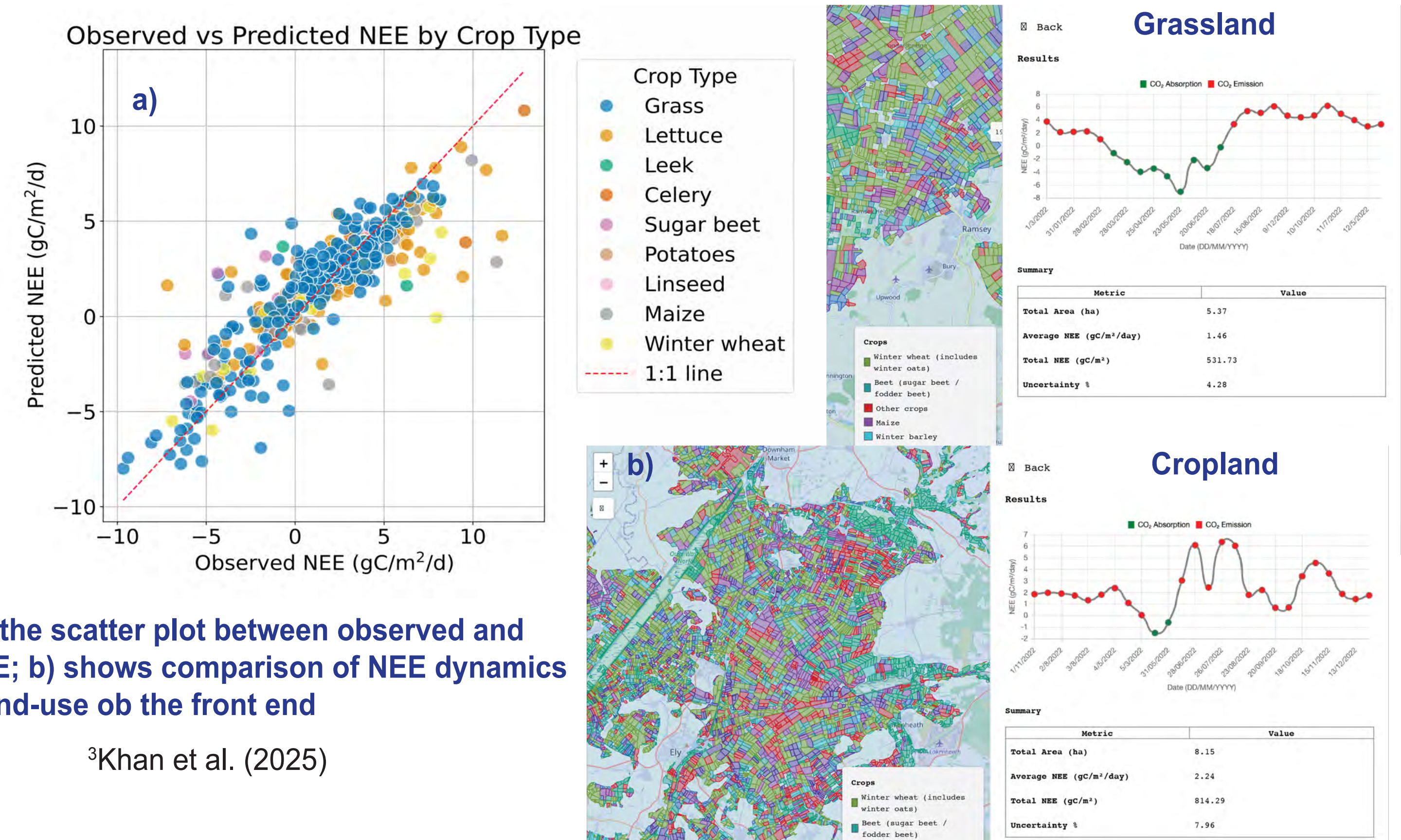
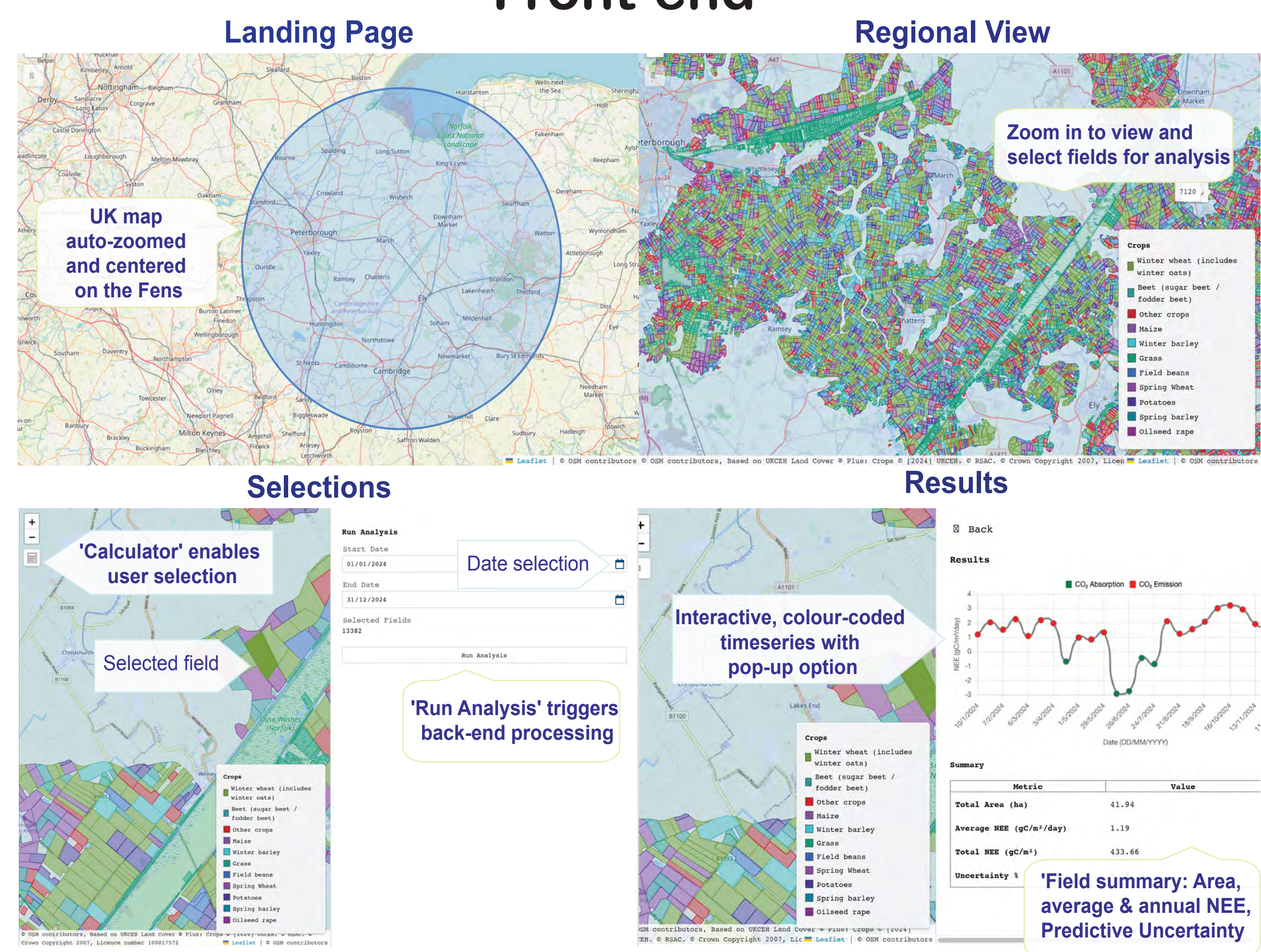


Fig a) Shows the scatter plot between observed and predicted NEE; b) shows comparison of NEE dynamics in different land-use of the front end

³Khan et al. (2025)

Front-end



- Provides field-scale NEE estimates for user inputs in **~6.1 seconds**.
- Converts GeoML outputs into **actionable insights** for farmers and policymakers.
- Integrates into **Digital Twin architectures** without changing existing logic or pipelines.

Conclusions

- Work presents the first AI-driven end-to-end solution for generating actionable insights for farmers and policymakers to support reduction of CO₂ fluxes from drained agricultural peatlands of England.

References:

*Funded by Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), grant number EP/Y00597X/1

1. Conchedda, G.; Tubiello, F.N. Drainage of organic soils and GHG emissions: validation with country data. *Earth System Science Data Discussions* 2020, 2020, 1–47.
2. Evans, C.; Artz, R.; Moxley, J.; Smyth, M.; Taylor, E.; Archer, E.; Burden, A.; Williamson, J.; Donnelly, D.; Thomson, A. Implementation of an emissions inventory for UK peatlands. 2017.
3. Khan, A.; Ali, M.; Kaduk, J.; Anjum, A.; Balzter, H. Upscaling CO₂ fluxes from agricultural drained lowland peatlands in England using remote sensing and machine learning. *Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment* 2025, 40, 101728
4. Khan, A.; Ali, M.; Mandadi, A.; Anjum, A.; Balzter, H. (2025). Digital Twin-Ready Earth Observation: Operationalizing GeoML for Agricultural CO₂ Flux Monitoring at Field Scale. *Remote Sensing*, 17(21), 3615. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs17213615>