

London Liverpool Street – Manningtree – Harwich

From the financial heart of England's capital city, through the urban landscapes of East London and out to the Essex coastline, One Railway runs services between London Liverpool Street and Harwich. This route passes through the broad horizons of East Anglia as it links the centre of London with one of the country's main international ports.

The first third of this journey, almost as far as Chelmsford, is through built up, developed areas. However, it is still possible to spot wildlife in these urban locations. Green railway embankments create safe refuges for wildlife, particularly small mammals such as **mice**, **voles**, **hedgehogs** and **foxes***, where they can forage and nest without human disturbance. These embankments act as corridors, enabling wildlife to penetrate suburbia without having to enter roads and other hazardous areas. As the track moves to the east and north, the landscape becomes more agricultural and, between Chelmsford and Manningtree, watch out for **rabbits**, **brown hares** and **fallow deer***. This agricultural land is home to a wide variety of birds too. The most obvious species are lapwings and crows, but you'll probably also see the exotic **pheasant**, which was introduced in the 11th century from Asia. Beyond Manningtree, the line follows the river Stour. You can see many water birds from the trains including **shelduck**, which viewed from a distance, look black and white. They feed on small invertebrates in the estuarine mud. Another bird found out on the mud is the **curlew**, our largest wading bird. Wading birds generally have long legs and, in the case of the curlew, a very long down-curved bill for extracting food deep in the mud. Although commonly seen feeding in estuaries, the curlew is a bird that breeds mainly in the uplands. Occasionally, the **little egret***, a startlingly white bird smaller than a heron, may be seen around many of the area's rivers and lakes. This species recently colonised the UK from Europe.

*Fox – picture on page 5

*Fallow deer – picture on page 19

*Little egret – picture on page 19



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Curlew - the eerie, bubbling call of the curlew is evocative of its moorland home.



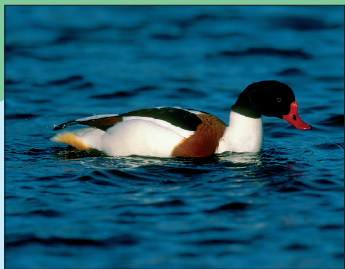
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Rabbits - introduced to the UK from France about 900 years after the Norman Conquest as a source of meat and fur.



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Brown hare - has long black-tipped ears and is much larger than the rabbit



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Shelduck - Feeding often in estuaries, its favourite foods are shellfish, crabs, shrimps and worms.

