

## Peterborough to Norwich

*Central Trains and One Railway provide services between Peterborough and Norwich. This route passes through the flat reclaimed marshland of the Fens as it links these two Cathedral cities.*

At the beginning of the route, keep a watch for the smallest deer in Britain, the **Muntjac\***, which is increasingly found alongside railway lines in and around our towns. As the route progresses, it passes through the lowest lying part of the UK and crosses the Fens. Consequently, water plays an important part in the make up of this landscape and the area is the heartland of another exciting species of deer, the **Chinese water deer**. This deer is currently under threat in its homeland of China and we now have 10% of the world's population in Britain. In many places along the route, small family groups of **roe deer** are known to roam.

One of England's most important bird sites is crossed by this line – the Ouse Washes, home to many thousands of birds throughout the year. Look out for **lapwings** over farmland – in flight, their distinctive black and white wings are an obvious feature. These ground-nesting birds are declining in the UK but there are good numbers in the wetter parts of Eastern England. A large part of the Ouse Washes is an RSPB reserve important for breeding birds but perhaps best known for the vast numbers of wild swans which spend the winter there. Between October and March, you may see **Bewick's** or **whooper swans** feeding in fields between March and Littleport. These are slightly smaller than the mute swans, with yellow rather than orange markings on their bills. In between Ely and Brandon you pass Lakenheath Fen RSPB reserve. This was until recently agricultural land but has now been returned to a wetland where you may be lucky enough to see a **marsh harrier** over the reeds. This impressive bird of prey glides on raised wings over reeds. Leaving Brandon, the train traverses Thetford Forest, home to the endangered **red squirrel\*** until the late 1990s. This area was one of the last in Southern England where this native mammal was found and now, sadly, it is unlikely that any remain.

\*Muntjac deer – picture on page 5

\*Red squirrel – picture on page 23



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Lapwing - also called the 'Peewit', after its characteristic call.



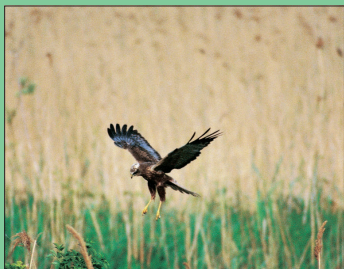
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Roe deer - the size of a goat, its Latin actually name means small goat, *Capreolus capreolus*.



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Chinese Water Deer - only found in East Anglia and the only deer species in the UK not to have antlers



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Marsh harrier - Much commoner now, in the 1970s, there were just a handful of pairs in the UK.

