

Liverpool Street to Walthamstow Central [overground]

Liverpool Street is one of the nicer London Terminals servicing the “Great Eastern” area. It’s been modernized but retains the flavour of the Victorian era that saw its birth.

This has to be one of the shortest journeys at 17 minutes and the line only goes on to Chingford three stops on. Very little is actually underground which is one of the pleasures of this route; immediately out of the station you are faced with the back streets of Shoreditch & Bethnal Green. Facing backwards and on the right side on the train you can see the Gherkin and other famous City landmarks.

Sometimes stopping at Bethnal Green Station the journey on goes left in a northerly direction past London Fields to the next stop- Hackney Downs station. From there on there is less visible going underground under Hackney Downs to Clapton.

After Clapton you’re in a cutting and not a lot happens but next is the best bit as suddenly, whoosh, like emerging from a tunnel you’re shot out into the big wide open space of Walthamstow Marshes, first crossing the River Lea with its narrow boats and sculls and well used tow-path with a quaint riverside pub. Then onto the marshes themselves with its few cows and many walkers and dogs. It’s left as a wild reserve but occasionally the meadow grass is cut but otherwise it’s left to its own devices. Another train line snakes across the green branching left at Clapton Junction (!) and gradually mans influence comes into play and the marsh turns into filter beds and a waterworks on the left and sports fields on the right. On the left is a microcosm of life in peoples back gardens until we pull into St James’ Street. Finally we run parallel with the High Street and face the ugly back of the shopping complex and car park, passing the car wash and you’re there.