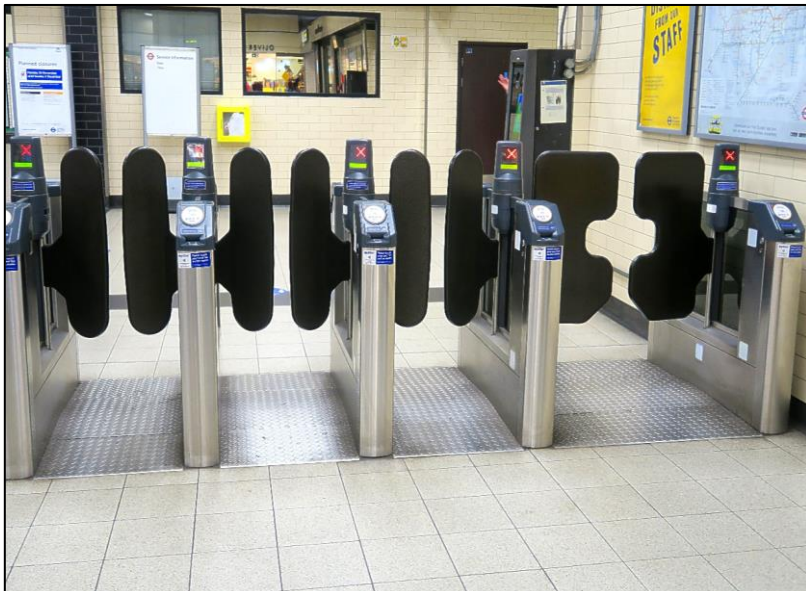


# NEWS AND NOTES

## UPDATED CENTRAL LINE CAR LINE DIAGRAMS

**Below:** By early-October 2020, a new Central Line car line diagram had been observed. These photos show recent step-free access additions at the east end with Hanger Lane and Woodford shown as a shuttle and a limited through service to it through Woodford. At the west end there is now interchange between Hanger Lane and Park Royal. For comparison, the old order at the east end of the line is shown (Bottom Left).

**Photo: Bottom Left, Kim Rennie. Other photos: Bernard Fahey**



## EMBANKMENT

A trial of new "lightweight" ticket gate paddles is underway at Embankment station. The new design of paddle was installed on all of the normal gates and wide aisle gates (WAGs) on the night of Thursday 15 October 2020. The trial is scheduled to continue until early December, during which time the performance and durability of the new material will be monitored. Unless serious concerns are raised, it is likely that the new paddles will be retained and extend the trial to include gates at some other locations, to get more experience of the paddles. The new gates are seen in place (Left) – one of the wide aisle gates is on the right.

*Photo: Brian Hardy*

## STEP-FREE UPDATE



After a long pause for Covid reasons, work has resumed on lifts for Sudbury Hill station (*Above*) and to that end, the lift tower framework was lifted in on the eastbound platform in early-December. Work continues apace at Harrow-on-the-Hill (*Above, Left*) with the lift towers now receiving cladding and the scaffolding being removed. A view from the Link Walkway to Train Crew Accommodation (*Left*) showing the fourth lift tower recently installed and with the surrounding brickwork just reaching the height at which it becomes visible from this vantage point; and also the red roundel on the window above the main stairs which nowadays is covered up inside.

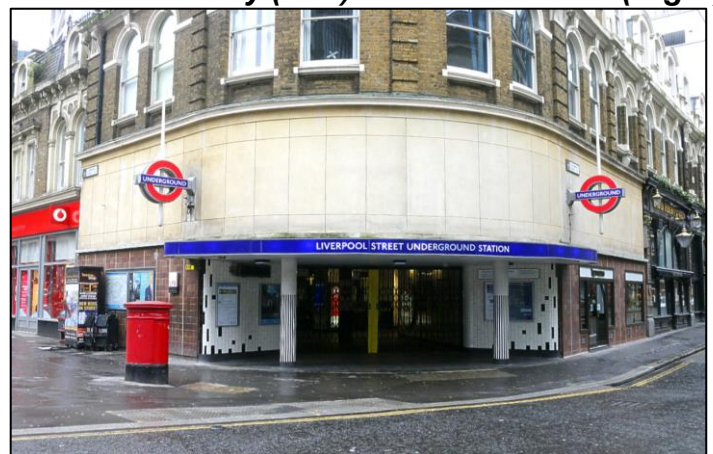
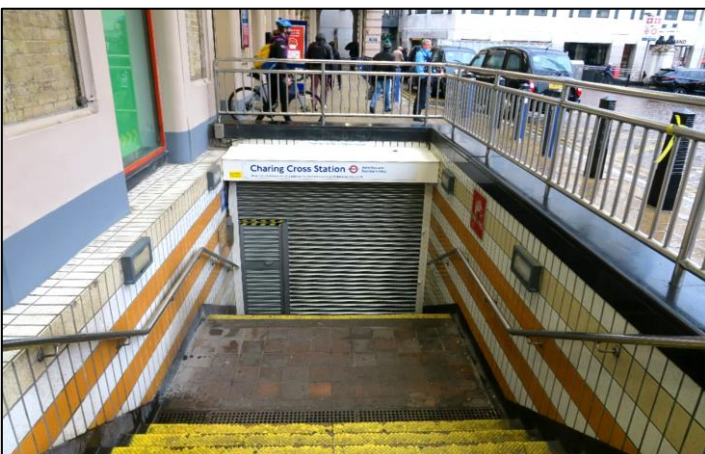
*Photos: Richard Griffin (Left and Above Left) Above: Brian Hardy*



## STATION ENTRANCE CLOSURES

*Overleaf: Two further station entrance closures include one at Charing Cross (Left) and Liverpool Street (Right) because of the noticeable drop in passenger numbers.*

*Photos: Brian Hardy (Left) and Stuart Hicks (Right)*



## SOCIAL DISTANCING



*It will be recalled that when the problems with Covid-19 kicked off back in March 2020, platforms were adorned with stickers which clearly showed what was being asked of passengers (Above, Left). However, some of these peeled off and ended up being blown onto the track (see Underground News for July 2020, photo page 416, Top Right). More recently, a new type of social distancing sign has appeared (Above, Right), which is spray-painted on platform surfaces (only seen at the north end of the Metropolitan Line so far, this being at Moor Park on 10 December 2020) in blue and white. Although more permanent, they*

*are less prominent and perhaps not so hard wearing open to the elements. Remains of stickers either blown away, or more likely peeled off deliberately, are seen at Eastcote on 3 December 2020 (Above, Left)*

**All photos: Brian Hardy**



## **NEW LU WAGONS FROM CHINA**

*Taken at Quorn & Woodhouse (Left) at the Great Central Railway, on 1 November 2020 are three new Chinese wagons for TfL, which were brought back from Swithland. These and the other one were due to leave on 2 November. They were at the GCR for slip testing, but for unknown reasons this has not taken place. The nearest wagon has spare wheel sets (in case of flats) and spare brake blocks. They were since noted at Leicester on 11 December 2020.*

**Photo: Philip Thorpe**



## ST. JAMES'S PARK

We are unsure if this has been recently renovated or replaced, but it was first noticed after the station re-opened after the Covid-19 closure and is at the west-end of the eastbound platform. However, it just doesn't look 'right' ...

*Photo: Colin Smith*



## VICTORIA STATION ARCADE

Two views (*Left and Above*) of Victoria station (District Line) showing the hoardings in place for the work on refurbishing the arcade. The over-arcade building – Victoria Station House – shows the mosaic building name frieze.

*Both photos: Antony Badsey-Ellis*

## BODY-WORN CAMERAS

As previously reported in *Underground News*, TfL staff are now being issued with body-worn cameras, affording greater protection from the public. This poster was on display at Ealing Broadway on 6 December 2020.

*Photo: Colin Smith*





## THE RETURN OF THE CENTRAL LINE EAST-END RAT

*Left: With the leaf-fall season finishing (or having finished) on most lines a few days early, the east-end Central Line Rail Adhesion Train made its way back from Hainault to Ruislip on 21 December 2020, seen here passing a deserted Queensway on the westbound. The Piccadilly Line east end RAT concluded its operation as scheduled, but the west end RAT was kept on for use on an 'as required' basis between 4 and 24 January 2021 for one morning trip.*

**Photo: Jude Heath**

## NORTHERN LINE EXTENSION PREVIEW



Although engineers' trains have already worked on the Northern Line Extension (NLE), at 02.55 in the early hours of Saturday 19 December 2020, a six-car 1995 Tube Stock ventured onto

the NLE for testing. Leading the train heading south was unit 51596 with unit 51597 at the north end.

**Above:** The scissors crossover at Battersea Power Station, looking northbound towards Nine Elms.

**Above:** (Left and Right) The two station line diagrams at Nine Elms. Indication is given of the limited through service from Morden to the Charing Cross branch at Kennington and of similar at Finchley Central for Mill Hill East. This confirms that the nomenclature for the NLE will be northbound and southbound.



**Left:** : The trackside wall station name roundels at each of the two new stations.

**Below:** (Left and Right) Views of each end of the train at Battersea Power Station.

**All photos:** Drew Young



**Below:** With testing continuing, the train is seen in the southbound platform at Nine Elms in the early hours of 27 December 2020.

**Photo:** Trevor Wright

