

PRESS RELEASE

New Book Title: 'The Reshaping of British Railways' The historic report that led to the decimation of the railways

Thursday 31 January 2013 - For the first time, the iconic piece of railway history 'The Reshaping of British Railways' by Dr Beeching, will be available in its entirety, complete with the original tables and maps of routes deemed fit for closure, from 31 January 2013.

Bradshaw's Guide has given rise to a wave of nostalgia for our Victorian and Edwardian railway systems. But the other half of the story can be traced back to Dr Beeching's report – The Reshaping of British Railways – that decimated these systems forever.

In the early 1960s the British Rail company were failing to stem huge annual losses, so the Government turned to Dr Richard Beeching. His task was to save money by recommending the cutting of redundant routes and services. His two reports, The Reshaping of British Railways (1963) and The Development of the Major Railway Trunk Routes (1965), were published by the British Railways Board in 1965 and offer a fascinating snapshot of our nation's railways.

In the first part of this historic facsimile edition, Dr Beeching identifies the 2,363 stations and 5,000 miles of railway line for closure – that accounted for over 50% of all stations and 30% of route miles. Despite nationwide protests, resulting in the saving of some stations and lines, the majority were closed as planned and Beeching's name is to this day associated with the mass closure of railways and the loss of many local services in the period that followed.

'This is a must-have piece of history for all those interested in how our towns and cities have been affected by the reshaping of the railway network fifty years ago.' Roger Kershaw, Head of Military, Maritime, Transport & Family Records, The National Archives

The Reshaping of British Railways is jointly published by Collins and The National Archives

and is available from 31st January 2013, priced £9.99.

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Notes to Editors:

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Images available:

Link to image of 'The Reshaping of British Railways' book cover:

<http://flickr.com/gp/59260229@N06/241S43>

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