

History

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History of Railways in Britain

Britain's railways have a fascinating and inspiring tale to tell. Learn more about its development.

Social Fabric of the UK

The history of the British Railway network is about more than trains. It's the story of the social fabric of the UK since the turn of the nineteenth century. The story begins in the North-East of England with the industrial revolution's steam engineers. 1825 sees the opening of the legendary line on Teesside. And it's not long before the railways are the investor's darling. The railway boom of the 1840s sees a huge network started from scratch.

The Age of the Train

For over one hundred years, steam has its age in the UK. And with it, some of the world's engineering triumphs. Much of the network's core infrastructure is still with us, from the sweeping curves of Brunel's Great Western line to the majesty of the Forth Rail Britain's great rail works, from Swindon to Springburn, take steam to the world. And the great railway companies - from GWR to LNER, LMS and beyond - create enduring brands whose memory lives on today.

The Network Runs out of Steam

Steam's end finally comes in 1968, as and diesel programmes are pushed ahead by successions of reforming governments. But the rapid extension of the motorway network and

the increasing affordability of private cars bring their own problems for rail in the 1970s and 80s. The railways fought back with the introduction of the first (HSTs).

Choose words to fill the gaps from these ones:

national golden electrification Bridge

Stockton and Darlington High Speed Trains