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EFE Road
Great British Model Roadways

PRESS INFORMATION

A CASE OF NORTHERN EXPOSURE FOR EFE ROAD

On Sunday 5th July 2026, Bachmann Europe Plc unveiled five new 1:76 scale Northern Routemaster models as part of its growing EFE Road range of diecast collectables. The announcement was made as part of the Routemaster Association's 'London Comes to Glasgow' event in conjunction with the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust.

In the early 1960s, London Transport decided to make its famous Routemaster bus available on the open market and, in addition to the existing types already successfully serving London, Park Royal Vehicles built a unique Routemaster in a bid to promote sales. This was RMF1254, a 30ft vehicle that shared many common parts with the RML type Routemasters, but designed to meet the growing trend of having a front, or forward, entrance close to the driver.

One operator that commissioned Routemasters for its fleet was Northern General, which ordered 50 vehicles for its long distance, inter-urban services, and these were delivered in 1964/65. The design was heavily influenced by RMF1254, although changes were made to suit Northern's specification. The first of the new Routemasters entered service in May 1964, and in 1966 the 50 became 51 when they were joined by RMF1254, which had been bought from London Transport. They could be found across the region on services to Newcastle, Sunderland, Middlesborough and Hartlepool, some of which were over 40 miles in length.

The advent of the National Bus Company (NBC) saw the fleet progressively receive the corporate colour schemes from 1972. However, with the move towards One-Man Operation, the Routemasters' days were numbered. Mass withdrawals began in 1977, and by the end of the decade just 18 were left in service. That number continued to drop throughout 1980, and the last one, No. 3105, ran on 16th December that year.

Some were acquired for preservation, but others would find their way to London, working on sightseeing tours or other heritage workings. Thankfully, a handful of the type remain today, together with the one-off RMF, and two of these can still be seen in the North East.

The new models are based on EFE Road's refined and updated Routemaster tooling, and now feature such enhancements as bodyside panel lines and highly detailed liveries and advertisements.

They are:

E42601 - AEC Routemaster Northern NBC FTP594C (2124) Service 653 Whickham
This model depicts fleet number 2124 in National Bus Company (NBC) Poppy Red with white band working service 653 to Whickham. The model is complete with the 'Shop at Binns' adverts, which were synonymous with Northern's bus fleet.

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E42602 - AEC Routemaster Northern NBC FTP595C (3109) Service 136 North Hylton
Following a January 1975 renumbering by the NBC, two of the fleet received an all-over yellow livery. These were No. 3071, which was one of the first batch of 18, and No. 3109 of the second batch, and this is the subject of our model. It is depicted on a service 136 to North Hylton, and includes contemporary detailing including the missing radiator badge.

E42603 - AEC Routemaster Northern FTP586C (2116) Service 46 Chester-le-Street
In 1969, Northern (NBC) introduced a new red and cream livery that was applied to a number of the Routemasters, and this is reflected by our model of No. 2116. The model carries contemporary advertising, again with the obligatory Shop at Binns legends, and is seen working service 46 to Chester-le-Street.

E42604 - AEC Routemaster Northern FTP597C (2127) Service 64 Newcastle
Next, we have fleet number 2127, a 1965 example, which is depicted in its updated version of Northern's all-over red livery with cream cant rail band. It features the later style of Northern's sans serif branding, and is shown working a service 64 to Newcastle via Washington.

E42605 - AEC Routemaster RMF2809 General Route 111 Heathrow Central
In 1991, former Northern Routemaster, registration FPT 603C, was repainted in a faux London General livery, given London style blinds, and adorned with the fictitious fleet number RMF2809. The following year it took part in a Hounslow Garage running day, working route 111 to Heathrow Central, and it is this guise that we have chosen for this model.

The five models are expected to reach retailers during late October/early November 2026 and have an RRP of £49.95.

Details on where to find Bachmann stockists can be found online at *news.bachmann.co.uk/find-a-retailer/*

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:
A selection of images showing artworks of the new models are enclosed with this press release. Please note that certain colours or details may vary slightly on the finished models.

EFE Road originates from the Exclusive First Editions range of diecast models and collectables established in 1989. It became part of Bachmann Europe Plc in 2016 and was rebranded as EFE Road in 2022.

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