

WM00647
Highley Initiative

NEW ENGLAND Enhancement Project

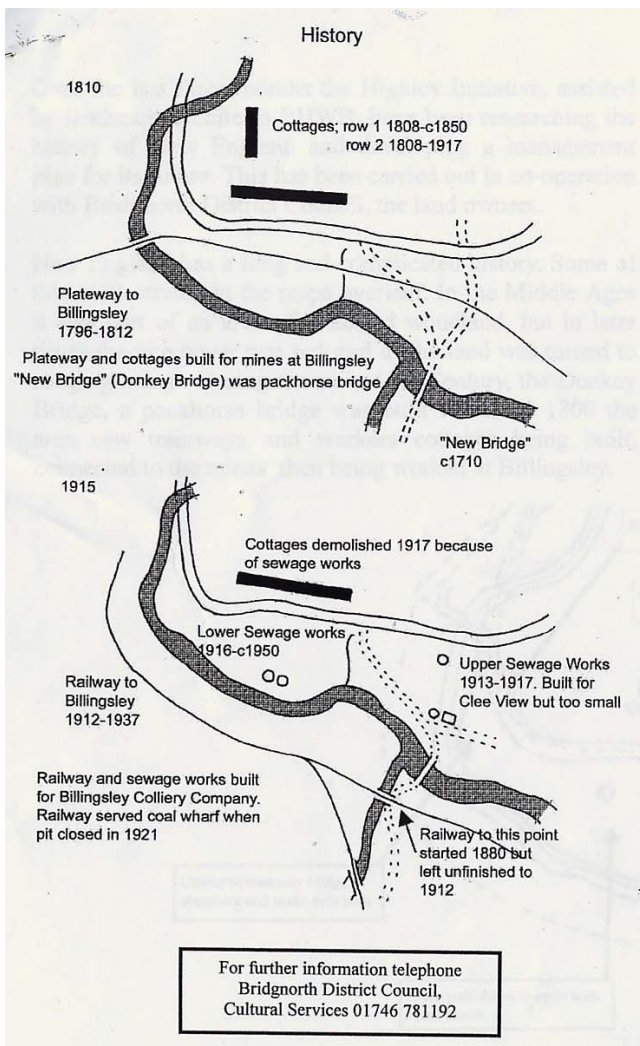


The New England Enhancement is funded by the Local Heritage Initiative, a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency.

We also acknowledge the support of Highley and Kinlet Parish Council, Bridgnorth District Councils and Shropshire County Council.



Local Heritage *initiative*



Over the last three months the Highley Initiative, assisted by landscape architects BHWB, have been researching the history of New England and developing a management plan for its future. This has been carried out in co-operation with Bridgnorth District Council, the land owners.

New England has a long and complicated history. Some of this is illustrated in the maps overleaf. In the Middle Ages it was part of an area of managed woodland, but in later times the tree cover was reduced as the land was turned to rough grazing. During the early 18th Century, the Donkey Bridge, a packhorse bridge was built. Around 1800 the area saw tramways and workers cottages being built, connected to the mines then being worked at Billingsley.

These soon closed, but the renewal of mining in the early 20th Century saw new railways and the construction of sewage works for houses built by the Billingsley Colliery Company. These all became disused by about 1950.

Since then the site was transferred to Bridgnorth District Council to be managed for informal recreation and as an area for wildlife.

In recent years New England has suffered from footpath erosion, dumping of rubbish and vandalism. Through consultation, BHWB have produced a series of recommendations to remedy this some of which are shown here.

