## **Contents**

	Glossary	4
	Preface & acknowledgements	5
1	Rationale and early years	7
	Overview – Coal and the Broken Hill Proprietary Company – The Greta Coal Measures – the Elrington branch line – Development of Elrington Colliery – Underground workings – the electrical supply – 1928 General Strike (Lockout) – A thoroughly modern mine – Battery electric locomotive introduced – Skips but really mine cars.	
2	The Great Depression and a response	25
	Impact of the 1920s BHP investment at Newcastle – the Depression years – Underground operations – Drivers and shunters: a dangerous ride – Vice-regal attention – From coalface to sunshine – Coals to Newcastle.	
3	Mechanised mining and the war years	43
	Dawn of a new era – Underground expansion – The social calendar – World War II – Hebburn Railway during the war – A matter of ropes – East Road haulage – Additional locomotives – Save the legs: transport for the men – New pit top skip circuit – Route of the timber trolleys.	
4	Post-war hope and despair	57
	The battle of the pillars – Steel wheels and rubber tyres – But industrial disputes continue! – The locomotive crew at work – Strikes, disputes and locomotives – A most important man: the roadlayer – Battery locomotive maintenance – Skip repair and maintenance.	
5	Decline and closure	75
	'King Coal' in crisis – Hope for a new age – the coal preparation plant at Hebburn No. 2 – Standard gauge railway operations – East Haulage review – New owners – Elrington Colliery's final days	
6	The Elrington legacy	85
	Elrington Engineering established – The Red Roll – Infrastructure – Conclusion.	
	References and end notes	91
	Index	94