As the English in New England grew in power and numbers in the 1630s and 1640s, they rejected Indigenous Algonquian experts and physically distanced themselves from their Algonquian neighbors as part of a process of anglicizing the New England landscape. Anglicization happened in fits and starts, partly through calculation and partly through unthinking routine actions. In the 1640s and 1650s, colonists adopted more formal surveying from this same Anglocentric impulse. This Anglicization in turn paved the way for new mapmaking that was well suited to a landscape of English style farms and fences. The shift took place sooner in locales with established, large English population than in areas bordering powerful Algonquian polities. Throughout New England, English victory in the Pequot War in 1637 had provided colonists with a heightened sense of distrust of Algonquians and a newfound confidence in their own supremacy.

The English quest to anglicize the landscape had many parts. As colonists expelled Algonquians from land, the English established laws to regulate land distribution, fought over intra-English borders, and began to conduct increasingly accurate surveys and perambulations. All these actions served to create records, landmarks, and classifications of the land that rendered it comprehensible to English epistemology. Broadly, English activity had two dimensions. The colonists enacted physical changes to make the land appear more English in design and they adopted epistemological innovations developed in England, such as surveying. The rejection of Algonquian knowledge and Algonquian controlled landscapes appears in the banal, dry records of land exchanges. Legal and government documents containing boundary measurements and resulting from intra-English land disputes were far less dramatic than the violence of the Pequot
War, yet the changes they instituted in ways of thinking about land, possession, and belonging were just as significant. The dryness of these records normalized English activities as routine and unproblematic and obscure the marginalization of Indigenous influence that was occurring. Eventually, border disputes among the English would come to dominate the records, becoming one of the most discussed items by colonial governments.

The insider knowledge and claims to possession that initially made Indians valuable to colonial endeavors helped to cause the English to eventually view the Native inhabitants as obstructions to acquiring and anglicizing territory. Simply put, most colonists did not imagine a New England in which they built their houses among wigwams and continued to depend on friendly Indigenous guides to help them navigate twisting forest paths. Instead, the English employed the alchemy of violence, commodification, and proclamation, to make New England English. Nevertheless, Algonquian polities and individuals had ways of forcing the English to acknowledge their abiding presence and longstanding relationship with the land.