

The Last Cuckoo Project

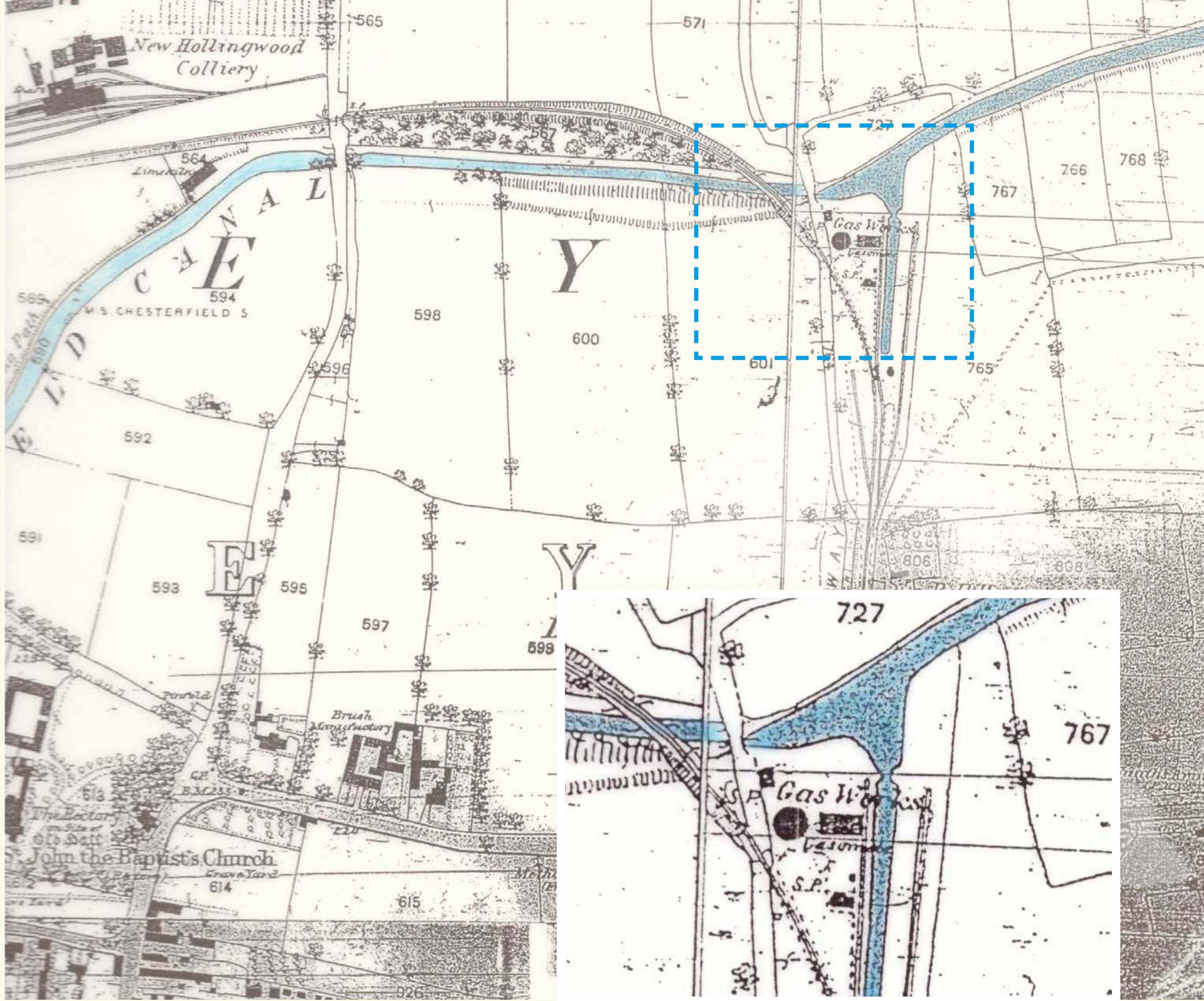
The Chesterfield Canal Trust is holding an archaeological dig here from 7th to 18th August. It is being paid for by a grant of £10,000 that we won from the Aviva Community Fund. Elmet Archaeological Services is providing the professional expertise.



We are looking for an original Chesterfield Canal boat. Known as Cuckoo boats, they were unique to this canal. They were 70' long. The design developed little from the 1770s right up to the 1920s when the last ones were made. Up to the end of commercial use in the 1950s, they were still horse drawn. They were never equipped with engines. A mast was used when they ventured onto the River Trent.



Some of our volunteers spent four years making a replica Cuckoo boat, Dawn Rose, using only hand tools. It is moored in Shireoaks Marina.



This is the site of Bellhouse Basin on the canal. We have strong evidence that there will be at least one Cuckoo boat here. There may be other boats as well.

We also hope to find all sorts of other items, such as bottles, coins, clay pipes and lumps of iron. We may find traces of the short lived canal branch marked on the map.

You can find lots of information about this dig, including a photo diary, on our website, just search for Chesterfield Canal.

If you would like to book in to help with the dig, go to our website or speak to one of our volunteers, but please be aware that there are very few places left.

At the end of the dig, we will have an Open Day here on Saturday 19th August, when all our finds will be on show

www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk

