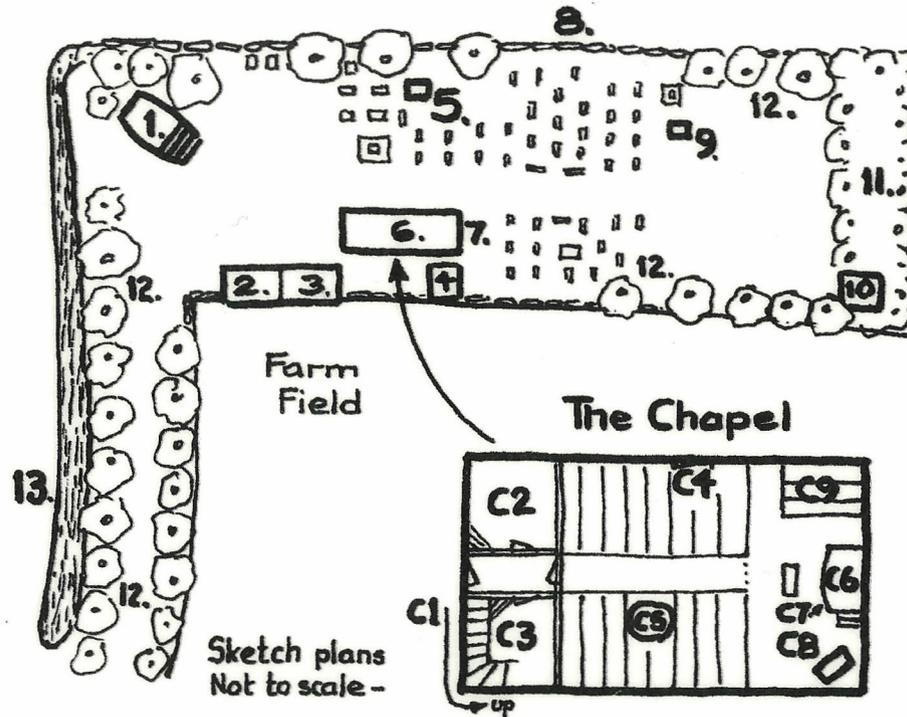


WHAT TO LOOK FOR AT MONKSTHORPE CHAPEL

In the grounds:-

1. **Outdoor baptistry** - here believers were baptised by full immersion, the water taken from the nearby dyke
2. **Caretaker's cottage**
3. **Stable** for horse transport !
4. **Privy** - an old word for toilet
5. **Gravestones**, including that of John Dowse who was minister for many years and wrote the first history of the chapel.
6. **The chapel** as restored and modernised in the 1840s. (It had a thatched roof originally.)
7. **The small door**, high up in the wall - was it an escape route for the preacher in days of persecution?
8. **The field** - which was once part of RAF Spilsby
9. **War Veterans Memorial**
10. **Pig - sty!** The caretaker also kept a cow!
11. **Old orchard** - now a wildlife reservation area.
12. **The trees** planted in the late 1800s. There were always trees . . .
13. **and on the right** as you leave is the field which was once the site of the 'preacher's croft'. A lookout climbed a tree to keep watch.



Built in 1701 to look like a barn, there are no records of what the chapel was like. The inside would possibly have been plain and perhaps unfurnished. The present interior is typical of the 1840s when it was refurbished.

Inside the chapel:-

- C1. **The balcony** with 2 vestries underneath.
- C2. **The Preacher's vestry.**
- C3. **Deacon's or choir vestry.**
- C4. **The side door** - blocked in the 1840 renovation.
- C5. **'Pot - bellied' boiler.** (Note there is no lighting in the chapel.)
- C6. **The pulpit** and
- C7. . . . **underneath the tomb** of Hugh Ayscoughe who gave the land for the chapel in about 1700.
- C8. **The harmonium** of a similar type to that used in the 1800s.
- C9. **The pews** and the choir pews with doors.

Monksthorpe Chapel began life before 1700 when dissenters who believed in full immersion of believers, rather than infant baptism, risked persecution and imprisonment, and were not allowed to meet within 5 miles of a parish church. Monksthorpe has always been linked with the Baptist Church at Burgh - le - Marsh. The present chapel was used regularly till the 1970s, after which it fell into disrepair. A group from the East Midland Baptist Association began restoration before the National Trust took possession in 2001. Services are now held at regular intervals throughout the year.