



About St Botolph's

This remote and exceptionally beautiful church is situated amidst arable fields, more than a mile from the village of Saltfleet Haven.

Skidbrooke, or 'Schitebroc' as it is known in the Domesday Book means 'dirty brook' in Old English. Prior to ownership by William the Conqueror, the manor was held by Queen Edith.

Unusual for this part of Lincolnshire, St. Botolph's is built of Ancaster stone. Despite its late-medieval exterior, the inside of the church attests to an earlier period. The Early English south doorway leads to an interior of great magnificence, with its enormous nave and timber roof.

The chancel arch is of early 13th-century date. The earlier arcade was used in the rebuilding of the nave and the pillars of the south arcade were reset on heightened bases.

During the Middle Ages, the church served the busy port of Saltfleet, which sent two ships and 49 men for the invasion of Brittany under Edward III. The church served a large congregation, which explains why it contains so many additional features such as the clerestory. The battlemented tower can be seen from some distance away. St. Botolph's had a peal that would have been heard from miles around, although all of its bells are now in the neighbouring church of Saltfleetby.

The church was vested with The Churches Conservation Trust in 1975.

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Access

Due to their age, historic church floors can be uneven and worn and lighting can be low level. Please take care, especially in wet weather when floors can be slippery.

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Church of St Botolph

Skidbrooke

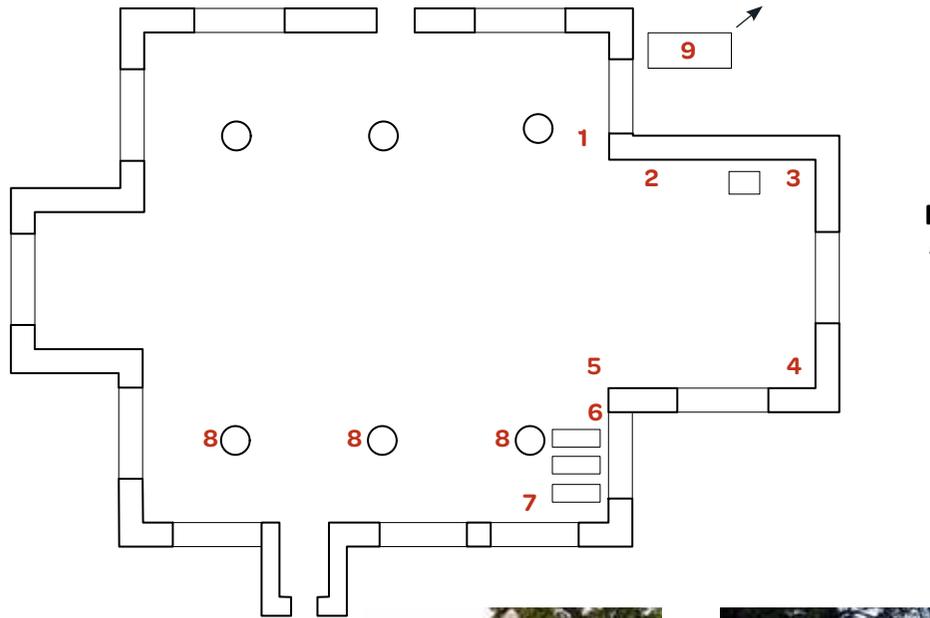


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The historic church of St Botolph

10 things to see before you leave...

- 1 On the north side of the chancel is a blocked **arch**, indicating the past presence of a side chapel.
- 2 Supporting the roof on the north side of the chancel is a **corbel** which appears to have the face of a monkey.
- 3 **Aumbries** were installed to store chalices and other vessels used during medieval Mass.
- 4 A second **corbel** on the south side of the chancel appears to show the face of a lion.
- 5 A further **corbel** is set in the east wall of the aisle. This particular corbel shows an owl.
- 6 The **medieval grave slab** depicts a priest with his hands shown in a prayer position.
- 7 This **ledger stone** is marked with an incised cross and probably dates to the 13th or 14th century.
- 8 In the south aisle, the 13th-century columns have stiff-leaf decorations on the **capitals**. In contrast, those of the north aisle are plain.
- 9 The **headstones** commemorate R.J. McDonald and five unknown mariners, who perished when their Merchant Navy vessel was torpedoed during the Second World War
- 10 The wooden **lych gate** was donated to the church in 1949.



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