



### Church of St Peter & St Paul

Dating from around 1363, the present church is the remains of a former larger building damaged in 1643 during the siege of the castle in the Civil War. Only the south aisle survived, but a north aisle was added in 1890 by the architect James Fowler of Louth. There was a church on this site from at least 1086. At the base of the east window are two heads believed to represent the parents of John of Gaunt – King Edward III and Queen Philippa. The west window, by Kempe, depicts four saints – St Peter and St Paul (the patron saints of the church) and St George and St Hugh. St George has the arms of the Duchy of Lancaster, and St Hugh those of the Diocese of Lincoln. There is a peal of six bells (the oldest dating from 1604) and a very old Sanctus bell.

### John of Gaunt (1340-1399) & Blanche of Lancaster (1342-1368)

The third son of Edward III, John of Gaunt married Blanche of Lancaster in 1359. He was one of the richest and most powerful men in England and exercised great influence. Blanche was born in Bolingbroke Castle, part of her father's extensive estates as 1st Duke of Lancaster. Upon the death in 1361 of his father-in-law, John received half his lands and the title Earl of Lancaster. He inherited the rest of the Lancaster estate on the death of Blanche's sister Maud in 1362 when he was made 2nd Duke of Lancaster.

### Henry Bolingbroke King Henry IV (1367-1413)

Henry was one of three children of John of Gaunt and Blanche to survive into adulthood. He was born in Bolingbroke Castle in 1367. The seizure of the Lancastrian estates by the crown upon John of Gaunt's death in 1399 deprived Henry of his inheritance and gave him an excuse to challenge King Richard II as a champion of the nobility. Richard surrendered to him in August that year and Henry Bolingbroke's reign as King Henry IV began when Richard abdicated in September 1399. Henry IV used his descent from King Henry III (ruled 1216-72) to justify his usurpation of the throne.

### Katherine Swynford

Governess of the two daughters of John of Gaunt and Blanche of Lancaster, Katherine Swynford became the third wife of John of Gaunt in 1396. They had four children, the Beauforts, who are the ancestors of the present royal lineage. Katherine died in 1403 and was entombed in the sanctuary of Lincoln Cathedral.

### The Watermill

There was a mill on this site in the 14th century and the present mill was still working in the 1930s when the buildings had fallen into disrepair. They have since been restored, and some of the machinery and fittings have been preserved as interesting features in what is now a family home.

### Bolingbroke Castle

The castle was founded in 1220-1230 by Randolph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester and Lincoln. It was extended and altered in the 14th century when it passed to Earl Henry's daughter, Blanche who married John of Gaunt. The castle was the birthplace in 1367 of Henry Bolingbroke, the son of John of Gaunt & Blanche, who became King Henry IV in 1399.

The castle withstood a siege during the Civil War in 1643, but was overcome by Parliamentary forces following a battle at nearby Wincoby. It was then partially demolished, deserted and fell into ruin. The site is now in the care of English Heritage and managed by Heritage Lincolnshire.

# OLD BOLINGBROKE HERITAGE MAP

- Features of Interest ★
- Listed Buildings ■
- Conservation Area 2018