

VENUE MAP

Step into Dragon Hall,
home to the National
Centre for Writing

Find your way around Dragon Hall, a centre for 600 years of stories. Discover its many uses over time and bring to light the lives of the people who have lived and worked here over hundreds of years. See the site come alive through talks, activities and tours.

Explore, exchange and imagine

DRAGON HALL EXTERIOR SIGN © LUKE WITCOMB



CROWNPOST ROOF



OGEE ARCH © LUKE WITCOMB



Dragon Hall was once a medieval merchants trading complex, built soon after 1427. Stepping into the building, how does it make you feel?

Robert Toppes acquired the Dragon Hall site in the 1420s. He was an important figure in Norwich; he became the City Treasurer at the age of 27, the Sheriff three years later and was elected mayor four times. Do you think he spent his money wisely?

In the **Workshop Space**, the wooden beam fireplace surround has what are possibly witches' marks on it – known as apotropaic marks, to ward off evil spirits. Do you have any superstitions?

We think of Dragon Hall as a medieval site, but archaeological research shows evidence of Saxon dwellings here c. 1000AD. Why do you think living by the river was popular?

The Old Barge Room was thought to have been a storage room or buttery in the 14th century, where food and drink were stored. Can you imagine the smells of this cellar?

The timber of the **Great Hall** is thought to come from local Norfolk trees and would have been constructed and slotted together off-site to ensure they would fit. How long do you think it took to construct?

It is thought the **Great Hall** was once decorated with 15 carved oak dragons in the spandrels of the roof. Can you spot the last remaining dragon? Where might the others be now?

You can see the remains of wallpaper in the middle dwelling of the **Great Hall**. Can you spot the two different designs?

The building has had almost 500 years of residential use. Its identity today as Dragon Hall only began in the mid-1980s. What do you think it might have been like to live here?

Walk round to **Old Barge Yard** before leaving and you can still see the original Ogee entrance as it was when commissioned by John Page. As you journey home, what else can you notice from the past?

Listen to the Dragon Hall audio tour

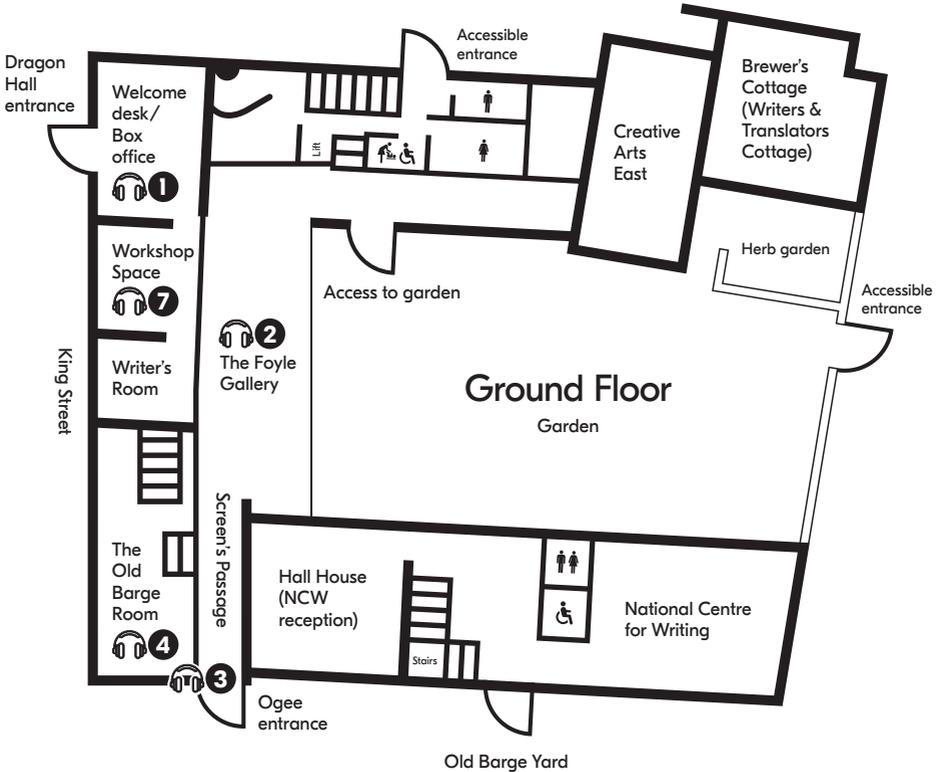
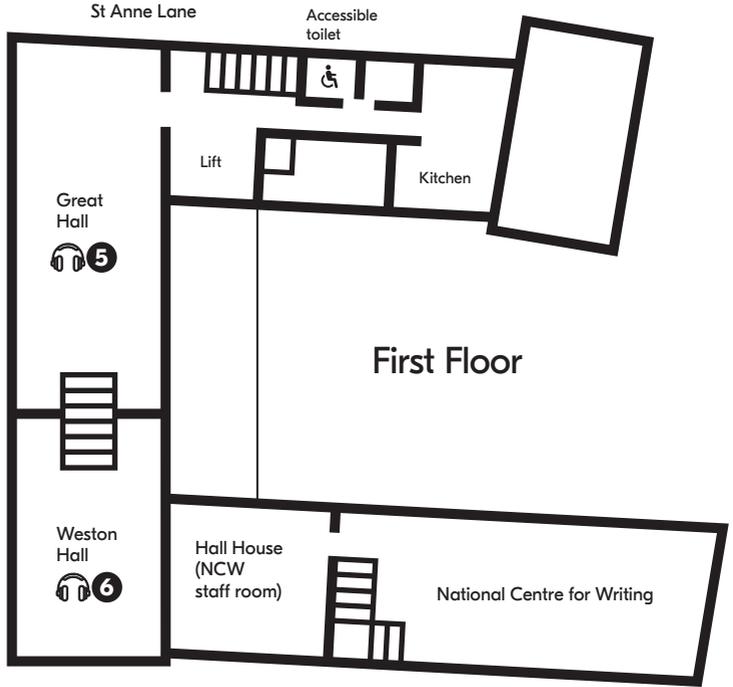
As you explore our remarkable building, scan the QR codes at each location (marked on the map) to uncover the story of Dragon Hall.

Don't have headphones? You can purchase a pair from the box office. Text versions are also available.



Key:

-  Toilets
-  Baby changing
-  Accessible toilet
-  Stairs
-  Audio tour



Get involved – tours and activities

Make the most of your visit to our medieval trading hall. Drop in during our opening hours to chat with a member of the team. We also host regular guided heritage tours each month and family activities during the school holidays. For more information and to book, visit nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk

Access

Dragon Hall is largely wheelchair accessible and equipped with two raising platform lifts; however, the building is medieval and there are some uneven surfaces. If you require assistance, please contact us, or speak to a member of staff during your visit. This leaflet is available in large print. For more information visit nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/access

Wi-Fi

NCW Guest

Password: **ilovedragons!**

Donate

Every donation directly supports the conservation and restoration of our heritage site, as well as enabling us to run community and family-friendly activities.

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