

Somerset Space Walk



Somerset Space Walk is a joint venture between
Taunton Solar Model Group
and
British Waterways Board

Funded by



Committee on the Public Understanding of Science

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Ready Mix Concrete plc
Avimo Ltd
Taunton Deane Borough Council
SWEB
The Boat and Anchor
Bathpool Inn (Both family Inns
with food and play areas)
The Handy Shop, Taunton

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The **Somerset Space Walk** was opened on the 9th August 1997 by the British Astronomer Heather Couper. Since then many, many people have walked the walk. What has been their reaction?

Well many people has meant many reactions but one theme has remained constant. People were suprised by what they saw and what they felt.

I feel that this alone justifies the existence of the space walk... because one has to ask why are visitors suprised? After all we live on earth and we have eyes?. We can see the Sun and Moon and the stars, so why should a model surprise us?

We could of course try to answer that question in this leaflet, but far better that you come and see for yourself, for knowing that you are being deceived is no substitute for actually seeing the truth! Come and see the enormity of the Sun, experience the vast emptiness of space and be amazed by the distance of the nearest Star.

As to exactly why your eyes have been deceiving you, you will find all that in a leaflet available in the British Waterways Canal Resource Centre at Lower Maunsel Lock. The leaflet will also give all the facts and figures of the space walk.

The Resource Centre also has a cafe, where you can have cream teas on the lawn overlooking the working lock.

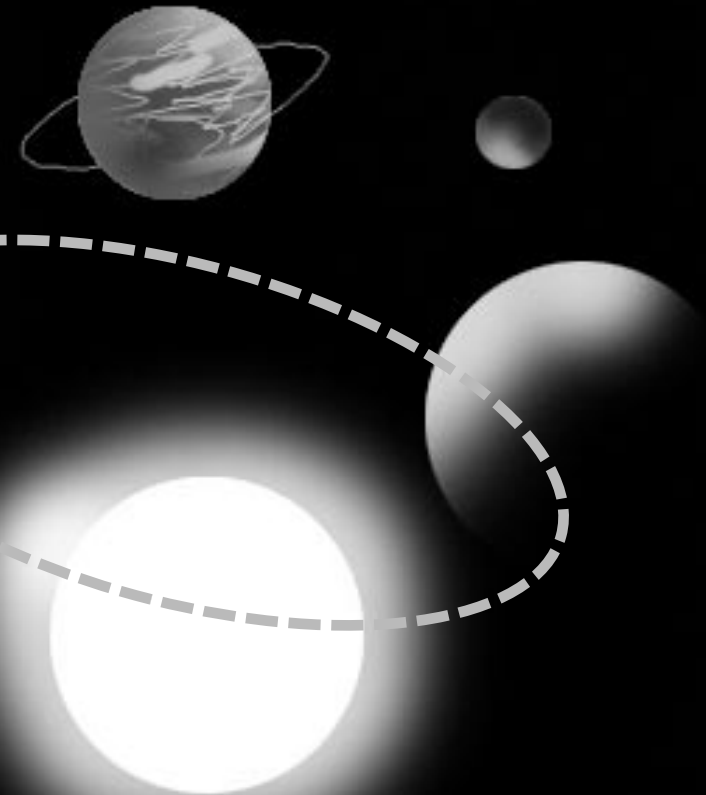
Pip Youngman
The Space Walk Man

do the

Somerset Space Walk



Discover for yourself the
vast emptiness of space



Somerset Space Walk

What is it ?

The Somerset Space Walk is a true scale model of our Solar System with the planets placed along the Taunton to Bridgwater Canal.

We believe that the little pictures of the planets we find in our encyclopedias and atlases, like the pictures on our cover, leave us all with a totally false picture of the space in which we live - no great problem day to day, but a poor basis for understanding our home planet.

This is not the fault of our atlas makers. The true picture simply cannot be put on one sheet of paper. A true scale plan of the solar system printed in the biggest atlas would just be plain white ! The images would be too small to print.

We have 22 kilometres at our disposal. This allows us, unlike museum models, to use one scale for both the planets and the distances between them. There are no figures to work out, just the chance to walk, cycle or boat through the true- scale model; to experience the true emptiness of space, and the uniqueness of our Planet Earth.



What else ?

You do not have to walk all 22 kilometres ! Centred on the Sun at Higher Maunsel Lock, the model shows the planets in their orbits on both sides of the sun (see map).

Take your choice, heading to Taunton or Bridgwater the distance to Pluto is 11 kilometres (6.8 miles), and by some strange cosmic coincidence, either way the nearest pub is 5 miles! For the less hardy the inner planets make a comfortable stroll and there is a tea garden at the lock.

We give no little pictures of the model - pictures are what we are getting away from, instead we show the Canal, the country and the good hostleries at which you may refresh yourselves.



FREE to the general public, always open, it is only asked that you respect the canal and it's environment and other canal users. People wishing to use boats or to bicycle in parties should contact British Waterways.(Details overleaf).



Where is it ?

