

Walks from Newton House

4) Taunton & Bridgwater Canal Loop via Fordgate and Bankland Drove – Distance 7.2 miles (Also suitable for Mountain Bikes)



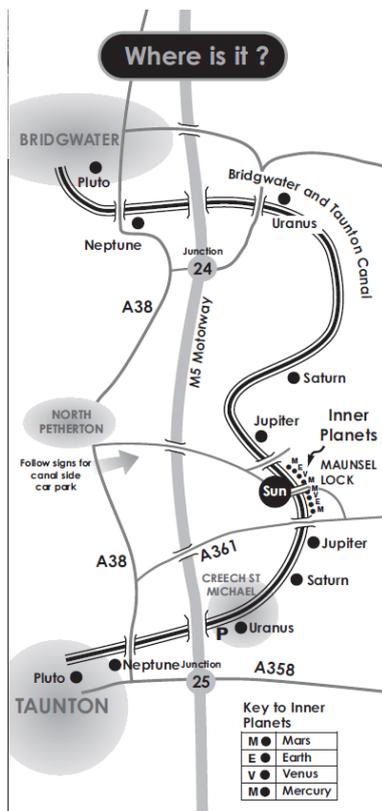
Turn Left out of the drive and follow Church Road down to the canal. Cross the swing bridge turn Right along the canal tow path. Follow the path for 1 mile until you reach the bridge next to the Maunsel Lock Tearooms. You will go under one bridge & pass Maunsel House grounds on your right



Turn left & follow the road (Bankland Lane, very quiet road) for ¼ mile until you reach Banklands farms. Follow the farm track between the farms onto Bankland Drove. Look out for Sedge Warblers, Reed Buntings, Skylark and Herons.



After a mile the track comes to a “T” junction. Turn left and follow the drove for ½ mile. At the Trach “T” Junction turn right and then after ¼ mile turn left onto the Church Road. After another ¼ mile turn left onto Kitch Drove (This is just before the first house in Moorland. Follow this rough track for ¼ miles until it reaches the hamlet of Little Moor. Follow the road to the left which takes you to the railway bridge. Cross over this and you will come to the Taunton to Bridgwater canal at Fordgate.



Turn left onto the towpath. Follow the canal path for 2 miles until you reach the swing bridge in North Newton. (Turn right up the road to Newton House) On route from Fordgate after ¼ mile you will reach Standards Lock which is a great place to have a picnic. Another ¼ mile and you will reach Kings Lock.

Along the route keep an eye out for planets along the towpath that form part of the **Somerset Space Walk** (this a true scale model of our Solar System with the planets placed along the Bridgwater to Taunton Canal with the sun centred at Higher Maunsel Lock. The planets go both ways along the tow path from here)



Standards Lock



On route you will also come across some of the World War 2 Pill box's that formed part of the “**Stop Line**” A defensive line designed to stop the enemy's advance from the West



