# Crawick Multiverse celebrates 10 years transforming former coal mine into vibrant cosmos park



The Crawick Multiverse, a unique land art installation in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Located on the site of a former open-cast coal mine, this cosmos-themed park features massive, spiralling mounds of earth that represent the Andromeda and Milky Way galaxies. The installation aims to provide both educational and recreational value, drawing visitors from near and far.

The project's origins trace back to 2005 when the late land artist Charles Jencks was commissioned by the Duke of Buccleuch, one of Scotland's largest landowners, to revitalise the barren landscape left by decades of coal mining. As Gillian Khosla, chair of the Crawick Multiverse Trust, explained, “It was a depleted site. Everything was removed that was worth money and nothing was left.” The aim of the park is to reintroduce nature, biodiversity, and community benefit to an area that had been extensively stripped of its natural wealth.

The installation boasts a 400-metre north-south avenue lined with hundreds of stones salvaged from the old coal mine, culminating in a central amphitheatre that hosts concerts during the summer months. Visitors are encouraged to engage with the environment, climbing hills and exploring the various artistic elements designed to spark curiosity about the universe. “We’re open to everybody’s way of looking at it,” said Caroline McMillan, a local farmer and trustee of the Crawick Multiverse, highlighting the multi-faceted appeal of the site.

The site has transformed from a desolate landscape into a biodiversity hotspot. McMillan noted, “It was grey and uninteresting. Now it’s green and there’s a lot more biodiversity – ponds and dragonflies.” This metamorphosis has not only added beauty but also created jobs and fostered community interaction, making it a popular destination for families.

Crawick Multiverse exists as part of a wider narrative in the region, where communities once reliant on coal mining are adapting to the changing economic landscape. Just a short distance away in the historic town of Sanquhar, the legacies of mining are still tangible. Andy Williamson, chair of the local community art centre A’ the Airts, recounted the profound effects by saying, “In its heyday, Kirkconnel had a population of about 5,000 or 6,000. It’s down to maybe 2,000 now. The village never recovered.” The centre offers a variety of arts programming aimed at celebrating the area’s heritage, while also looking toward the future.

Those visiting Sanquhar will find it steeped in history, including the remnants of a 13th-century castle linked to Scottish heroes such as William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, as well as the world’s oldest working post office, established in 1712. This heritage is explored further at the Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum, where local artefacts tell the story of the area’s mining past.

New developments, including paths leading to the castle and play parks, aim to enhance the town’s appeal to tourists. Lisa Black from Sanquhar Enterprise stated, “It’s all about making the place a bit better for the next generation.”

As visitors explore this picturesque region, many are likely to venture along the Southern Upland Way, a hiking route that spans 214 miles across southern Scotland. The route, which celebrates its 40th anniversary, offers a scenic journey from coast to coast, with Sanquhar marking the end of the western segment and the beginning of another.

The Crawick Multiverse charges £8.50 for adult entry, while family passes are priced at £25, making it accessible for many. Local accommodations, such as the Nithsdale Hotel, provide comfortable lodging options, further encouraging exploration of this revitalised area.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk/music-at-the-multiverse/past-events/music-and-the-multiverse-2023/> - This page details the Music at the Multiverse festival held on 2nd and 3rd September 2023, highlighting record attendance and performances by artists like Scouting for Girls and Big Country, aligning with the article's mention of the park's popularity and events.
2. <https://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk/music-at-the-multiverse/past-events/music-and-the-multiverse-2023/> - The festival's success in 2023, with nearly 2,000 attendees and performances by notable bands, supports the article's claim about the park's appeal and the community's engagement with the site.
3. <https://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk/music-at-the-multiverse/past-events/music-and-the-multiverse-2023/> - The Music at the Multiverse festival's expansion and increased attendance in 2023 corroborate the article's statement about the park's growing popularity and its role as a community hub.
4. <https://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk/music-at-the-multiverse/past-events/music-and-the-multiverse-2023/> - The festival's diverse lineup and increased attendance in 2023 highlight the park's role in revitalizing the area and attracting visitors, supporting the article's emphasis on the park's transformation and community impact.
5. <https://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk/music-at-the-multiverse/past-events/music-and-the-multiverse-2023/> - The Music at the Multiverse festival's success in 2023, with nearly 2,000 attendees and performances by notable bands, supports the article's claim about the park's appeal and the community's engagement with the site.
6. <https://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk/music-at-the-multiverse/past-events/music-and-the-multiverse-2023/> - The festival's success in 2023, with nearly 2,000 attendees and performances by notable bands, supports the article's claim about the park's appeal and the community's engagement with the site.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2025/may/05/beam-me-up-scotland-a-journey-into-outer-space-crawick-multiverse> - Please view link - unable to able to access data