

Frome Millennium Green, Somerset

Teasdale
Environmental Design

Client: Frome Millenium Green Trust

Project dates: 1998 - 2000

The Countryside Agency's Millennium Greens funding initiative created an opportunity for the town of Frome in Somerset to celebrate and mark the turn of the Millennium. The site chosen for Frome's new Millennium Green was a forgotten hillside lying within a quarter of a mile of the town centre. It commands delightful local views across the valley of the River Frome and distant views to the downs marking the western edge of Salisbury Plain.

The site was formerly pasture land which had been left un-grazed and allowed to grow wild over recent years with thick brambles, nettles and rank grass. Known only to local school children, its potential for providing a peaceful area of gentle informal recreation had not been recognized until now.

Early enthusiasm for the idea of creating a Millennium Green was harnessed by holding a Tree Dressing Ceremony, focussed on a fine old sycamore growing on the site. The design ideas for the Green were then developed through meetings and workshops with local people. Drawings and a model were prepared to help this process. A design competition was also held in local schools to collect ideas for special features to be incorporated within the Green. These were skilfully translated into sculptures and carvings on site by local craftspeople, to provide inspiration and interest for future generations.

