

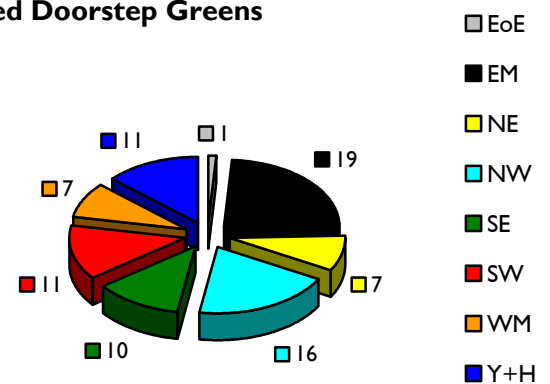
Doorstep Greens

Monthly Report: October 2005

1. Completed Projects

- 83 Doorstep Greens are now fully complete.
- See below (right) for the latest Doorstep Greens to be completed during the last month.
- Previous monthly reports, showing the names of sites already completed are available under the 'Resources' link on: www.countryside.gov.uk/doorstepgreens

Completed Doorstep Greens (by region)



The following greens started work in October:

Site	Location
Rede Common	Kent
Hogsmill	Surrey
Ashenhurst Quarry	Calderdale
Cumberland Market	Camden
Three Legged Cross	Dorset
Clarewood Green	Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Boodecroft Green	Knowsley
Beaford Doorstep Green	Devon

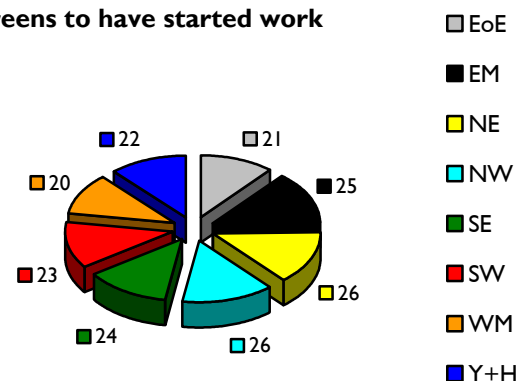
The following greens completed site works in October:

Site	Location
Princess May Recreation Ground	Penzance, Cornwall
Parkside Park Doorstep Green	Bradford
Snaprails Doorstep Green	Sandhurst, Berkshire
Northam Doorstep Green	Southampton

2. Progress of Projects

- 187 Doorstep Greens have started work on site to date
- Six new Doorstep Green projects started work during October

Doorstep Greens to have started work (by region)



3. Doorstep Greens Monitor

Dave Haygarth, DG Communications Adviser, national project team



Telling a lay-person what we do here in Doorstep Greens is sometimes quite a difficult task. On the face of it, Doorstep Greens is about helping people to change spaces that don't work, or sometimes securing spaces that they simply don't have. Throw in a few lines about involving and empowering local people and tying the community's interest in through sound legal mechanisms, and then you can start talking about planting trees, landscaping, etc.

It's a greening project with a community focus.

Or is it a community-building project with a green focus?

The stories we hear from various greens around the country would give more strength to the latter statement. Yes – the design of some greens can be stunning, but the true strength of the stories is in the people involved.

Here in the national project team for DGs, we've always been reminding ourselves of the old cliché that people are the most valuable asset to any project. That goes through to the way we chose to deliver DGs across the country. It would have been tempting to make the application process for DGs a tick-box

exercise, but we insisted in the early days that this wouldn't work – so we designed a staff-heavy 'on hand to help' set-up not consistent with the trends in the sector. From day one, our staff team have been trained and equipped to 'nurture' Doorstep Green applicants. Their job is to be there at the end of the phone, e-mail, or to call round in person whenever complex DGs hit sticking points. The cost of this is higher than to many other grant schemes, but it's been worth it.

This is borne out by the findings of our latest Customer Communications Survey. We needed to check that we were communicating with DG projects in the right ways, and the survey has confirmed to us that the approach has been the right one. Over 90% of the respondents told us that they would rate the overall amount and type of contact with their DG adviser as 7 out of 10 or better. An overwhelming majority of people thought that we got the type of communication 'about right'.

The survey's valuable – if DGs is a project about people, then there's great value in us striving to be customer-focused, no matter how commercial and inappropriate that can sound.

Read the full survey results on the 'evaluation' link at www.countryside.gov.uk/doorstepgreens

4. Photo of the month

Celebration

We think it's fair to say that people from Bowburn Doorstep Green in Co Durham had a good time at their green's opening, judging from this photo.

With the usual face painting and bouncy castle, but also an unusual event on healthy eating, the kids made fruit salad and drew fantastic pastel pictures of fruit in an art workshop. The food theme comes from the Green being made on former neglected allotments. A small orchard of fruit trees have been planted to commemorate this.

See more photos of Doorstep Greens on the 'Resources' are of our [website](#).



5. Further information:

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6. Networking

Communicate online and get all the latest news – not just for Doorstep Greens, but across the whole parks and green spaces scene.

www.greenspace.net.countryside.gov.uk