

Fields Protection

ensuring places to play for future generations

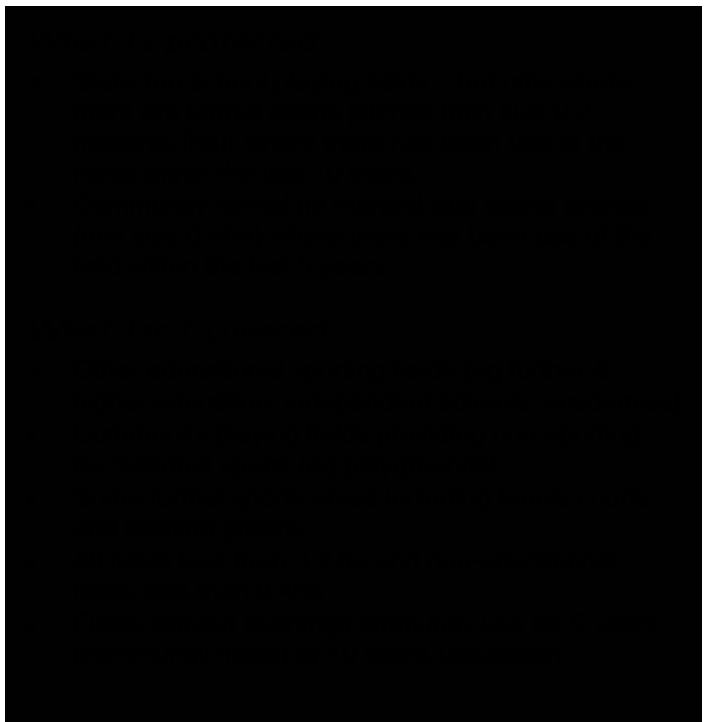
Why Protect Playing Fields?

Aren't all playing fields now protected? The answer is simply "no". Whilst the future of school playing fields is now more secure, there are many which fall between the rules.

Many are not covered by current legislation

Long established recreational land can be lost to development if it has no legal protection. Current planning regulations are not wholly effective and in the main the rules cover school playing fields and formal sports pitches, leaving much of our stock of recreational space unprotected.

The relevant legislation in England regarding the sale of playing fields is covered by the Departments for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). (Note: Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have different policies):



They are vulnerable

Public body landowners can choose to, be tempted to or even be forced to change policy which leads to recreational land loss.

Future administrations may not follow a protective strategy for their open recreation spaces, especially when such land is often considered as a "cash cow" in times of budget deficit. However this incurs only a short-term, one-off gain. Green fields sites are also much easier to develop than brownfield ones, and playing fields usually have the advantage of being flat with few clear-up costs.

They are irreplaceable

Key Elements of FIT Protection

It ensures access for future generations

Every field protected by Fields in Trust is still there, providing huge value to local communities.

Our “deed of dedication” ensures that local playing fields and playgrounds are dedicated “in perpetuity” for such use and remain as vital recreational spaces for future generations.

Protection is flexible

Whilst guaranteeing access for local communities to outdoor recreational land, it also allows for land swap in certain circumstances, but the replacement site must be equal or better than the original and serve the same community. Any proceeds must also be spent on outdoor sporting provision.

It can bring financial benefits

The charitable status of land protected by Fields in Trust not only enhances legal protection; it also achieves financial benefits by way of mandatory rate relief, ability to apply for funding, tax refunds on Gift Aid donations and by the ability to retain tax on any surplus that would otherwise be payable.

Control remains in local hands

The FIT land protection scheme does not require any transfer of assets (ie land acquisition) and also guarantees that all operational and financial control over the running of the site remains totally in local hands.

It is free

There are no fees or charges for implementing the land protection, FIT pays all the legal costs of the scheme.

Ongoing Support

FIT provides an ongoing service to help ensure playing fields, their managers and owners have up to date information on the management of fields, new developments in play and sporting provision, funding advice and support, planning advice etc.