

War Memorial Fields Campaign

Fields in Trust – formerly the National Playing Fields Association – has been protecting playing fields across the country for more than 80 years. We're delighted to be launching a new campaign this autumn, in association with the UK National Inventory of War Memorials (UKNIWM), to ensure the long term protection of the hundreds of War Memorial fields that exist across the country.

War Memorial fields were created in memory of the local men and women who sacrificed their lives in service of their country, particularly but not exclusively in the First and Second World Wars, at Fields in Trust we feel very strongly that these important sites are an integral part of the UK's heritage. Unfortunately the status of these fields is not always guaranteed and they can often be left vulnerable to both residential and commercial development. Through our new campaign we want to ensure that these fields are safeguarded – providing both a continuing memorial to those who died and also much needed recreational facilities for future generations. The War Memorial Fields Campaign is an exciting opportunity to ensure that this living legacy is assured for the future.

The Campaign Trail

To achieve this vision we have divided the campaign into three distinct stages:

Stage 1 – Find Them

The first problem is that no-one knows exactly how many War Memorial fields there are or where they are. The UKNIWM has a list of 187 fields but it is not exhaustive. FIT aims to identify additional fields by surveying local authorities and other partners, in addition to individuals informing us of their local war memorial field. We will also roll out regional media campaigns to encourage the public to help us identify these important sites.

Stage 2 – Investigate Them

Not all the War Memorial fields will be registered as charities with the Charity Commission or registered at the Land Registry but we believe many of them do have charitable status and as such can benefit from the legal protection associated with that status. FIT will be conducting thorough research to establish the legal position of each site.

Stage 3 – Protect Them!

Once we've established legal status of the fields we can then take the necessary steps to ensure their protection. For those War Memorial fields not already protected our Deed of Dedication can provide charitable protection, ensuring their long term future – hopefully landowners will recognise the value of these important sites and be keen to work with us to preserve the legacy.

The War Memorial fields are a unique legacy to those who bravely gave up their lives to serve their country, and their future demands to be safeguarded. By honouring the sacrifice of these men and women we also have the chance to ensure that hundreds of communities – both now and for future generations – have access to outdoor space for sport and play.

How Can You Help?

We need to build a definitive directory of these fields and are hoping that people who live close to a War Memorial field will be able to help us identify them. If people know of a War Memorial field in their area then please let us know by completing the simple form below, emailing the details to fields@fieldsintrust.org or go to the website at <http://snipurl.com/rjhg5> :

Name of Field _____

Location Street: _____

Town: _____

Postcode: _____

Parish / _____

Local Authority (if known)

Additional Information and Comments:

Your Details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Alternatively you can write to us at Fields in Trust, Ground Floor South, 100 Christian Street, London, E1 1RS, email us at fields@fieldsintrust.org or go to the website at <http://snipurl.com/rjhg5>

To find out more about the War Memorial Fields Campaign you can also contact our Fields Manager Rocky Sharrock.