# Jill Scott leads Fields in Trust’s fresh drive to safeguard UK green spaces amid rising losses



Former England footballer Jill Scott has taken over as president of Fields in Trust, the UK charity dedicated to safeguarding parks, playgrounds, and green spaces from urban development. Scott, who grew up playing football in local parks, highlighted the crucial role these spaces play in communities, emphasising that access to green areas should be regarded as a fundamental right rather than a luxury.

Fields in Trust, established in 1925, has a century-long track record of protecting thousands of green spaces across the UK. These efforts have preserved nearly 4,000 sports pitches, 1,500 playgrounds, and 1,200 parks, currently ensuring that nine million people live within a 10-minute walk of a green space. The charity’s new Centenary Pledge aims to push this further, with a target to increase that number by at least one million by 2030.

The charity’s commitment comes amid concerning statistics revealing that between 2013 and 2023, Britain lost around 800 green spaces. Additionally, one in three children reportedly lack access to a playground near their home, underscoring the necessity of sustained protection efforts.

As part of its centennial celebrations, Fields in Trust held a significant event at London’s Barbican, gathering leading figures from sporting and environmental organisations. The event launched the Centenary Pledge, a bold initiative designed to safeguard and increase access to green spaces for healthier, more connected communities.

The charity’s work has included landmark partnerships such as the 2021 commitment from Liverpool City Council, which pledged to protect all of its 100 parks and green spaces, spanning over 1,000 hectares, in perpetuity. This bold move marked the first of its kind in the UK, aiming to ensure every Liverpool resident benefits from nearby, high-quality green environments.

Further bolstering these efforts, Fields in Trust encourages public officials to sign its Parks Protector Pledge. This pledge commits elected representatives to champion and legally safeguard parks, recognising their broad contributions to physical health, mental well-being, climate resilience, and community cohesion.

Fields in Trust also runs community campaigns focused on engagement and awareness, such as the 'Bark For Our Parks' initiative, which has successfully rallied public support and raised funds for green space preservation projects.

Jill Scott’s presidency signals a renewed focus on both advocacy and community involvement at Fields in Trust, building on a century of achievements and pushing for systemic change in how the UK values and preserves its open spaces. Ensuring more people can access these vital areas aligns with broader movements to enhance public health, environmental sustainability, and social equity in urban planning.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://fieldsintrust.org/about-us/centenary), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html), [[6]](https://fieldsintrust.org/get-involved/events/campaigns), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://investliverpool.com/news/liverpool-makes-landmark-pledge-to-protect-all-of-its-parks/), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://fieldsintrust.org/insights/policy-hub/park-protectors), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[6]](https://fieldsintrust.org/get-involved/events/campaigns), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://fieldsintrust.org/about-us/centenary> - Fields in Trust, established in 1925, has been dedicated to safeguarding parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and green spaces from urban development. Over the past century, the charity has protected thousands of spaces, including 4,000 sports pitches, 1,500 playgrounds, and 1,200 parks, ensuring that nine million people have access to a green space within a 10-minute walk of their home. Their mission continues to focus on protecting these vital community resources for future generations.
3. <https://fieldsintrust.org/about-us/news/century-of-green-spaces-protected-for-good-in-2019> - In 2019, Fields in Trust expanded its protection efforts by safeguarding an additional 101 parks and green spaces across the UK, totaling 197.4 hectares. This initiative included the conclusion of the Centenary Fields programme, which protected spaces in memory of those who fell during World War I. The charity's ongoing work aims to protect more green spaces for communities, ensuring their benefits are preserved for future generations.
4. <https://investliverpool.com/news/liverpool-makes-landmark-pledge-to-protect-all-of-its-parks/> - In March 2021, Liverpool City Council announced a commitment to protect all of the city's parks and green spaces in perpetuity. This partnership with Fields in Trust marked the first of its kind in the UK, ensuring that 100 parks and green spaces, covering 1,039 hectares, would be safeguarded from development. The initiative aims to provide every resident with access to high-quality green spaces within a ten-minute walk, promoting physical and mental well-being.
5. <https://fieldsintrust.org/insights/policy-hub/park-protectors> - Fields in Trust's Parks Protector Pledge encourages elected officials, including Members of Parliament and local mayors, to publicly commit to protecting and championing parks and green spaces. The pledge outlines six key aims, such as valuing parks for their contribution to various policy agendas, advocating for policies that safeguard these spaces, and supporting community volunteers. By signing the pledge, officials demonstrate their dedication to preserving green spaces for the benefit of their communities.
6. <https://fieldsintrust.org/get-involved/events/campaigns> - Fields in Trust engages in various campaigns to support the protection and enhancement of parks and green spaces. As part of their centenary celebrations in 2025, the charity focuses on systemic change, raising awareness, and co-designing tools and services to benefit the sector. Past campaigns, such as 'Bark For Our Parks,' have involved community participation to raise funds and awareness for green space preservation, highlighting the importance of these areas for public health and community well-being.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/jill-scott-prince-of-wales-edinburgh-queen-netherlands-b1237539.html> - Former England footballer Jill Scott has succeeded the Prince of Wales as president of Fields in Trust, a charity dedicated to protecting green spaces. Scott, who spent her childhood playing football in local parks, emphasised the importance of these areas, stating that access to them should be seen as a right, not a privilege. The charity aims to have at least one million more people living within a 10-minute walk of a green space by 2030, addressing the loss of 800 green spaces between 2013 and 2023 and the fact that one in three children do not have a playground close to home.