



ACTIVEPLACES.COM

Sport England's online sports facility finder

Getting the nation active is one of the toughest challenges facing Sport England. Sometimes it's a case of not knowing where to go. So, in the quest to encourage people to get active and support people who want to get fit, Sport England has created **Active Places** – the most comprehensive online database of sport and fitness facilities ever produced in this country.

What information is listed?

This easy-to-use website can be accessed at www.activeplaces.com. It currently lists some 77,000 facilities, including around 55,500 outdoor and 21,500 indoor places to play sport, get fit and have fun. Comprehensive information on many sports, based at some 51,000 sites around the country, is already included with more to be added during 2006.

The site includes local authority leisure facilities as well as commercial and club sites. Access to the facilities falls into three basic categories:

- Pay and play – where members of the public can simply turn up and pay a fee to use the facility.
- Registered membership – where people need to pay a fee to use the facility (i.e. gym membership)
- Sports club or community association – where use of the facility is dependant on the users being members of a particular sports club or association.

How do I get hold of information about my nearest sports facilities?

All you have to do is key in your postcode and the distance from home you can travel, and **Active Places** will list sports facilities within reach. You can also search by sport type or facility or by using an interactive map. It means that anyone who wants to find out where to play sport or get fit can do so in a matter of seconds. Site information includes contact numbers, addresses, type of facility, accessibility, membership fees, parking and more.

What are the benefits?

The aim is for **Active Places** to be used by as many people as possible, and support the work to get more people physically active. In the past, accurate information was either not available or difficult to find. So, now that it is all on one easy to use website, there is no excuse for not being able to find the right place to play sport and get fit.

It is not just the public who will benefit. People working in sport and leisure at a national and local level can use a separate website area called **Active Places Power**. This is designed to help people plan for sport, using the database to identify where there are gaps on the sporting map and make the right decisions about future planning and investment. For example, one area may benefit from football pitches while another has plenty of pitches but needs more indoor sports halls.

What should I do if a facility isn't listed?

Active Places already includes information on a wide range of sports facilities – from sports halls to ski slopes, swimming pools to health and fitness – but this project is all about continuous improvement. In the future **Active Places** will be developed to include even more facilities and enhanced access information.

How can I link to Active Places?

Sport England wants as many people as possible to get active and can provide links to **Active Places** for others to use. For example, links can be added to council or corporate websites and intranets to help staff and the general public get on the track to a healthier lifestyle. You can get more information, register on line or request a link at www.activeplaces.com. Log on or sign up today and help England get active.