

# Urban Site with Residential Development Potential

c. 0.9 ha (c. 2.22 acres) former playing field. Considered suitable for a small residential development or alternative uses all STPP.



Provided for Illustrative Purposes Only

## Former Playing Field

Land to the rear of Turner House  
Whitehill Road  
Gravesend  
Kent, DA12 5PJ

**For Sale**



## Location

The site is located on Whitehill Road, a main arterial route from the A2 to Gravesend Town Centre.

Gravesend provides a good range of schools, shops, leisure facilities and other services. Further shops, restaurants and leisure facilities are available at the Bluewater Shopping Centre which is located approximately 6 miles to the east.

Gravesham Railway Station is c. 1.2 miles to the north and provides regular rail services to various London stations including a high speed service to St Pancras with a journey time of 25 minutes.

The A2 Trunk Road is c. 1.5 miles to the south which links to the M2 motorway to the east and the M25 motorway to the west.

## Site Description

The site is c. 0.9 ha (c. 2.22 acres) in size and is generally regular in shape and level. It comprises a maintained former remote playing field that has been unused for many years and surrounded on all sides by residential development. The site is not open to the public. Vehicular and pedestrian access is shared by a long access track from Whitehill Road. The entire site is secured by a palisade fence to the boundary. There are a number of mature trees and shrubs around the boundary as well as a denser area of vegetation to the southern end of the site.

## Planning History and Potential

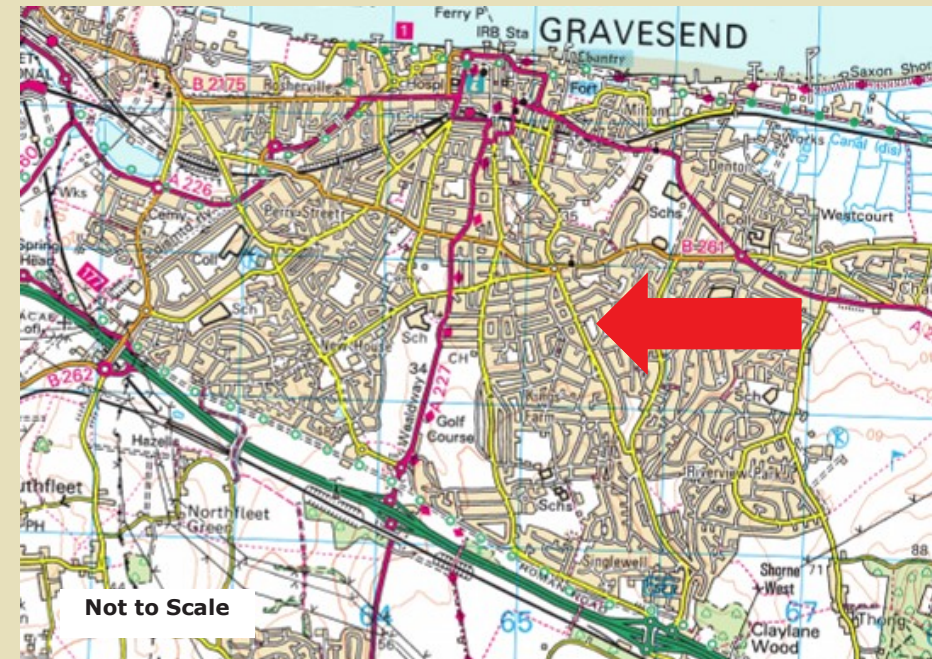
Although there has never been generally available public access to the site it is allocated as 'open space' within Gravesham Borough Council's current Local Plan.

Kent County Council has undertaken detailed analysis of the site's development potential and though the site's size and location suggests the potential for comprehensive development, it has been identified that the access is going to limit this. It is understood the current access is wide enough for intensification, but the proximity of Porchfield Close to the north and the access to Turner House to the south means it is not possible to construct a suitable junction to Whitehill Road that has capacity to enable a comprehensive development. As a compromise Kent Highways have indicated that a simple crossover 'driveway' style access with suitable pedestrian sightlines is acceptable, but they have indicated that the capacity of an access of this nature is only 14 no. units.

An indicative scheme of 14 no. units was prepared by DHA Planning and Pre-App advice was sought from Gravesham BC. A virtual meeting was held on 24th June 2020 and the written response is available. The Pre-App response is comprehensive and details every Policy that will need to be considered and address as part of any planning application.

It appears the main issue that will need to be resolved is the open space allocation. A review of the open space across Gravesend was undertaken in 2016. It concluded that the subject site was high quality 'amenity open space' and it enhanced the appearance of the residential area. It therefore recommended retaining the open space allocation in the Local Plan.

It is considered there is potential to make a robust case for the northern part of the site to come forward for residential development while the southern part is enhanced and offered as 'fully accessible open space' with access for the general public.



## **Affordable Housing**

The Pre-App has indicated that at 14 no. units the quantum of development is below the affordable housing threshold, but the site is over 0.5 ha in size and therefore 30% of the units will need to be of an affordable tenure.

It is considered that it may be possible to make a case that the actual developable area is lower than 0.5 ha, and the scheme should therefore be exempt from the provision of affordable housing, but this has not yet been explored in a detail.

## **Third Party Land**

It is understood that in order to provide the necessary pedestrian sight lines at the crossover a small triangle of third party land is required. Kent County Council is in advanced discussions with the owners of this land and intend to secure the ability to utilise this land prior to the exchange of the Conditional Contract. Further details will be provided to the preferred bidder when necessary.

## **Further Information**

Further information is available to download from **[www.rpclandandnewhomes.co.uk](http://www.rpclandandnewhomes.co.uk)** and includes the Pre-App submission prepared by Kent County Council's Planning Advisors, DHA Planning, as well as the Pre-App response from Gravesham Borough Council.

## **Tenure**

The site is to be sold on a freehold basis with vacant possession upon completion.

## **Services**

Interested parties are advised to make their own enquiries with the relevant statutory authorities to ensure the availability and sufficient capacity at the site in order to service any proposed development.

## **VAT**

It is understood that VAT will not be applied to this transaction.

## **Viewing Arrangements**

The site is secured by palisade fencing. It is possible to get a restricted, but general impression from the public highway. However, if you would like a more detailed inspection of the site then prior arrangement will need to be made through the agent.

## Offers

Offers are sought by way of Informal Tender on a Conditional (STPP) basis for the freehold.

Only offers in writing will be considered and all offers **MUST** include details of any site due diligence that will be required prior to an exchange of contracts.

Offers should include details of the proposed planning strategy and likely contractual/planning timescales as well as evidence to demonstrate that funds are available to complete the transaction.

The closing date for offers is **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**.

As a Regulated Industry under Anti-Money Laundering Regulations RPC Land & New Homes will need to verify the identify of all purchasers of the site and this will be completed before Heads of Terms are issued. To the preferred bidder.

The vendor is not obligated to accept the highest or any bid made.

## Agents Details

For further information please contact the agents:

### **Graeme Dowd**

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