

Account of Purley on Thames

Estates off Long Lane (East)

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Highfield Road and Orchard Close formed the second major development in Purley. They were constructed in 1955-7 and the name Orchard Close reflected the extensive orchards which formed part of the Menpes Fruit Farm. The original road ran from Long Lane and curved south into the farm. When the new estate was constructed the name was used to include the link around to Highfield Road leaving a few houses on a spur which was eventually used as the link into Apple Close which formed the first phase of the Wimpey estate and again reflected the original use of the land.

Cecil Aldin Drive was a development of the Lamerton estate which had replaced the forge and its surrounding fields in the 1930s. The first part was built in 1967 and the extension a few years later. It was named after the artist Cecil Aldin who used to live at Belleisle and was Master of the South Berks Hunt.

Carew Close was the final development to the east of Long Lane. The site was bordered by an ancient parish boundary bank and footpath adjacent to Close in Tilehurst, and had been the site of Keene's chicken farm. This had been superseded by a small engineering company and there was a rubbish dump in the northern area. The engineering company had in its turn been replaced by a small factory which processed chicken feet for the Asian market. When in operation the smells coming from the processes were evident as far as Mapledurham when the wind was in the right direction and were the source of numerous complaints. Had the bypass been allowed to proceed this site would have been almost totally excavated for a cutting. With the bypass clearly out of the picture planning permission for four houses was given but a condition imposed that the strip of land adjacent to the feeder road must be kept clear. On several occasions permission was sought to build on this strip but always turned down.

It was named for the Carew family who had been lords of Purley manors for many years.

