



Account of Purley on Thames

Purley Beeches

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Purley Beeches was the first major development in Purley when the Purley Park Trust sold the major part of its land for development.

There are a number of phases and aspects to deal with:-

The initial development (Hazel Road and Skerritt Way)

Duncan Close

Huckleberry Close

The Purley Park Trust Housing

The Purley Beeches Wall

The Woodlands

The initial development (Hazel Road and Skerritt Way)

After the Purley Park Trust had been established at the main house of Purley Park it was realised that all the land was not needed and could better be turned into cash to help fund the work of the Trust. It was sold off in 1973 and a new housing estate built by extending Hazel Road to curl around the House with Skerritt Way continuing along towards the Roebuck. Skerritt Way was named after Bob Skerritt who had been one of the early settlers on the River Estate and a Parish Councillor for many years. A branch off Skerritt Way was named Marshall Close, after Reg Marshall, another long serving Parish Councillor who later became its chairman.

Rockhold's began the development by building some houses to the south of the Hazel Road/Skerritt Way junction but by the time they had built to the end of Hazel Road they had gone into administration and the administrators sold off all the properties as quickly as they could to the new house holders. However in doing so they ignored the planning condition to hand over a six foot strip alongside the railway to become part of the Thames Path and sold the sections to the new adjacent landowners.

Two small cul de sacs off Hazel Road were named The Holt and The Glade by the developer

Duncan Close

A site had been reserved for a school in the estate but the County Council found that it was no longer required so it was sold for development.

Two small closes were named Duncan Close, after Hugh Duncan, cofounder of Purley Park Trust and Farmiloe Close after the family who had owned the Park before the war.

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