



Account of Purley on Thames

The Wimpey Estate

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The backland behind Long Long to the south of the Oxford Road had become very scrubby after the Menpes Fruit Farm had closed. It straddled both Purley and the Westwood Fields area of Tilehurst and was bought by Wimpey for development in the period 1975 to 1984. It was divided up into a number of planned phases, of which Apple Close was Phase I. This would have been the only part of the development in Purley as to the south it was planned to build the Purley-Pangbourne bypass.

The Purley-Pangbourne bypass was planned to start at the Knowsley Road roundabout and follow the rear boundary of Apple Close leaving only a very small area in Purley by the roundabout. However the plans for the by-pass were rescinded and what was to have been phases II and VI were replanned to form what is now Simons Close, Huscarle Way, Menpes Road, The Hydes and Kernham Way.

Phase III included Devonshire Gardens and Warley Rise and they were extended northwards to become Cornwall Close and Brierley Place. Phase IV, the development to the south of Knowsley Road in Tilehurst and Phase V (Goodliffe Gardens) replacing the Anglo-American estate were unaffected save for some minor but very controversial changes to the houses abutting the A329.