

# **The Place Names of Purley on Thames in Berkshire**

**Project Purley Publication no 10**

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## Preface

This little booklet was first published in September 1990, but since then there have been many changes and further developments in Purley. Project Purley has therefore decided to produce a second edition bringing the original information up to date and adding new information to reflect the further development.

There was one other significant change in that in 1994 the result of the Parish Boundary review of 1977 was finally implemented and parts of the former civil parish of Purley on Thames were transferred to Tilehurst and Pangbourne and one house was transferred from Tilehurst to Purley. The ecclesiastical parish of Purley however has been extended to take in what is now the Denefield ward of Tilehurst and that is also included within the West Berkshire District Ward of Purley on Thames. We have decided therefore to widen the scope of this publication to include the whole of the ecclesiastical parish plus those parts of Pangbourne and Tilehurst Civil Parishes which used to be part of Purley.

Furthermore in 2004 Purley on Thames Parish Council adopted a street naming policy and provided West Berkshire and developers with lists of names that could be used to form new street names. This policy and the lists of names are included in this publication so that apart from places in Tilehurst or some substantial change of policy this publication should explain the origins of street names for some considerable time in the future.

## Introduction

The term 'place name' usually refers to the name of a town or village but when one considers only a relatively small area such as Purley on Thames one needs to broaden the scope somewhat to include road and street names, names used by developers for marketing their estates, major houses and features and also fields and woods. We have therefore included most of these additional items and attempted to provide some historical background and derivation of the names where appropriate.

Street names are fairly straightforward, the vast majority are modern and can be found in current street atlases of the area. Development names, major houses and miscellaneous features have been selected for inclusion on the basis of either historical importance or for being well known. Fields and woods have been included where they have some relevance for today's residents of Purley, either through being the basis of a current street name or still being in current use.

Prior to the mid-nineteenth century spelling was ill defined and most of the early names can be found with several variants of spelling. These variants are almost always of no significance so only one version is given in the main text. Over the years fields have been merged, extended, subdivided and built over and while many of those mentioned in ancient documents can be located to some degree or other, most of these field names have little or no relevance for today. We have therefore adopted the policy of including only modern names for fields and providing lists of field names mentioned in major historical documents as an appendix.

Where we know why a particular name was chosen we have indicated this in italics. Many roads were named by developers for reasons best known to themselves, sometimes for purely marketing reasons but often to recall the names of members of developers' families.

## Acknowledgements

The text is primarily the work of the editor, John Chapman who as both a parish and district councillor played a significant role in naming some of the modern streets. However, he owes a great debt of gratitude to other members of Project Purley and especially to Jean and Cliff Debney for researching ancient deeds and maps and deciphering glebe terriers.. The original text was retyped by Catherine Sampson and the cover design is by Ben Viljoen.

We are grateful to the work done by Margaret Gelling and the English Place Name Society even though we may disagree with some of their derivations. Michael Bayley made several interesting observations on the derivation of Saxon sounding names from Celtic topographical descriptions and we have included some of these.

## Measurements

The area measurements of fields were expressed in acres, roods and perches until the early part of the 20th Century. From then until the latter part of the century they were measured in acres and decimals of an acre. Latterly they have been measured in hectares.

An acre was a square furlong ie 220 by 220 yards or 4840 square yards. In metric it is 0.404 hectares.

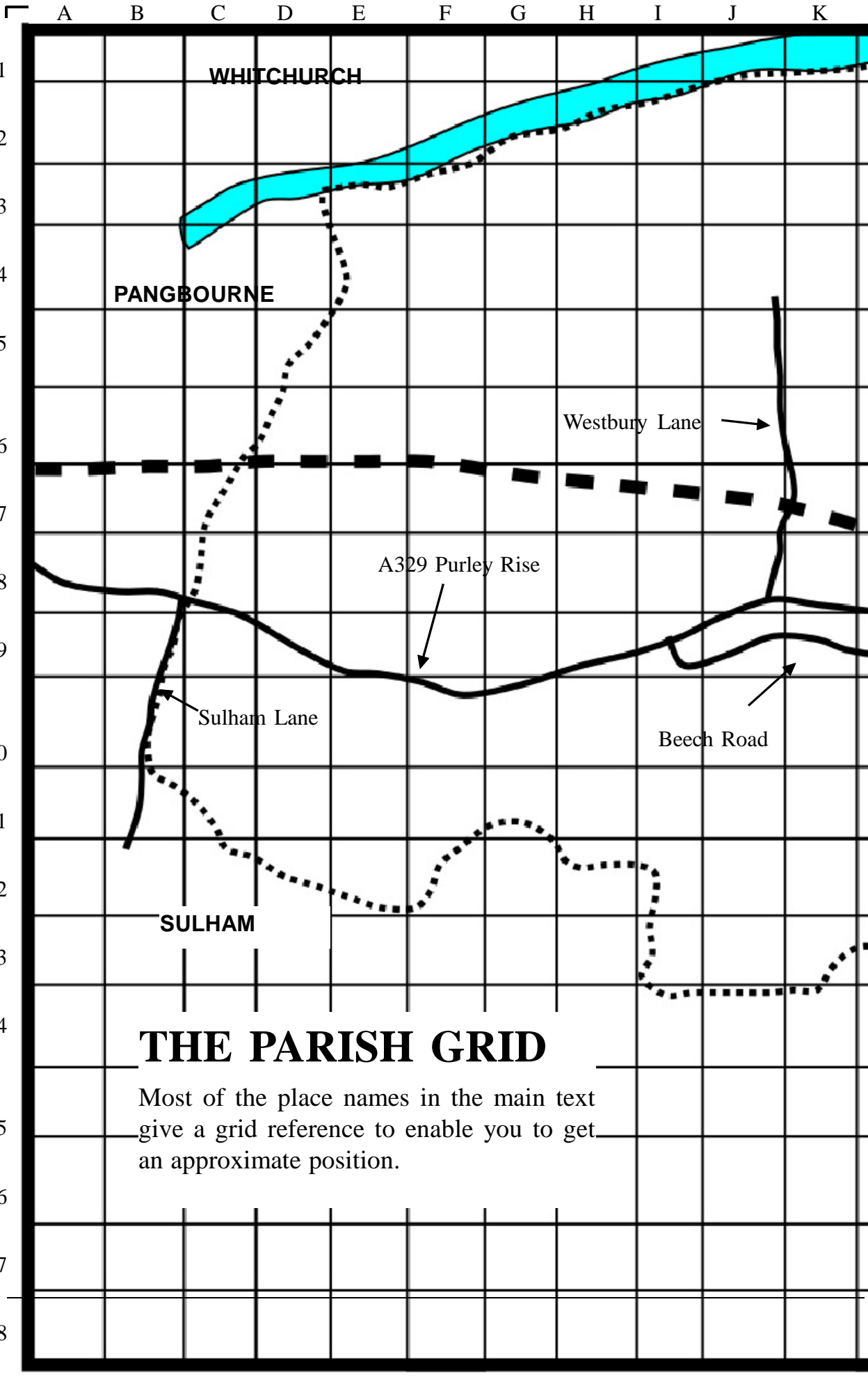
A Rood was a quarter of an acre. In metric it is 0.0101 hectares.

A Perch was a square rod, ie  $5\frac{1}{2}$  by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  yards or  $30\frac{1}{4}$  square yards. In metric it is 25.27 square metres.

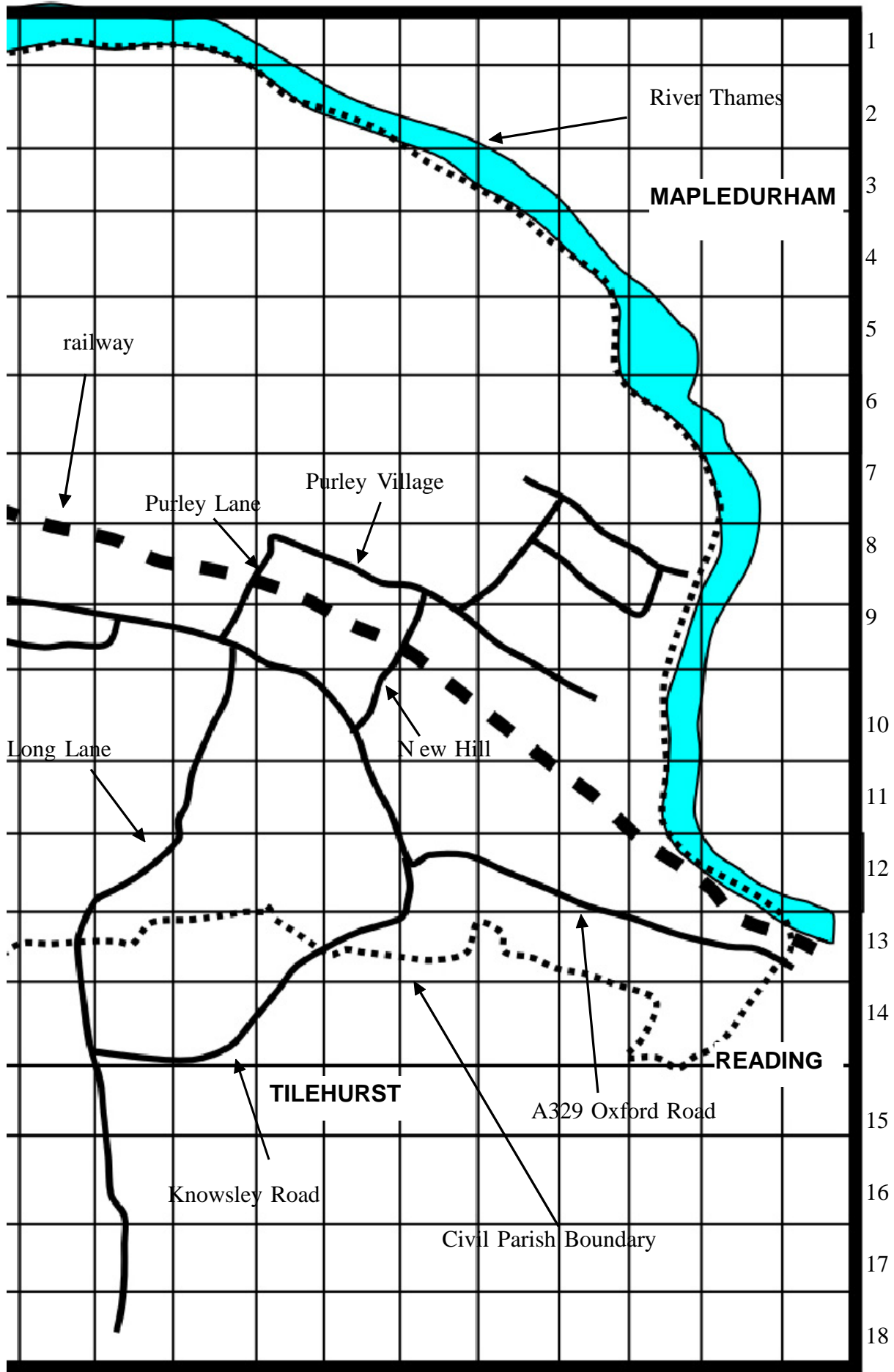
## The Parish Grid

In order to locate places within the parish a grid has been established based on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The grid references are in two parts, a letter running from west to east and a number running from north to south. These define a number of squares, each roughly 100 x 100 metres.

Throughout the text place names are keyed to this grid which is shown on pages 6 and 7. This enables you to get a rough idea of where the place named is actually located.



L M N O P Q R S T U V



# The Place Names

## **ADDISCOMBE CHASE (M14)**

A development on the corner of Knowsley Road and Long Lane. *Named by Tilehurst Parish Council*

## **ALLISON GARDENS (O8)**

A road off Westridge Avenue. *Named approx 1970 by the developer of the former rectory site.*

## **APPLE CLOSE (N12)**

A road which formed Phase 1 of the Wimpey development. *Named by the Parish Council to recall that this road lay on the site of the orchards of Menpes Fruit Farm.*

## **BARBARA'S MEADOW (L16)**

A development to the west of Long Lane in Tilehurst

## **BEECH LANE (L9)**

The lane leading from Purley Rise to the Recreation Ground. It was formerly known as Goosecroft Lane. This was used as a continuation of Beech Road until its eastern end was built. In 2002 the Parish Council restored the ancient name.

## **BEECH ROAD (K9)**

A road on the Purley Rise estate. *Named in the 1930s by the developers of the Purley Rise estate*

## **BELLEISLE (M9)**

Used to name the four houses adjacent to the car park in the Trentham's grounds. Demolished 1989. *Recalls the estate in Jamaica owned by the Storer family in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.*

## **BELLEISLE (M9)**

A development of 10 houses on the west side of Sherwood Rise *Recalls the name of the former farm.*

## **BELLEISLE FARM (M9)**

The farm built by the Storer family in the north western corner of Long Lane and the Highway on the field known as Elyham. *Reflects the name of the Storer's estate in Jamaica.*

**BOURNE ROAD (B7)**

Used as the name for the first Council Estate by Bradfield RDC in the 1930s. *Part was in Purley but the whole is now transferred to Pangbourne. Reflecting the 'Bourne' in 'Pangbourne'.*

**BOWLING GREEN LANE (N10)**

A road in the Crown Green development. *The road leading to the bowling green.*

**BRADING WAY (S8)**

A road on the Purley River Estate. *Believed to have been named by a resident who came from Brading in the Isle of Wight.*

**BRIARS CLOSE (B9)**

A development on the corner of Sulham Lane and Reading Road. Was once part of Purley but transferred to Pangbourne. *Believed to reflect the old field name Briars Hill Piece.*

**BRIERLEY PLACE (O12)**

A road on the Wimpey Estate. Now part of Tilehurst *Named from a list provided by Tilehurst Parish Council.*

**BRYANT PLACE (M9)**

A small development of town houses on the former site of Trenthams Barn. *Named to commemorate Bryant Homes who completed the Crown Green development after the previous developer*

**BUCKNELL AVENUE (B8)**

A road on the Council estate at Pangbourne. Now part of Pangbourne *Named after AWB Bucknell of Home Farm who was the chairman of the Parish Council.*

**BUCKNELLS MEADOW (R7)**

A part of what used to be Wheatums which was sold to the Parish Council by its then chairman John Bucknell. *Named after John Bucknell.*

**CALLEY'S ALLEY (T9)**

A footpath leading from River Gardens to Chestnut Grove. *Named after Calley, an original resident of the river estate who donated the land.*

**CANAL (The) (E11)**

An ornamental lake within the grounds of Purley Hall laid along the former route of Sulham Lane.

**CAREW CLOSE (M13)**

A small development of four houses on the site of the former Keens chicken farm. *Named by the Parish Council in the Lords of the Manor Series*

**CECIL ALDIN DRIVE (O10)**

A development off Long Lane on the land of a house named Crestmont which had a small market garden. *Named by the Parish Council to commemorate Cecil Aldin who was MFH of the South Berks Hunt and lived at Belleisle Farm House then renamed Kennelgates.*

**CHESTNUT GROVE (T8)**

A road on the Purley River Estate.

**CHILTERN VIEW (R10)**

A road on the St Mary's Avenue Council Estate. *Named by the Parish Council to record the Chiltern Hills ending just across the river.*

**CHURCH MEWS (S9)**

A cul de sac adjacent to the Church. *Named by the Parish Council to reflect the proximity of the Church.*

**CHURCH WALK (R9)**

A road in the River Estate, now St Mary's Avenue, leading to the Church. After 1800 the Lords of Purley Magna refused to allow wheeled vehicles to have access which was strictly reserved for villagers walking to the Church.

**CLAIRMORE GARDENS (O10)**

A small development leading off Cecil Aldin Drive *built on the site of the house named Clairmore*

**CLARENDON RISE (M10)**

A road off Long Lane leading to the Woodlands development built 2006. *Named from a list provided by the Parish Council in the Lords of the Manor series.*

**CONDOR CLOSE (O14)**

A development of bungalows intended for retired people behind the shops on Knowsley Road.

**CONIFER DRIVE (L17)**

A development of houses off the south of Long Lane

**COLYTON WAY (R8)**

A road on the Purley River Estate.

**COPSE CLOSE (S14)**

A road on the Oregon Avenue Estate now part of Tilehurst. *Named by the Parish Council to record Purley Copse upon which it was built.*



Colyton Way before the road was made up

### **CORNWALL CLOSE (M13)**

A road on the Wimpey Estate. Originally on the line of the Purley bypass and now transferred to Tilehurst *Named from a list provided by Tilehurst Parish Council.*

### **CRANMER CLOSE (M15)**

A development on land formerly part of the grounds of Longleat House.

### **CROWN GREEN (M10)**

The developer's name for the redevelopment of the Trentham's site. Comprises Sherwood Rise, Sherwood Close, Bowling Green Lane, Saunders Court, Elyham, Trentham's Close, Belleisle Close. *Named by the developer to reflect the bowling green.*

### **DENEFIELD (L15)**

The name for the land on either side of Long Lane which lies in the parish of Tilehurst. Used to name Denefield School.

### **DENEFIELD GARDENS (M15)**

A development off Long Lane in Tilehurst. *Named by Tilehurst Parish Council to mark the name of the area.*

### **DEVONSHIRE GARDENS (N14)**

A part of the Wimpey development – the last few house were originally in Purley but were transferred to Tilehurst in 1994. *Together with Cornwall Close reflected a west country theme.*

### **DUNCAN GARDENS (Q11)**

A road on Purley Beeches. *Named to commemorate Colonel Hugh Duncan, the founder of Purley Park Trust, who was the original owner of the land. He was an England rugby international*

**DUNLUCE GARDENS (A8)**

A road forming the boundary between Purley and Pangbourne. Prior to 1994 – Now part of Pangbourne Parish.

**DURANT WAY (T13)**

A road leading off Roebuck Rise built 1997-8 *Named by the Parish Council to commemorate the retirement of Sir Anthony Durant Member of Parliament for Reading West for many years*

**ELYHAM (N10)**

A road on the Crown Green Development. *Recalls the original field name.*

**FARM CLOSE (P9)**

An estate off Purley Village. *Reflects that the site used to be that of Home Farm.*

**FARMILOE CLOSE (Q11)**

A close on Purley Beeches. *Named for Mr Farmiloe who owned Purley Park from around 1926 to 1939.*

**FIDDLER'S BRIDGE (G7)**

The bridge beneath the railway over the former farm track linking the two divided parts of the Farthest Field.

**GLADE (The) (Q11)**

A close of four houses in Purley Beeches. *Named by the Parish Council to continue the woodland theme of the Estate.*

**GLEBE ROAD (L8)**

A road on the Purley Rise estate. *Named to recall that this was once Glebe land.*

**GOODLIFFE GARDENS (Q12)**

A development forming phase 5 of the Wimpey Estate.

**GOOSECROFT (K10)**

The name given to the Beech Road Recreation ground and associated areas. Upper Goosecroft is the recreation ground and tennis courts, Lower Goosecroft is where the burial ground and barn are now situated *Named by the Parish Council to recall the old field name.*

**GOOSECROFT LANE (L10)**

**1634, 1671, 1704, 1714** A road leading from Purley Rise to the recreation Ground. The lower part, now just a footpath was known as Beech Lane for many years years. *The lane leading to Goosecroft.*

**GREATE FARM (T10)**

The name for the main house of the Manor of Purley Magna which was pulled down in the early 1800s when Purley Park was built. See also Purley Magna. The site is now occupied by Purley Marina. *The largest farm in the village. (Bayley) – From the Celtic ‘Gre ty’ which implied a farm wealthy enough for there to be a separate building to house the animals.*

**GREAT PURLEY 1292**

See Purley Magna and Greate.

**GWYNNE CLOSE (S14)**

A road on the Oregon Avenue Estate. Now part of Tilehurst

**HARRY JAWS WOOD (J18) (Harry Jaws Coppice 1758) (Harry George 1890) (H11)**

This is the name of a wood on the border with Sulham. See also Herriots Edge. *(Bayley) – Suggest that this was an attempt to rationalise the Celtic topographical description of the overgrown area of diggings in the chalk for chalk and flints. This was ‘Har rajel gwydd’? i.e. ‘the big scree (or area of rock strewn ground) of the trees’.*

**HAWTHORNES (N16)**

A small close on land formerly part of the grounds of Longleat House

**HAZEL ROAD (Q11)**

Originally part of the farm track leading to Purley Park. Named when five houses were built in the 1960s The name was extended to be used for the principal road of Purley Beeches.

**HIGHFIELD ROAD (N11)**

A small development off Long Lane.

**HIGHWAY (The)**

The main road through Purley. See also Turnpike, Oxford Road and Reading Road

**HILLVIEW CLOSE (M18)**

A small close at the top of Long Lane. It was extended when development came on land formerly part of 83 Long Lane.

**HOLT (The) (R11)**

A small close in Purley Beeches.

**HOME FARM (Purley) (Q6)**

Originally sited on the south west corner of New Hill and Purley Village (Q9). The house was later moved to its present site. *The main farm house of the manor of Purley Magna.*



Home Farm, Purley in the 1960s - situated on The Street

### **HOME FARM (Sulham) (C11)**

The main farm house of the former manor of La Hyde. adjacent to the main road near Purley Hall.

### **HORNBEAM CLOSE (P10)**

A small close off New Hill.



old style nameplate wall mounted

### **HORSECROFT WAY (M12)**

A road on the Woodlands development to the west of Long Lane built 2006. *Named by the developer from the 'fields' series of names provided by the Parish Council.*

### **HUCKLEBERRY CLOSE (Q10)**

A close within Purley Beeches. Extended 2006 to include the housing for Purley Park Trust residents. *Named by the Parish Council to continue the woodland theme of Hazel Road.*

### **HUSCARLE WAY (P12)**

A road in the Wimpey phase 6 development. *Named by the Parish Council to commemorate the Huscarle family who were Lords of Purley Magna from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Derived from the Saxon 'House Cheorl' who were the personal bodyguards of the King.*



Kennel Cottages from the SW (Photo Ian Nash)

### **HYDE HALL (E11)**

The original name for Purley Hall. *Named after the family who were lords of the manor of La Hyde when the hall was first built (coincidentally it had nothing to do with 'La Hyde').*

### **HYDE (La) 1233**

One of the three manors within Purley forming the south west part of the parish.

### **KENNEL COTTAGES (M9)**

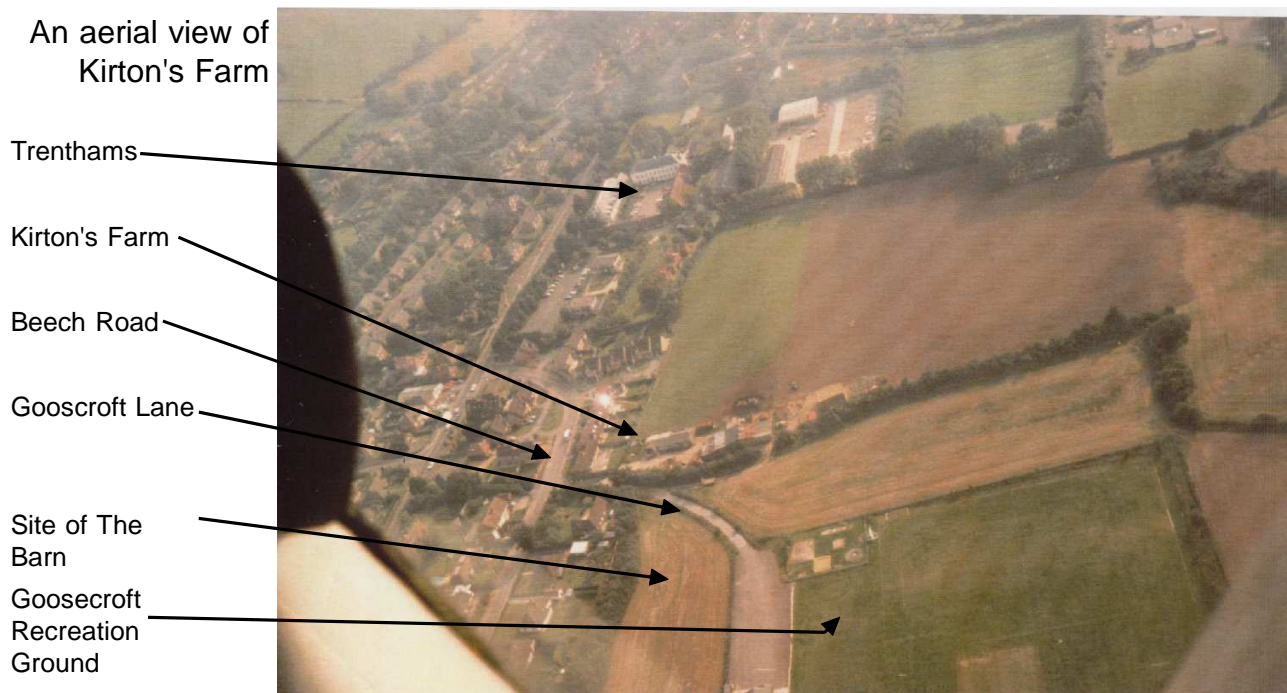
A row of small houses built circa 1904 to house the workers of the South Berks Hunt. Demolished 1989. *The cottages adjacent to the kennels.*

### **KENNELGATES (M9)**

The name used for Elyham House when it was used by the MFH of the South Berks Hunt. Demolished 1989.

### **KERNHAM DRIVE (O13)**

A road on the Wimpey Estate. *Named by the Parish Council to record Kernham Close (qv) although not exactly on the same site.*



### **KIRTON'S FARM**

A small dairy farm based on Yew Tree Cottage - Now mostly built on by the east end of Beech Road and reduced to a contractor's yard. *Named after Charlie Kirton who was the dairyman in Purley for many years.*

### **KNOWSLEY ROAD (O14)**

The spine road of the Wimpey Estate joining Long Lane to the roundabout on the Oxford Road.

*It was named by the chairman of Tilehurst Parish Council's planning committee after his birthplace in Lancashire.*

### **LAYTOM RISE N15)**

A road on the Wimpey Estate

### **LISTER CLOSE (P8)**

The road that was built on the site of the Old Rectory.

*Named after the family who last owned the Old Rectory, in particular for Hugh Lister who was a combatant priest and won the MC in WW2.*

### **LITTLE PURLEY 1786a (Lesser Purley 1292)**

The smaller of the two settlements on Purley. See Purley Parva.



Major Hugh Lister MC

An aerial view of Long Lane in 1960



site of White Lodge Close

Purley Cross

Menpes Fruit Farm - site of future Wimpey estate phase 3

Menpes Cottages

Orchard Close

Highfield Road

The kennels of the South Berks Hunt - the site of Long Lane School

Clairmore - site of Clairmore Gardens

Oxford Road

Crestmont - site of Cecil Aldin Drive

Bowling Green

The Barn

Kennel Cottages

Belleisle Farmhouse (Trenthams)

Rectory

Reading Road

Westfield Coach House

**LONG LANE 1608, 1634, 1704**

*(Bayley) – From the Celtic ‘Llong Llain’ ‘the strip of land leading to the ships’.*

**LONGLEAT DRIVE (M16)**

A road off Long Lane.

*The land, which included Hawthornes and Cranmer Close was formerly the garden of Longleat House.*

**LUCEY CLOSE (N15)**

A road on the Wimpey Estate

**LYTHAM END (N15)**

A road on the Wimpey Estate

**MALYNS WAY (L13)**

A development of 13 houses and flats on the former site of 80 Long Lane. This site was in Tilehurst until 1994 when it was transferred to Purley.

*Named by the developer from the Parish Council’s Lord of the Manor series.*

**MAPLEDURHAM DRIVE (Q8)**

The road leading to Mapledurham Lock.

**MAPLEDURHAM LOCK (S5)**

The lock on the Thames opposite Mapledurham. *The old weir and flash lock were entirely in the Parish of Mapledurham and was therefore named as belonging to them. The present lock is however entirely within the Parish of Purley.*

**MARSHALL CLOSE (S12)**

A road in Purley Beeches. *Named after Reg Marshall later Chairman of the Parish Council.*

**MARSH BARN 1786a (B8)**

The barn of Marsh Farm.

**MARSHES FARM 1786a (B9)**

A farm in the western part of the parish adjacent to the main road. The farmhouse was on the south side and the barn on the north side. Now built on by Briars Close, Pangbourne Primary School, Bourne Road etc.

**MARTEN PLACE (N16)**

A road on the Wimpey Estate

**MEMORIAL HALL (M8)**

A village hall opened in 1953 to commemorate men from Purley who died in both world wars. Located on Glebe road on land formerly occupied by the yard of John Purvey & Sons.

**MENPES CLOSE (P12)**

A road on phase 6 of the Wimpey Development. *Named by the Parish Council to commemorate Mortimer Menpes whose Fruit Farm was nearby. This name was originally proposed for Apple Close but was rejected.*

**MENPES COTTAGES (M12)**

A row of houses on Long Lane used to house workers on the Menpes Fruit Farm.

**MYRTLE CLOSE (Q13)**

A road off Knowsley Road which originally formed part of land owned by Berkshire County Council for educational purposes but which was sold to developers as being surplus to requirements. *With Sage Road named after herbs.*

**NEW HILL (P10)**

The road linking the Oxford Road with the Purley River Estate. *The name given to the new road which was constructed to replace the old village road which ran from the highway just past the Roebuck until around 1800 when Purley Park was formed.*

**NURSERY GARDENS (N9)**

An estate road running parallel to and north of Purley Rise. *Named to recall that the westerly end of the estate was built on what used to be a market garden. This is turn was the former garden of Westfield.*

**OAK TREE WALK (R9)**

A road on the Purley River Estate.



Orchard Close, shortly after construction

### **ORCHARD CLOSE (N12)**

A 1950's estate road leading off Long Lane. *Named to record that the road was built on the approach to the Menpes Fruit Farm and leading to the orchard there.*

### **OREGON AVENUE (R14)**

The main estate road on the development in Purley Copse. Now part of Tilehurst

### **OXFORD ROAD**

The eastern part of the main road through Purley. *Named as an extension of Reading's road from Reading to Oxford.*

### **PARK WALK (S9)**

A road on the Purley River Estate. Extended to incorporate Woodland Walk. *Reflected the 'Park' of Purley Park.*

### **PIKE SHAW (O12) 1714, 1734, TA222**

A small wood in the south west of the parish. *Gelling notes that the 250'? contour forms a pointed hill here.*

### **POND (Q8) 1786b**

The old village pond which sat on the north west corner of Purley Village and Mapledurham Drive.

### **POND FIELD (P8)**

The modern name for the field to the west of the old pond site, includes the Pond, and ancient fields known as Pond Acre and Hop Garden.

**POND HOUSE 1786a, 1856 (P9)**

Earlier name for Purley Home Farm on site of present day Farm Close. *It was sited opposite the village pond*

**POUND HOUSE (S5)**

The lock-keeper's Cottage and garden in 1839 forming the island between the lock and river.

**PRIMROSE CLOSE (Q9)**

A development adjacent to St Mary's Avenue and New Hill. It was built over the rubble heap which resulted from the construction of the Butts Centre in Reading. *Named by the Parish Council.*

**PRYOR CLOSE (L12)**

A development to the west of Long Lane on the site of – Long Lane. *Named after Sybil Pryor and her mother Elizabeth from the Parish Council list of artists.*

**PURLEY**

**1635 (Purleye 1194) (Purle 1212) (Porle 1316) (Purlegh 1505, 1540) (Purleigh 1544, 1634, 1642, 1671) (Purlie 1608)**

The name of the village and Parish. Became Purley on Thames in 1986. *(Gelling) – From the Saxon Pur'leah 'a clearing in the woods where the snipe lives' reflecting the marshy ground of the river valley and the very heavy covering of trees. Alternative Pear Tree lands.*

**PURLEY BEECHES (S12)**

A modern development on the site of the former Long Warren field. *named by public acclaim to reflect the large number of beech trees on the site.*

**PURLEY CROSS 1786a (L13)**

The point at which the Parish boundary crosses Long Lane. Believed to have been an ancient site for a boundary cross.

**PURLEY GARDENS (S9)**

The gardens of Purley Park to the north of the railway. Used in latter days to name the site now occupied by Waterside Drive and Church Mews but also covering the Marina, Chiltern View, Thames Reach etc.

**PURLEY HALL (E11)**

A mansion in the west of the Parish where the parishes of Purley, Sulham and Whitchurch used to meet. The site of the seat of the ancient manor of Purley La Hyde. Formerly known as Hyde Hall (qv).

**PURLEY LANE (O8)**

The extension of Long Lane leading from the main road to the village as an extension of Long Lane.



Purley Hall in the 1870s (A Wilder Photo)

### **PURLEY LOCK (S5) 1786a**

The name the Thames Commissioners tried to give to Mapledurham Lock after they had built the New Cut within the Parish of Purley. The name never caught on among the boatmen however and was soon dropped.

### **PURLEY MAGNA**

The name for one of the three medieval manors within Purley.

*The greater of the two centres of settlement in Purley. From the Latin 'Magna' meaning 'Great'.*

*(Bayley) From the Celtic 'Gre ty' meaning 'the house of flocks and herds' corrupted into 'great' and then Latinised into 'Magna' meaning the place where the animals were kept during the winter. This would usually imply a pasture for the summer which was on higher ground, further away from the village known as 'Lai ty'.*

### **PURLEY MAGNA (R11)**

The name used for the re-development of the Purley Park mansion in 2006

### **PURLEY PARK (R11)**

The name given to the mansion house built circa 1800 on the hill overlooking the Thames. Also sometimes used to include all the lands to the east of New Hill and Mapledurham Drive.



GWR Hall Class locomotive 4959 Purley Hall passing under Purveys Bridge in the 1960s  
(Photo Ian Nash)

### **PURLEY PARVA**

The name for one of the three medieval manors within Purley, roughly the north western quarter of the parish. *The smaller of the two settlements in Purley, from the Latin 'Parva' meaning 'Lesser'.*

### **PURLEY RISE**

The name for the estate built in the 1920s straddling the main road to the west of the village. The name was used for many years as that for the row of houses on the north side of the main road. It was adopted as the replacement name for Reading Road after Reading Borough tried to annex Purley in 1978. *It reflects the rise on the main road at this point.*

### **PURLEY VILLAGE (P8)**

The name adopted for the residual part of The Street around 1980 after a campaign by residents.



### **PURLEY WAY (B8)**

A side road on the Bourne Road estate at Pangbourne.

### **PURVEY'S BRIDGE (M8)**

The tallest of the four bridges over the railway which carried a drove road from Belleisle Farm to the meadows to the north. Sometimes known as High Bridge. In the 1920s it carried the narrow gauge railway from Purvey's Yard to the gravel quarry and river.



The Purley River Estate inundated by the 1947 floods - The raised land around the church and Purley Gardens can be clearly seen. Home Farm is in the lower left corner.  
(Environment Agency Photo)

### **PURVEY'S LANE (M8)**

The lane that ran through the yard of John Purvey and Sons (part now called Winston Way). Described as a private drift road in 1856.

### **READING ROAD 1704, 1714 to 1978 (Reading Way 1634, 1671)**

The road leading from Pangbourne to Reading. Used for the western part of the main road until renamed Purley Rise in 1978.

### **RED LYON 1773 (R11)**

An Inn in Purley believed to be on what is now Purley Magna adjacent to the ancient road through Purley which was diverted south in 1800.

### **REDWOOD WAY (S14)**

A road on the Purley Copse development. Transferred to Tilehurst in 1994

### **RIDGEMOUNT CLOSE (M18)**

A development on the west side of Long Lane.

### **RIVER ESTATE plot 80 of 1912 (S8)**

The former camping plots which once formed part of Purley Gardens. Sometimes known as Purley Park Estate.

**RIVER GARDENS (T9)**

A road adjacent to the Thames on the Purley River Estate. Occasionally misnamed as Riverside Drive. *It reflects both the river and that this area was for many years part of the garden of Purley Park.*

**RIVER MEADOW (T7)**

The large modern meadow between the lock and Purley River Estate. Formed of the ancient fields named Common Marsh, Hascutt (part) and Corner Piddle. Sometimes known as Blount's Meadow.

**RIVERSIDE DRIVE (T9)**

(see River Gardens)

**ROEBUCK 1786a (V13)**

An Inn on the north side of the Oxford Road just outside of the Parish boundary. It was briefly known as Beethovens around the millennium.

*(Bayley) – suggests ‘Ty rhiw butt’ (‘the house on the slope of the eel bucks’) or ‘Ty rhiw buch’ (‘the house on the slope of the cows’).*

**ROEBUCK RISE (T13)**

A development on the south side of Oxford Road. *Named from a suggestion by Bernard, the local postman to preserve the name of the Roebuck Inn nearby which had had its name changed to Beethovens at the time.*

**ROSEMEAD AVENUE (M15)**

A small development on the south side of Knowsley Road.

**SAGE ROAD (Q13)**

A road leading to Brookfields School (see Myrtle Close)

**ST MARY’S AVENUE (R9)**

A road on the Purley River Estate, formerly known as Church Walk. *The road leading to St Mary’s Church.*

**SALTNEY MEAD (D4) (Sattne 1634)**

A triangular parcel of land surrounded by branches of the Sul Brook as it enters the Thames.

**SAUNDERS COURT (N9)**

A part of the Crown Green development at the corner of Long Lane and Purley Rise. *Named to commemorate Fred Saunders BEM who worked for Trenthams for many years and lived in one of the houses demolished to make way for this development.*

### **SCRACES FARM (J5) 1856**

A farm within Purley Parva later called Springs Farm and known as Lower Farm in the early 1900s. *Named after the Scrace family who farmed here in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. (Bayley) – Suggests from the Celtic ‘Ys cras ys fferm’? ‘the place below the scorched or baked corn farm’.*



Scraces Farm in 1917

### **SHERWOOD CLOSE (M10)**

An estate leading off Sherwood Rise

### **SHERWOOD RISE (M9)**

The principal road on the Crown Green development. *Named to reflect the Sherwood family and their long associations with Purley. They used to live at Belleisle Farm.*

### **SHORT (The) (R8)**

A road on the Purley River Estate.

### **SIMONS CLOSE (P12) 1714**

A road on the Wimpey estate. *It was named by the Parish Council as Simmonds Close to reflect the long association with the Simmonds family. However the spelling got changed during the naming process.*

### **SKERRITT WAY (T12)**

A road in Purley Beeches. Named by the Parish Council after Bob Skerritt a resident of Purley River Estate and a long standing Parish Councillor.

### **SPRINGS FARM (J5)**

The name given to Scraces Farm by Mr Shakir when he purchased it in 1986.

### **STREET (The) (P8) 1634 (The Streate 1671)**

The road through the ancient village of Purley. The central part is now known as Purley Village. The road originally began near the church and ran past What is now Purley Lodge to join Westbury Lane.

### **SUL BROOK (D5)**

A stream flowing northwards to the Thames through the westerly part of the parish.

**SULHAM LANE (B10) (Soleham)**

The road leading from Pangbourne to Sulham. It has been diverted to allow the building of the Canal at Purley Hall.

*B – (Bayley) – Suggests ‘Sulliac am’ (‘the sunny cultivated land’).*

**TALBOT WAY (O14)**

A small development to the south of Knowsley Road.

**TALLOW WOOD (Q11)**

The name the developers used when marketing the houses forming Duncan Gardens and Farmiloe Close.

**THAMES - (River)**

The major river of England which forms the northern boundary of Purley on Thames.

**THAMES REACH (R10)**

A road on the Purley Gardens Council estate. *Named by the Parish Council to reflect the proximity of the Thames and part of the intended line of the Thames footpath.*

**THEOBALD DRIVE (S13)**

A small development off the Oxford Road. *Named to commemorate Bernard Theobald of Westbury Farm who was for many years Chairman of the Parish Council.*

**TRENTHAMS (M10)**

The name given to Elyham while occupied by G Percy Trenthams, civil engineers, later developed as Crown Green.

**TURNPIKE (The) (Turnpike Road 1786a) 1856**

*The name for the main road whilst it was a turnpike (1763 – 1850).*

**ULLSWATER DRIVE (T14)**

A road leading into a detached part of the Purley Copse development. *Extending the road originally named by Reading Borough Council.*

**VINEYARD (K5)**

The vineyard forming part of Westbury Farm. It was located to the east of Westbury Lane



**VINERS FARM (J4) 1856**

Old name for Westbury Farm when occupied by the Viner family.

**WALK (The) 1758 (E10)**

The drive leading from the Lodge Gates to Purley Hall. Also includes the grassed areas on either side.

**WARBRECK DRIVE (N15)**

The main estate road off Knowsley Road serving part of the Wimpey estate.

**WARLEY RISE (O13)**

An estate off Devonshire Gardens within the Wimpey development. A part of it used to be in Purley but was transferred to Tilehurst in 1994

**WARREN SHAW (U13) 1786ab**

A small wood on the north side of the Oxford Road just west of the Roebuck. *It was the wood containing the rabbit warrens of the Purley Magna estate*

**WATERSIDE DRIVE (S9)**

A road in the Purley Gardens development. *Named by the Parish Council to reflect the proximity of the River.*

**WESTBROOKE (J4)**

An alternative name for the Westbury Area. *Reflects the name of the brook which runs from just west of Springs Farm to the Thames at Mapledurham Lock.*

**WESTBURY (J4)**

The western of the two centres of settlement in Purley. (Bayley) – *From the Celtic ‘Gwesty bur wy’ i.e. ‘the inn at the ford’. ‘Bur wy’? actually means ‘frothy wild water’ and is often used in the Thames Valley where the deep flowing river speeds up to cross a gravel bar shallow enough to be forded. It is possible that before Thames Navigation had the river dredged there was a ford there leading to Hardwick, or, even earlier, to Brinditch Camp.*

**WESTBURY FARM (J4)**

The major Farm at Westbury. Sometimes called Viner’s Farm.

**WESTBURY LANE (K7)**

*One of the ancient roads of Purley to the west of the Parish The lane leading to Westbury.*

**WESTFIELD (N9)**

A large house, now demolished, which stood on the easterly part of Nursery Gardens.

**WESTRIDGE AVENUE (O9)**

A road built on the site of the later rectory. Later extended to New Hill.

**WESTWOODS FIELDS 1786a**

A name used for the Wimpey developments, mainly in Tilehurst. *The name described the north-eastern part of Tilehurst.*

**WHITE LODGE CLOSE (M14)**

One of the early developments off Long Lane just within the Parish of Tilehurst.

**WIMPEY ESTATE**

The development on either side of Knowsley Road. It was built in a number of phases. Phase 1 (Apple Close) Phase 2 (roads off Warbreck Drive in Tilehurst) Phase 3 (Devonshire Gardens and Warley Rise etc) Phase 4 (Talbot Way etc in Tilehurst) Phase 5 (Goodliffe Gardens) and Phase 6 (Simons Close, Kernham Drive etc. in Tilehurst). (Note Phase 6 is often referred to as Phase 2/6 as part of phase 2 was redesigned owing to the extinguishment of the Purley by-pass line. *Named after the developer.*

**WINSTON WAY (M8)**

A three house development renaming part of Purvey's Lane. *Named to commemorate Winston Churchill.*

**WINTRINGHAM WAY (S7)**

A road on the Purley River estate. *Named to commemorate Tom Wintringham who was a well known political figure in the 1930s.*

**WOODLANDS WAY (S9)**

Originally the northern part of Park Walk.

**WOODTHORNE CLOSE (M11)**

A close on the Woodlands development to the west of Long Lane - built 2006

**WYRE COURT (O14)**

A development mainly of flats to the south of Knowsley Road.

## Field names included in ancient maps and documents

The main part of this publication lists only field names that are in use today. Over the centuries many documents have listed field names and in a few cases also road names. In this section we list the names that have occurred in a selection of such documents. As a general rule we show the spelling that was used in that document but ignoring variations of spelling within the document.

Glebe Terriers were documents listing the lands that were made available to the incumbent to either farm himself or let out in order to sustain himself. A number of these have survived and are in either the Wiltshire or the Berkshire Record Offices. In addition a few entries have been extracted from the parish registers.

Other items are generally taken from the papers of the three principal manors of Purley - Purley Magna, Purley Parva and Purley La Hyde.

### Power of Attorney 1292

These papers related to a Power of Attorney granted to Richard of Pangbourne. They are in the Magdalen College Library (ref M Misc 13) The use of 'croft' indicates an early enclosure

Common Meadow	Hugemead	Oxcrofte
Greater Purle	Hurland	Rudinge
Hegecroft	Lesser Purle	

### Glebe Terrier late 16th century

The earliest Glebe Terrier is undated but believed to be late 16th Century. The WRO reference is D1/24/318/1.

Charlie Meade	Purley Common Meade
Hyde Moore	Wooller Field
Pangbourne Meade	Yonder Field

### Glebe Terrier 1608

This is held in the Wiltshire Record Office (ref D1/24/318/2)

Charlie Mead	Longe Lane	Purley Common Meade
Churcham	Lusham	Wodthorne
Farthest Field	Middle Feild	
High Way	Narthnam	

### Glebe Terrier 1634

This is held in the Berkshire Record Office (ref D/A2/c.85)

Brownyard	Great Wheatham	Nutham
Charlye Mead	Gundlea	Reding Way
Churcham	Homestead (the)	River Thames
Churnam	Horsecroft	Sattne Mead
Common Marsh	Little Wheatham	Strake (the)
Common Mead	Longe Lane	Streete (the)
Crouham	Luccam	Woolthorne
Goodly Downes	Marsh Lane	Wootham
Goosecroft	Middle Feild	Yonder Feild
Goosecroft Lane	Mores (the)	

### Glebe Terrier 1671

This is held in the Wiltshire Record Office (ref D1/24/318/3)

Browneyard	Great Wheatham	Nutham
Charley Meade	Horsecroft	Reading Way
Churcham	Little Wheatham	Streake (the)
Common Field	Long Lane	Streate (the)
Common Marsh	Luceham	Woolthorne
Common Meadow	Marsh Lane	Yonder Field
Goodley Downes	Middle Field	
Goosecroft	Moors (the)	

### Survey of Purley - mid 17th Century

This was a survey done for Mr Powys of Hardwick House listing all the lands in the manor of Purley Parva - undated. This is in Oxfordshire Archives.

Calves lease	Hale	Talbot Cross
Churcham	Hides Field	Warren (the)
Dungcroft	Little Coppice (the)	Warren Coppice (the)
Elnor Meade	Little Couples	Warren Field
Great Coppice (the)	Little Wheatham	West Marsh
Great Couples	Marsh Meade	
Great Wheatam	Shepards Close	

## Mr Powys's Lands (1673)

This was an account of the lands in Purley owned by Mr Powys of Hardwick House. It is in Oxfordshire Archives

Aylyham	Elmes Mead	Lusham
Brownyard	Goodboys	Middle Field
Burk Mead	Greater Wheatham	Moors (the)
Burpit Meadow	Gutter Mead	Nutnam
Casway Mead	Hale (the)	Sheeps Route Close
Churcham	Hop Yard	Warren (the)
Common Marsh	Horsehast	Wheatham
Common Meadow	Kernam	Yonder Field
Doune Mead	Knaps Close	
Dungcroft	Little Wheatham	

## Glebe Terrier 1674

This is held in the Wiltshire Record Office (ref D1/24/318/4)

Churcham	Little Wheatham
Great Wheatham	Middle Field

## Glebe Terrier 1704

This is held in the Wiltshire Record Office (ref D1/24/318/5)

Brownyard	Goosecroft Lane	Middle Field
Common Field	Homesteads (the)	Nuttam
Common Marsh	Long Lane	Reading Roade
Goodly Downs	Luceham	Streate (the)
Goosecroft	Marsh Lane	Wooltham

## Account of Rectory Lands 1714

This is a memorandum inscribed in the Parish register (BRO Reference D/P93/1/1)

East Field	Lousham	Square Close
Goosecroft Lane	Pike (the)	Wooltham
Kirnham	Reading Rode	
Long Lane	Simons Close	

### Mr Collier's Plan 1729

This is a memorandum inscribed in the Parish register (BRO Reference D/P93/1/1)

Briars Hill	Farther Field	Niplans Piece
Charly Mead	Hither Field	Taylers Mead
Churcham Acre	Ivy's Piddle	
Common Meadow	Lusham Piece	

### Richard Buckridge's Plan 1734

This is a memorandum inscribed in the Parish register (BRO Reference D/P93/1/1)

Parson's Close	Pike (the)
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### Richard Buckridge's Plan 1735

This is a memorandum inscribed in the Parish register (BRO Reference D/P93/1/1)

Lusam Piece	Morenalls	Woolsham
Middle Ven	Square Close	
Morenalls		

### Ballard's Map 1758

Josiah Ballard drew a plan of Mr Hawes Estate in 1758. The estate was based on Purley Hall and roughly corresponded with the ancient manor of Purley La Hyde. The area covered included parts of Purley, Pangbourne, Sulham and Whitchurch Parishes.

Annis Field	Great Lodging Marsh	Lower Warren
Bare Lease	Harry Jaws	Middle Furlong
Barn Close	Harry Jaws Coppice	Moor Knowles
Brier Hill	Heading Coppice	More Knowles Coppice
Brook Furlong	Heading Moor	New Mead
Broome Close	Home Close	New Mead Coppice
Charley Mead	Lady Plat	Pangbourne Mead
Deacons	Little Guntling	Parsons Mead
Down Field	Little Knowles	Purley Mead
Dry Ground	Little Marsh	Russet Mead
Dry Piece	Long Acre	Satney Mead
Elephant Yard	Long Piddle	Streeks
Emmett Mead	Lower Hay Croft	Sulham Field
Farm Yard Close	Lower Lodging Marsh	The Cannel
Great Guntling	Lower Ridings	The Hop Garden

The Kitchin Garden	Upper Moor	Vicarage Coppice
The Walk	Upper Ridings	Warren Coppice
Upper Hay Croft	Upper Warren	

### **Godson's Map (mid 18th Century)**

William Godson drew a detailed plan of the Purley Hall Estate for Mr Hawes - undated. Includes parts of Sulham and Tidmarsh.

Blaze Ground	Hopp Garden	Ridding Piddle
Great Warring	Long Lands Gleive	Sulham Lane
Harreys Yard	Lower Broom Close	Sullam Field
Harreys Yard Coppice	Nen Lane	Upper Broom Close
Hitching Close	Purley Common Field	Warring Copps

### **Perambulation of Purley Magna (1786)**

This is a report made to the Court Baron of Purley Magna and is to be found in the British Library (Additional Manuscript 28672 page 179)

Blaze Ground Lane	Marshe's Farm	Turnpike Road
Broom Close	New Cut	Upper Hides
Brown Yard Field	New Mead	Upper Warren Close
Charley Meade	Old Man's Lane	Warren Shaw
Down Field	Parsonage Pike Close	Westwood Fields
Eleven Acres	Pond House	
Elms Pightle	Purley Coppice	
Emmetts Meade	Purley Cross	
Hackmore Pond	Purley Cross Close	
Harry Jar's Close	Purley Hall	
Jurdon's	Purley Little Manor	
Kernham Close	Purley Magna	
Lady Platt Close	Red Lyon	
Long Lands	River Thames	
Lower Harry Jar's	Roebuck	
Mapledurham Pound	Rye Ground	
Marsh Barn	Simmonds Pightle	

## Moss's Estate Map (1786)

This map was compiled by William Moss for Robert Macreth the new owner of the Manor of Purley Magna

Blacksmith's Shop	Hascutt	Purley Green
Brown Close	Hop Garden	Purley Lock
Calves Lease	Illsley Piddle	Roe Buck
Churchums	Little Couples	The Hale
Common Field (The)	Little Warren	Tilehurst Western Common Field
Common Marsh	Little Wheatum	Upper Hides
Common Mead	Lock Mead	Warren Shaw
Coppice hanging on hill	Long Warren	West Marsh
Dung Croft	Lower Hides	Wheatums
Ealy Ham	Lutmore	Yonder Common Field
Ellms Mead	Maggots Moor	
Front the House	Pond	
Goodley Down	Poveys Piddle	
Great Couples	Purley Coppice	

## Tithe Award (1840)

Ash Piece	Farmers Piddle	Little Elyham
Blays Ground	Goodey Down	Little Guntlings
Block Piddle	Goosecroft	Little Nut Moor
Brier Hill	Gore Acre	Little Wheathams
Brook Furlong	Gravel Acre	Long Acre
Browns Yard	Great Copples	Lower Hides
Butchers Piece	Great Guntlings	Lower Powys Meadow
Butt Acre	Great Meadow	Lower Veer
Butt Piece	Great Western Railway	Luccam Piece
Calf Lees	Harry Jaws	Luccam Pike
Catmore Piece	Hill Piece	Maggots Moor
Caversham Meadow	Hither Field	Middle Piddle
Chalk Piece	Hop Garden	Moor Knowles
Churchams	House Croft Moor	Moors
Common Field	Ilisley's Piddle	Nippling Piece
Corner Piddle	Inhams	Oathams
Drapers Acre	Ivey Close	Old Chalk Pit
Dry Ground	Kinhams	Parsonage Piece
Elyham	Kitchen Garden	Parsons Piece
Elms Piddle	Little Copples	Pasture Piece

Pike Shaw

Pit Acre

Pond Acre

Pond Meadow

Pound House

Purley Cross Piddle

Rick Yard Piddle

Roberts Acre

Russett Meadow

Satney Mead

Scraces Acre

Shepherds Piddle

Simmonds Close

Square Close

Storers Dry Piece

Streaks

Tea Piece

Three Acre

Upper Hides

Upper Veer

Warren Park

Weathams Hail

West Marsh

Witches

Withey Eyot

## The Purley on Thames Parish Council Street Naming policy

We regard the Parish Council as the prime body responsible for naming streets in their parish, although technically the power is with the District Council. Over the past few years there have been very few instances of the District not accepting the advice of the parishes.

In recent years the Parish Council has suggested street names in one of four series: Manorial, Artists, Names of Parish Councillors and Ancient field names. A Fourth series War Heroes was added subsequently. The third category has not been used for some 20 years now.

The suffix to the name may be any of the customary Street, Lane, Road, Close, Court, Rise, Drive, Gardens, View, Walk, Way etc. However 'Lane' should be used to designate a street leading to the named place eg Goosecroft Lane and Bowling Green Lane. Similarly 'Rise' should be used for streets that are on distinctive rising land and 'View' should be used only if you can see the object named from the street.

Certain series will not be accepted, these include names of trees, flowers, birds, animals. Place names will be accepted only if the street actually leads to the place or there is a clear association with Purley.

The street name must be distinctive, refer clearly to Purley and be not duplicated in the current Reading Street guide.

<i>Series</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>Not yet used</i>
<i>MANORIAL</i>	Huscarle Malyns Carew Clarendon Farmiloe Sherwood Wilder	Powys
<i>ARTISTS</i>	Cecil Aldin Menpes Pryor	Spenlove Munnings Hodgkins
<i>PARISH COUNCILLORS</i>	Bucknell Duncan Marshall Skerritt Theobald	

*FIELD NAMES*

Elyham

Harry Jaws

Goosecroft

Wheatums

Kernham

Horsecroft

Woodthorne

*WAR HEROES*

Lister

Nash

*MISCELLANEOUS*