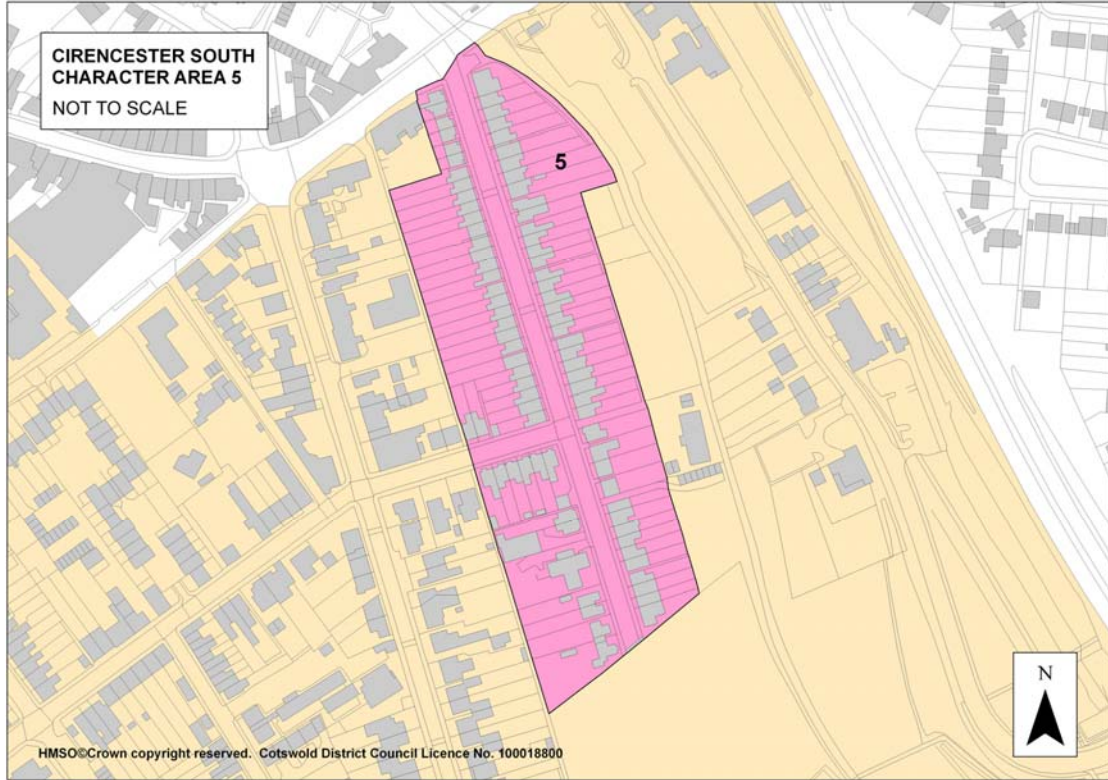


## Character Area 5: Purley Road



Map W



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## Character Area 5: Purley Road – Key Characteristics



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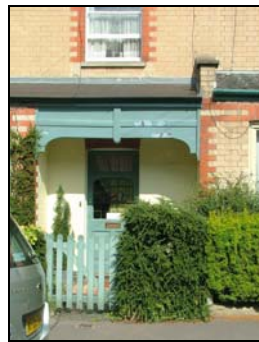
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## Character Area 5: Purley Road – Key Characteristics

- An early twentieth-century, linear, urban speculative housing development at the east side of the town, on land formerly associated with the Beeches estate, the Purley Road character area takes in the whole road stretching from London Road at the north end, including part of Purely Avenue, and south towards the recreation ground north of City Bank;
- A series of mostly terraced and semi-detached two-storey properties, each group being of distinctive design, set within long narrow plots located at right angles to the straight roads, and bordered by narrow front gardens, united in part through the repetition of similar elements the whole united by common materials, building heights and a near continuous building line;
- Materials include significant use of brick and pebbledash [552] for main elevations, and brick and cement render for side elevations, often in combination [556-57]; Welsh slate roofs and most prominently two-tone brick chimney stacks with clay pots [553], the whole combining to form a particularly colourful urban environment;



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- Bay windows feature strongly, often in pairs, some double height with gabled tops fitting into the pitched rooflines [577], some with horned sashes, also casement windows, both top opening and side-hung [558 & 560], and occasional uniquely-shaped windows [559];
- Other features include small pitched roof door canopies [542], timber verandas with slate roofs [551], a few original timber trellis canopies and garden gates [573] and many timber doors with glazed panels and rectangular fanlights over [561-63], a small painted sign “Purley Terrace” and cast iron downpipes [569-70];
- Views of the development are most prominent to and from the recreation ground to the south [543] and from the no-entry point on London Road where the repetition of elements is especially apparent [554];
- Narrow gaps between properties offer attractive glimpsed views towards rear gardens, open ground adjacent the River Churn, and along connecting pathways which run between properties and link with another pathway serving properties on the east side of Victoria Road [564-68];

- The tree-filled gap between similar houses at the east end of Purley Avenue forms an important focal point when entering the area from Victoria Road [568];



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- Trees figure prominently around the edge of the development:
  - those along the river bank which borders the character area to the east provide a soft green backdrop and help screen the development from the Beeches car park and Beeches Road beyond to the east [543];
  - a further group of mature trees at the northern tip of the area at London Road screen the rear elevations and extensions on the east side [544]; and
  - the group of trees including a large and impressive mature copper beech tree [located in CA3] on the north side of London Road provides an important focal point for views northward [576];
- A variety of roadside boundary features including railings on low brick or stone bases, brick or stone walls [572-73], dense trimmed hedging, timber vertical boarded fences, and most memorable, a cement and pebbledash wall [571] complimenting the several relevant properties on the east side;



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- Single-storey rear pitched roof or lean-to extensions form a standard element to most properties in this character area [555];
- The Purley Road character area is almost wholly residential throughout with just one small light industrial garage unit to the southwest.



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## Character Area 5: Purley Road – Negative Features & Issues

- Loss of architectural detail particularly the insertion of plastic doors and windows of inappropriate design, and the loss of common boundary features and other elements where the repetition of such elements forms a significant part of the special character of the character area [578-79];
- A lack of maintenance to a small number of properties [584];
- Visual clutter created by traffic-related signage and road markings, and telegraph poles and wires [580 & 585];



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- The southern section of Purley Road south of Purley Avenue, on its eastern side, loses some of its character as a result of several features:
  - the unattractive garage building with its plastic and timber fencing and signage [582];

- the modern residential block of uninspiring design known as Jefferies Court adjacent [583];
- the monolithic concrete block surmounted by chain link fencing forming the boundary with the recreation ground [581];
- the amalgamation of building plots and the altered building line; and
- the significant loss of timber windows and doors to properties at the southwest point in the road [583].



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