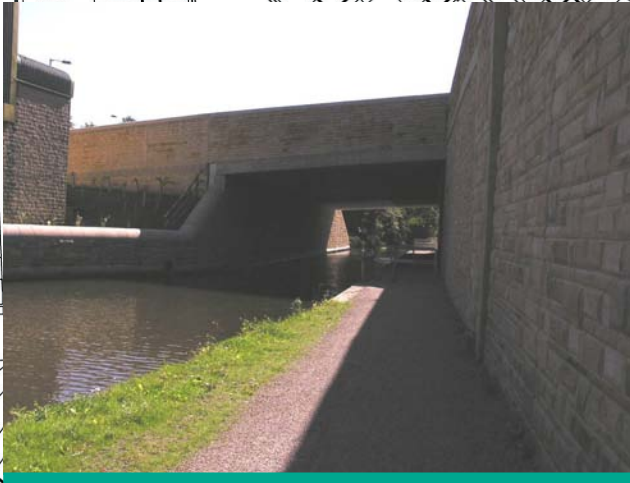


Map 16: South of Bingley



The bleak modernised Ferncliffe Road Bridge.



Towpath passing under Maud Bridge.



New modern housing at the former Bingley Brewery site.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 metres

Map 16: South of Bingley



Ferncliffe Road Bridge is the watershed between Bingley's industrial area (top) and the semi-rural fringes of the town, where the canal side is dominated by trees and other vegetation (above).

Right: The former Bingley Brewery has been recently converted to flats.

Character of the Area

Ferncliffe Road Bridge effectively marks the edge of the built up area of Bingley as far as the Leeds-Liverpool Canal Conservation Area is concerned, as to the south of the bridge the canal area is flanked by mature trees which conceal the intermittent development to the north.

Although it has been improved with a new sandy gravel towpath and new railings and barriers, the area by Ferncliffe Road bridge is permanently under the shadow of the high walls of the bridge and some of the new towpath 'furniture' is not in keeping with that which is generally found along the canal.

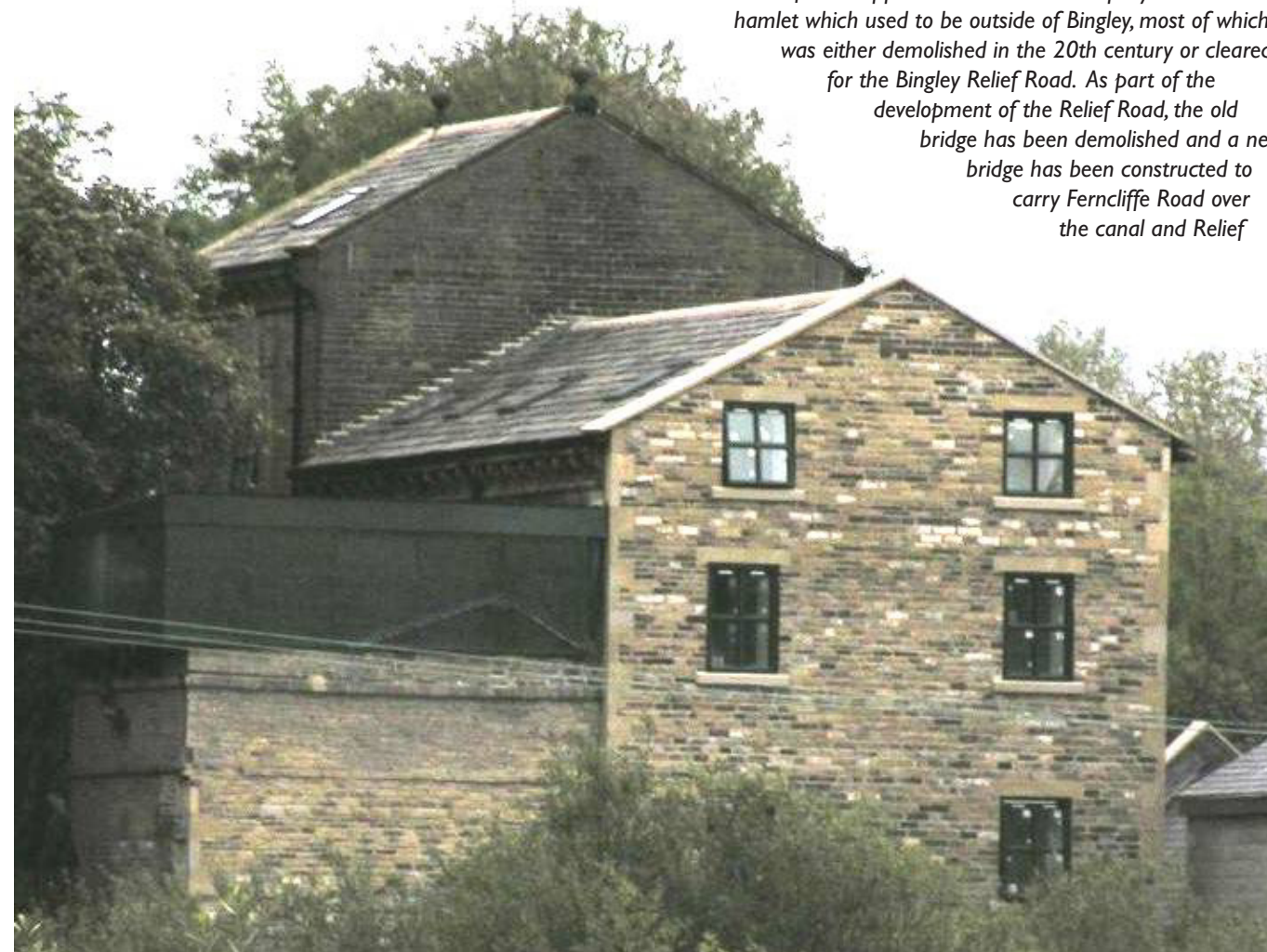
To the south of the bridge there are good vistas of the large mass and tall chimney of Britannia Mills which effectively announces the start of the built up industrial area of Bingley.

Once away from the bridge, the towpath changes to white gravel with rugged, clean grass verges to either side. The trees alongside the canal form a barrier to views of the nearby Bingley Relief Road and the modern flats to the north are only visible in places. The trees also conceal the historic former Bingley Brewery, which at time of writing is being converted to dwellings.

Maud Bridge is one of the few features along this tranquil, secluded, meandering stretch of the canal and its human scale and archway over the towpath mean that it relates much more strongly to the conservation area than more recently built bridges and engineering works.

Features of the Area

1. Dubb Bridge or Ferncliffe Road Bridge (203): Dubb was the name of what appears to have been a rapidly industrialised hamlet which used to be outside of Bingley, most of which was either demolished in the 20th century or cleared for the Bingley Relief Road. As part of the development of the Relief Road, the old bridge has been demolished and a new bridge has been constructed to carry Ferncliffe Road over the canal and Relief



Road. This piece of modern engineering carries a wide modern road and is faced with sandstone 'bricks', with ashlar quoins to the piers, ashlar stone strings and ashlar copings to the parapets.

2. Maud Bridge (204): Although no longer a bridge as such, Maud Bridge is an interesting feature of this stretch of the canal. It appears that the old stone bridge was replaced in the early 20th century by the present stone and iron structure which carries pipes over the canal, but looks like a footbridge. A quoined stone pier carries a vousoired segmental arch over the towpath. Above this are a stone string and a coped parapet. The stone pier also supports a riveted iron bridge over the canal and into Crosley Wood Road (formerly Maud Wood).

3. Former Bingley Brewery: This 3-4 storey industrial building was erected in the second half of the 19th century with later extensions made to the main body of the building, most of which have been demolished. The buildings are recorded on the 1893 Ordnance Survey as Bingley Brewery. The tallest part of the building has a coped slate roof with carved kneelers and a stone ball finial at the apexes of the gables. Between the kneelers is an entablature with modillion dentils carrying a stone gutter shelf. The lower 3 storey element has been recently rebuilt and re-roofed, but retains the same original entablature details. It now has quoined angles and plain, domestic scale window openings with modern casement windows which attempt to replicate the appearance of traditional windows.

The brewery stood empty for some time and has recently been converted to dwellings and at time of writing, the land associated with the brewery is being developed with detached housing. These large houses are in a vernacular revival style with coped gables, kneelers, quoined angles, mullioned windows and coped boundary walls despite having all the trappings of modern suburban housing.

Issues

- ▶ Overshadowing and isolated feel of Ferncliffe Road Bridge.
- ▶ Modern style towpath 'furniture' at Ferncliffe Road Bridge.
- ▶ Poor quality of some of the buildings which adjoin the conservation area.
- ▶ Insensitive alterations to unlisted buildings.
- ▶ Modern form of new development within the conservation area.