

Update on Section 19 Investigations within the Buckingham and Villages Community Board Area

The Board will be aware that following the flooding in December 2020, Buckinghamshire Council have been progressing formal Flood Investigations under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) for the following communities:

- Buckingham
- Tingewick
- Gawcott
- Leckhampstead
- Thornborough
- Thornton

Buckinghamshire Council believe it is important to complete the investigation as thoroughly as possible in order to understand the issues as well as we reasonably can, in order to help the affected communities more in the long term. We thank all communities for their patience, as we know they will be eager to see the reports into the investigations.

As part of producing the Section 19 Flood Investigations, we have sought to collaborate and engage with the local community, Parish and Town Councils, and elected members. We have drawn on eyewitness accounts of the events and the local knowledge of Parish Councils and local communities to help us understand how flooding has impacted each local community, determine the local factors that contributed to the flooding, and develop recommendations that could help manage flood risk better if taken forward.

It is important for communities to understand that it is not within the remit of any Section 19 Flood Investigation to provide designed solutions, and the process does not provide the Council, nor any other organisation, with the funding or mandate to undertake works on the ground. The intention is instead to provide a clear understanding of the issues, since this is the first step towards being able to help address a flooding problem. Each report will also make high-level recommendations into possible flood management options, which may include recommending that the council or its partners undertake further appraisals into the viability of particular options in certain communities.

We will continue to engage directly with the communities and Parish Councils affected to update them on progress. All Parish/Town Councils and local elected members of Buckinghamshire Council will be afforded the opportunity to fact check the final reports before publication on our website.

Steps for Dissemination

The Council has a set series of steps for disseminating the outputs from investigations and publishing the final reports. These steps are as follows. The table beneath summarises the stage of each Investigation within the Board area, and the anticipated release dates of draft reports for fact checking by members and Parish Councils.

1. Awaiting first draft by consultants working on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council
2. Strategic Flood Management Team (SFMT) receive first draft from consultants, and undertake a process of Quality Assurance (QA) and editing to provide a second draft. This typically takes a few weeks.
3. Second draft sent to partner Risk Management Authorities (e.g. Environment Agency, Anglian Water, TfB) for input and to discuss recommendations and any positive actions underway. Typical one month review period (we are required to provide a reasonable opportunity for partners to comment before making the draft more public).
4. Invite the relevant Parish Council, elected Buckinghamshire Council members, and representative of the relevant Community Board to fact check the report
(Note that each of the above steps can take a few weeks to allow opportunity for comment).
5. Collation of comments and updates made
6. Sign off of final report by BC management.
7. Final version will then be published on Buckinghamshire Council public website

Location	Current stage of process (refer to list above)	Anticipated release of draft document to PCs and BC members for fact checking ¹
Buckingham	Step 6 Final sign off by BC management	Done (autumn 2021)
Tingewick	Step 3 With partners for review	March 2022
Gawcott	Step 3 With partners for review	March 2022
Thornborough	Step 1 Awaiting first draft from consultants	April 2022
Thornton	Step 1 Awaiting first draft from consultants	May 2022
Leckhampstead	Step 1 Awaiting first draft from consultants	May 2022

¹ Release date is subject to timely receipt of comments from partners and volume and nature of comments.