

Report: Buckden Parish Council Flood Group

Following the meeting held on: February 2, 2026, Time: 7:00 PM, Location: Village Hall

1. Incident Review

While there were no new formal reports of actual incidents during this period, several localized issues were noted:

- Some drains have been overtopping, but they were known issues that have been reported e.g. Buckden High Street Drain -Old Forge.
- Flooding has occurred at driveways on **Taylors Lane**; the council is currently awaiting the installation of "grips" to manage this.

Near Misses:

- **Taylors Brook** came within inches of flooding the High Street.
- Significant surface water was recorded on **Mill Road** and **Taylors Lane (West)**.

2. Equipment & Resource Management

A primary concern is the storage and accessibility of flood equipment on the **West Side of the A1**. The council is exploring the following:

- The group is investigating placing a storage cabin on **Taylors Lane**. The **Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)** has been contacted to determine if existing grant monies can be utilised to fund this purchase.
 - Identifying available Highways land on Taylors Lane (West) for potential storage placement.
 - A "fallback" strategy to locate storage near known hotspots or distribute resources directly to residents.

3. Silver Street Drainage / Morris Homes Development

The information provided to the LLFA on the likely reserved matter application from Morris Homes was discussed. Intelligence suggests the developer intends to alter the drainage strategy. The original plan discharged water below the built-up area (low risk). The new proposal routes surface water down Silver Street, discharging into the culvert near the St Hughes Road junction (the "Thatched Cottage" pinch point – substantially increased risk

Following the discussion regarding these liabilities, the District Councillor member has approached HDC Operations. They have commissioned an immediate survey of the watercourse to establish baseline conditions.).

4. Water Quality & Infrastructure Capacity

Recent data regarding the **Buckden Water Treatment Works (WTW)** highlights significant capacity and environmental concerns:

- **Capacity Overload:** The WTW was designed for a 5,000 population equivalent but is currently serving 5,288.
- **Overflow Frequency:** In 2024 (a wet year), storm tanks overflowed approximately **33%** of the time.
- **Future Outlook:** While 2025 is projected to be drier, there are currently no plans for improvements to the Buckden WTW until **March 2030**.
- **Lakes:** Currently in good condition, from our own analysis, though they have not yet been measured under full flood conditions.

Action Item: District Councillor Hassall to follow up with the **Environment Agency** to determine a maximum flow rate, as the current OFWAT 80th percentile calculation for dry weather flow is considered inadequate.

5. Administrative & Upcoming Actions

- **Missing Data:** Information from the 2021 survey on the High Street remains unavailable.
- **Walkabout:** A multi-agency walkabout was scheduled for **mid-August 2025** and has not yet happened – the Group continues to chase.