

Fears over Flooding at Tromode

The following comments are made solely in connection with the issues regarding the on-going maintenance of the River Glass and Government flood planning.

Clucas Plc has operated the Tromode Estate for over 110 years providing 40 units for commercial letting to a wide spectrum of high-quality tenants. In December 2015 the River Glass overflowed its banks near to the entrance to the estate, affecting 4 of the units. Repair costs were in excess of £100,000. In some ways it could have been much worse, if the flood waters had been restricted in any way under the Tromode Bridge. (Photos attached).

We fully support statements made by Mr. Alf Caine, owner of Castleward Farm and neighbour of the Tromode Estate. We are very appreciative of the efforts Mr. Caine makes each year, at his own expense, to remove fallen trees and other debris which in flood conditions could move downstream and form a catastrophic blockage at the Tromode Bridge. Clucas PLC supports the efforts of staff and management of the DoI and its plans to mitigate the flooding dangers but the DoI is working with a reduced workforce and constricted budget. Many politicians and the majority of the general public may feel that flooding in the arterial rivers of the Island affects only a limited number of people. This is certainly not the case. The Tromode Estate alone provides employment for over 500 people, generating over £16,000,000 in earnings each year.

Apart from erosion and debris issues of the river, a major concern is the state of the Tromode Bridge itself. The increased traffic flows across the Bridge arise from the road now being considered as a by-pass to Douglas and will only worsen when plans are implemented for improvements to the Tromode Road and the creation of new housing in Braddan. Any plans to widen and strengthen the bridge must be given a priority as there is a disaster waiting to happen if the Bridge fails for any reason.

Over the last 9 years Clucas Plc has invested over £4 million creating 14 new units. The investment decision was heavily based on riverbed surveys of the River Glass and flood risk assessment reports based on fluvial flooding with a range of risk between a 1 in 100 chance and a 1 in 1000 chance of fluvial happening in any one year. Any deterioration of this risk due to neglect in maintaining the river, the riverbanks or the bridges would undoubtedly adversely affect any future investment by the company.

Clearly the flooding of the Tromode estate will cause financial loss and misery to many who live/work there while the loss of the Tromode Bridge will create many transport problems for the increasing numbers who live and work in the area or need to visit Nobles Hospital.



From this in November 2009 Castleward Farm



The gravel bar is now 75 metres and some metres of farmland have been lost since 2009.

Same location May 2022 Castleward Farm



2015 flood Tromode Business Disruption















