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Executive Summary

This technical note describes the modelling audit of the South Caldecote forecast Vissim models of the A5/A4146 Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout, provided by BWB to support the planning application of the proposed South Caldecotte development in Milton Keynes. The audit was carried out based on WebTAG guidance and best practices recommended in Transport for London (TfL) Traffic Modelling Guidance.

AECOM has previously undertaken three reviews of the base models (reference 'South Caldecotte VISSIM Model Review_v10' – dated 2nd November 2018, 'Revised South Caldecotte VISSIM review_v8' – dated 26th April 2019, and 'South Caldecotte Revised VISSIM Review_v7' – dated 1st August 2019), in the last of which, the base models were signed off (subject to minor amendments) and agreed to be taken forward for forecast modelling.

The note draws attention to the elements coded and the vehicle data used in the model along with the modelling results. Elements that have been audited are:

- Link and connector coding;
- Vehicle inputs and routes;
- Turning count data and journey times;
- Signal coding;
- Signal operation;
- Priority rules and conflict areas;
- Reduced speed areas and speed distributions;
- Consistency between scenarios and time periods; and
- Analysis and interpretation of modelling results.

Issues/Errors that were found in the models have been classified into three levels:

- MINOR The issues found are likely to produce minimal changes in the results.
- MEDIUM The issues found could have a medium impact on the results.
- SIGNIFICANT The issues are considered as an error and are likely to have a large/ significant impact on the results.

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Table 1 summarises the status of the issues identified during the previous audits:

 Table 1. Summary of outstanding issues with Base models from previous audits.

Issue Identified in Previous Audit	Level of Issue	Resolved?	Comments			
Traffic Composition not including LGVs	Minor	Yes	Minor coding issue have been observed and documented in this technical note.			
General Coding Errors (Overlapping vehicles)	Minor	No	No changes have been made as the impact is minor.			
Conflict Areas coding errors and Inconsistencies	Medium	Yes				
Desired Speed Decision coding errors	Minor	Yes				
Reduced Speed Areas coding errors	Minor	Yes				
Link-Connector coding errors	No Impact	Yes				
Vehicle Inputs	Minor	Yes	Minor coding issue have been observed and documented in this technical note.			
Signal Coding and Detector errors	Significant	Yes				
Driving Behaviours	Minor	Yes				
Model Calibration and Latent Demand reporting issues	Significant	Yes				
Saturation Flow Calibration not provided	Medium	Yes				
Journey Time Validation criteria Misinterpretation	Significant	Yes				
Evidence supporting calibration of MOVA	Medium	Yes	Video footage is analysed and reported to extract minimum and maximum signal green times.			
Consistency issues between AM and PM Peak models	Significant	Yes				
Journey time validation of route D-A	Medium	Yes	New journey time data observations have been provided, against which route D-A validates well.			

A **SIGNIFICANT** issue in the forecast scenarios has been identified during the model review:

• The submitted model fails to replicate the results contained in the accompanying report for 5 of the 6 scenarios in the AM peak models.

The following issues have been found to be **MEDIUM** level:

- Incorrectly modelled lane allocation on different approaches to, and within Kelly's Kitchen roundabout;
- Prohibited lane changes are made by vehicles on the A5 approaches to the junction;
- Priority rules are incorrectly coded resulting in traffic not realistically blocking the lanes while queuing;
- Unrealistic signal operation at Kelly's Kitchen roundabout leading to excessive queuing within the junction, resulting in conflict points being blocked and inefficient synchronisation of signal timings;
- The report does not include an analysis of network performance results for all scenarios tested; and

• The report should include an analysis of latent demand in all scenarios when assessing the impact of the development.

Additionally, there are a few **MINOR** issues raised in this Technical Note and addressing these may have limited impact on the operation and the overall results of the AM and PM peak models. However, it is recommended that these are considered further and addressed to provide consistency and since the combined effect of these may be more significant.

Based on the evidence provided in this note, AECOM has identified concerns with the model coding and analysis of results that indicate that model coding should be improved to allow for a reliable analysis of the impacts.

Additionally, analysis of the modelling results show that the development has a significant adverse impact on the operation of Kelly's Kitchen roundabout and that the committed schemes at Kelly's Kitchen and Tilbrook roundabouts are not predicted to have sufficient capacity to accommodate the traffic flows predicted to occur.

It is recommended that the concerns raised within this technical note are addressed and that a revised forecast model and results analysis are re-submitted.

1 Introduction

This Technical Note (TN06) provides a summary of the audit work conducted on the revised Forecast Vissim model developed for the A5 Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout by BWB. The Vissim model has been prepared to support the planning application of an employment development at South Caldecotte in Milton Keynes.

This Technical Note should be read alongside AECOM's Technical Note 03 ('South Caldecotte VISSIM Model Review_v10'), Technical Note 04 ('Revised South Caldecotte VISSIM review_v8'), and Technical Note 05 ('Revised South Caldecotte VISSIM review_v7') which documents the review of the previous base and forecast models and AECOM's Technical Note 06 ('TN06_Review of South Caldecotte TA_v7'), which documents the review of the revised Transport Assessment (TA) associated with the proposed development.

The audit of the last submitted base model (Technical Note $05 - 1^{st}$ August 2019) concluded that it was suitable to be taken forward for forecast modelling with the condition that journey time validation was improved along the V10 Brickhill Street Northbound.

The models/information received by AECOM for this audit include:

- The VISSIM model (base and forecast scenarios);
- additional journey time data for validation of the Base models;
- updated LMVR (SCD-BWB-GEN-XX-RP-TR-003_LMVR-S2-P6); and
- Forecast Model Report (SCD-BWB-GEN-XX-RP-TR-004_Forecast Model-S2-P2).

2 Base Model Review

2.1 Consistency with previously submitted base model

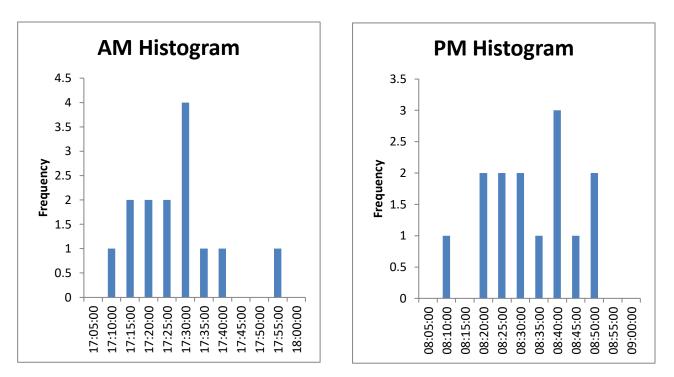
As expected, the base model submitted for this audit is identical to the previously submitted base model (June 2019).

2.2 Model validation

TN05 included the recommendation that the validation of journey time route D-A was improved. BWB indicated, in the new submission, that the original sample used for journey time validation was not representative of average journey times towards zone A, as BWB excluded the observations where the level crossing at Brickhill Street was in use.

BWB has provided additional journey time data between Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout and zone A. Whilst increasing the sample size should provide more robust/ representative average journey times, AECOM does not have access to raw data/ cannot check that the new sample is representative of average journey times, so it has been assumed that the averages presented are correct.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of the new observations within the corresponding peak hour, which seems appropriate.





Replication of results

It should be noted that the following analysis of the base model validation refers to the base model as it operated with the previously agreed signal controllers, and not the controllers received in the latest submission.

Assuming the new journey time data is correct, the base results described by BWB in the updated LMVR are considered to provide a suitable basis to assess the junction operation and the impact of the proposed development. The base models meet WebTAG validation criteria.

3 Forecast model review

3.1 Modelling approach

The assessment of the impact of the development traffic on the A5/A4146 junction following the inclusion at the junction of the committed highway scheme associated with the Eaton Leys development and, in some scenarios, the committed highway scheme associated with the Red Bull Racing development, will be carried out by doing a comparative analysis of the results of the scenarios shown in Table 2:

	Year	Flows	Schemes
Scenario 1	2023	Base + Committed Developments	Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout Scheme
Scenario 2	2023	Base + Committed developments + Proposed development	Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout Scheme
Scenario 3	2031	Base + Committed Developments	Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout Scheme
Scenario 4	2031	Base + Committed developments + Proposed development	Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout Scheme
Scenario 5	2023	Base + Committed developments + Proposed development	Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout Scheme + Tilbrook Roundabout Scheme
Scenario 6	2031	Base + Committed developments + Proposed development	Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout Scheme + Tilbrook Roundabout Scheme

Table 2. Composition of the forecast scenarios.

The comparative analysis of scenarios 1 with 2 and 3 with 4 will show the impact of the proposed development on the committed Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout Scheme, while the comparison of scenarios 2 with 5 and 4 with 6 will show the impact of the development in a scenario which also includes the committed scheme at Tilbrook roundabout.

The definition of scenarios 5 and 6 has been extracted from the Vissim model, as these have not been described in Forecast Model Report. It is recommended that the definition of all scenarios is fully documented in the forecast report. This issue is considered MINOR.

3.2 Modelled demand

The demand in the base scenarios is identical to the demand audited in the previous base model review.

The node results of the "with development" scenarios show that modelled demand from the development (departures) is in line with the figures provided in the Transport Assessment (TA) for the development. However, the number of arrivals to the development within the modelled peak is lower that the values set out in the TA: 266 vehicles in the 2031 AM (+ *Dev* + *Tilbrook*) model compared to 317 vehicles in the TA; and 103 vehicles in the 2031 PM model compared to 139 vehicles in the TA. The pattern is similar (with a lower difference between modelled and proposed flows) in the 2023 scenarios.

This discrepancy between modelled flows and trip generation figures in the Transport Assessment is the result of latent demand in the models (i.e. vehicles not being assigned to the model because of excessive congestion, with latent demand present on the A5 and Watling Street), with vehicles not reaching their destination at the end of the peak periods due to congestion.

The modelled demand is considered appropriate; however, it is recommended that the issue of latent demand in the forecast scenarios is considered when analysing their results. **MEDIUM**.

3.3 Network coding

3.3.1 Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout (committed scheme)

Several issues have been found in the coding methodology applied at Kelly's Kitchen roundabout. The modelled operation of the junction is therefore not considered to be a reliable prediction of the likely operation.

Issues regarding lane allocation

Figure 2 shows the movement from Watling Street to Brickhill Street, where vehicles are forced to join the junction using the middle lane or the offside lane and continue along the two offside lanes on the roundabout, using the routing connector to move to the two nearside lanes to access the exit onto Brickhill Street.

Based on the drawing of the committed intervention at this junction, the nearside lane on the Watling Street approach should accommodate the movements into the A5 northbound and into Brickhill Street, whilst in the Vissim model, it is dedicated for the left turn into the A5 northbound only.

Figure 2 also shows incorrect lane allocation on the northbound circulatory. Whilst the scheme drawings show that the right turn should only be allowed from the offside lane, the model allows the right run movement from the offside and middle lanes.

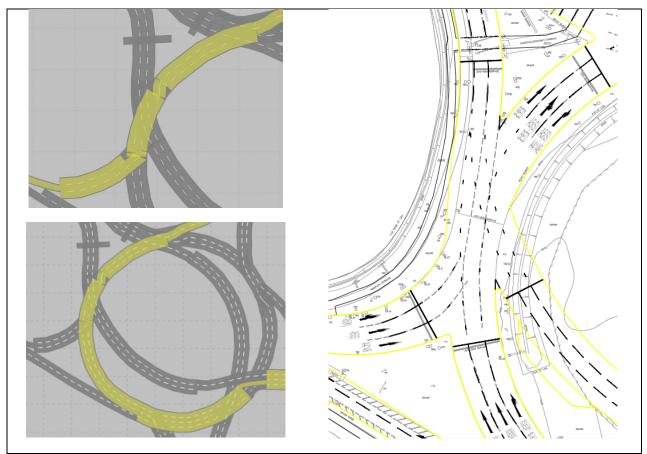


Figure 2. Incorrect lane allocation on the approach on Watling Street (top left) and on the conflicting arm inside the roundabout (bottom left). Scheme drawing indicating allowed movements from each lane (right).



Figure 3 below shows incorrectly modelled lane allocation on the A5 southbound approach to the junction. According to the drawing, the nearside lane should be left turn only, whilst in the Vissim model, this lane is also used for the straight-ahead southbound movement.

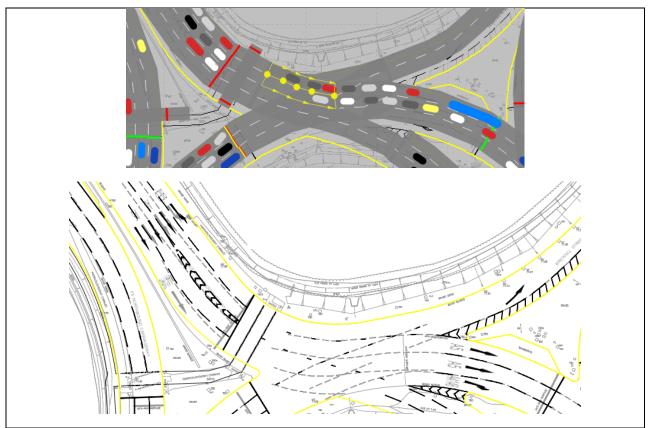


Figure 3. Incorrect lane allocation on the approach on the A5 southbound.

It is recommended that the model is coded so that movements from each lane accurately reflects the proposed lane allocation of the committed scheme. These issues are considered **MEDIUM**, as it is likely that the operation of the model with the correct lane allocation will result in different modelling results.

Issues regarding lane changes on the approaches to the junction

Figure 4 below shows an example of a large vehicle changing lanes after the stop-line and over the hatched area on the A5 southbound approach to the junction. This lane change should be banned in the length of hatched area shown in the scheme drawing and should not be allowed after the stop-line either.

Given the number of vehicles changing lanes over the hatched central reservation, this issue is likely to have a noticeable impact on modelling results. **MEDIUM**.

Lane changes in the model over the hatched area should not be permitted, it is recommended that this issue is solved by increasing the lane change emergency stop distance of the downstream connectors.

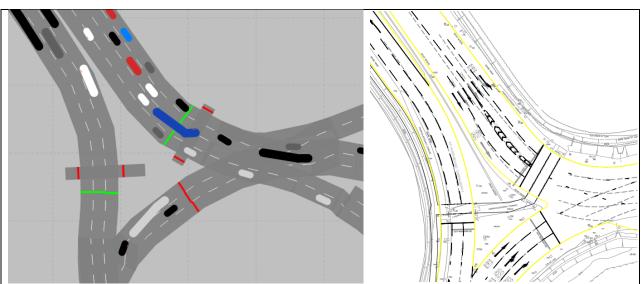


Figure 4. Vehicles changing lanes over the hatched area and after the stop-line on the A5 southbound approach (left). Scheme drawing for this approach (right).

Figure 5 below shows the same issue on the A5 northbound approach to the junction, where lane changes over the central hatched area are allowed in the Vissim model. However; given the lane change distance parameters of the downstream connectors, all vehicles reach this area in their desired lanes and no vehicles have been observed making lane changes over the hatched area, therefore it is not considered an issue. It is however recommended that this lane change over the hatched area is not permitted in the model.

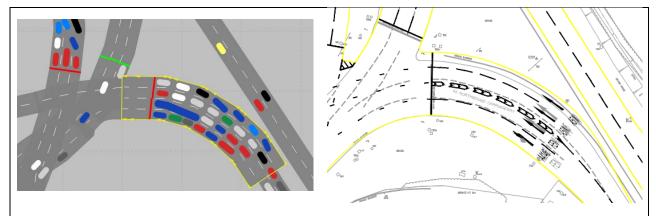


Figure 5. Lane changes are allowed in Vissim over the hatched area on the A5 northbound approach to the junction (left). Scheme drawing of this approach (right).

Other modelling issues

Both priority rules and conflict areas have been used for some conflicting movements at Kelly's Kitchen roundabout; whilst this is not necessarily wrong, it is recommended to use one or the other, but not both at the same time, as it could result in unrealistic and/or erratic behaviour. This is considered MINOR.

Priority rule 57 (shown in Figure 6) does not have a priority marker at the offside lane of the A4146 northbound approach to the roundabout, resulting in vehicles travelling to Watling Street ignoring the queuing vehicles inside the roundabout and overestimating the capacity of this movement.

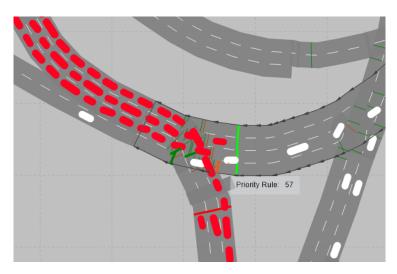


Figure 6. Crashing vehicles at the southern stream of the roundabout.

Given the frequency with which it occurs, and the number of vehicles running over queuing traffic inside the roundabout, this issue is considered **MEDIUM**.

It is recommended that priority rules are coded so that queuing traffic effectively blocks the lanes it is occupying (using a priority rule with a headway as a parameter), or that yellow box behaviour is coded in the conflict area to prevent queuing vehicles blocking the movement.

3.3.2 Tilbrook roundabout (committed scheme)

The committed scheme consists of the addition of a second lane on the northbound exit from Tilbrook Roundabout onto Brickhill Street, which is 30 metres in length, after which there is a merge back into one lane. The network coding of the proposed mitigation is considered appropriate and accurately reflects the drawings contained in the Model Forecast Report.

3.4 Signal coding

Different signal controllers have been used in different scenarios at Kelly's Kitchen roundabout. The differences between these controllers generally consist of small adjustments of maximum and minimum green times, which is considered appropriate to allow for a better optimisation of the signal operation between scenarios with different demand.

There is a significant increase (from 10 to 25 seconds) in the maximum green time of the Signal Group 3 in Controller 1 (indicated in Figure 7). This increase only affects the PM "with development" (Scenarios 2 and 4) and "with development + committed scheme" (Scenarios 5 and 6) scenarios. It is expected that the signal timings change significantly with the addition of development traffic, however, it is recommended that any substantial modification in the signal controllers between scenarios is appropriately justified.

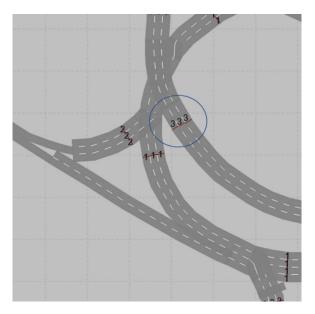


Figure 7. Location of controller 1, signal group 3.

Signal operation

The signal coding of the committed scheme at Kelly's Kitchen roundabout results in excessive queuing inside the roundabout that often builds back and blocks upstream conflict points (Figure 8).

Queues inside the roundabout should mostly remain within 2/3 of the corresponding link's length, with the feeding signals changing to red when this limit is reached.

Arms discharging traffic into the roundabout often get right of way, so that traffic enters the roundabout to join the back of a queue at the downstream signals, as shown in Figure 8 (bottom).

The modelled signal operation is not realistic and overestimates the capacity of the junction – since timings would likely limit queuing on the roundabout circulatory links due to safety considerations. Resolving this issue may increase delays on approaches to the roundabout operation increasing the impact of the development traffic. This issue is considered MEDIUM.

It is recommended that the signals are coded so that queues inside the junction remains within approximately 2/3 of the length of the internal links, and that downstream queues have started clearing when upstream signals change to green.



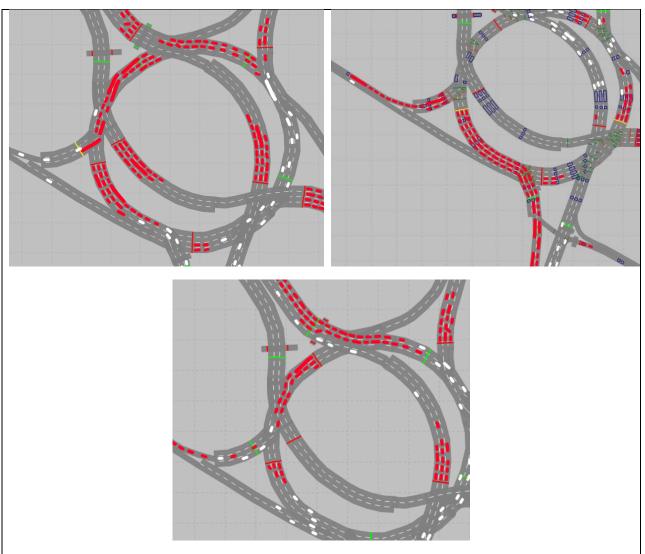


Figure 8. Excessive queuing inside the roundabout.

3.5 Consistency between scenarios and time periods

All differences between the forecast scenarios are restricted to demand (refer to §3.2) and signal operation (refer to §3.4), which is considered appropriate.

All modifications between scenarios with the committed scheme for Kelly's Kitchen roundabout and without and with the committed scheme at Tilbrook roundabout are restricted to the necessary network changes to reflect corresponding schemes.

Consistency between scenarios and time periods is considered appropriate.

4 Forecast model results

4.1 Replication of results

AECOM ran the submitted models and it was not possible to replicate the results shown in the accompanying forecast report for the AM peak of Scenarios 2 through to 6. The reported PM peak results have been successfully replicated with the models provided.

The submitted model has been run using the same Vissim version (11.00-03) for 10 runs, with a starting random seed of 42 and a random seed increment of 10. The submitted model has a coded random seed increment of 5. In both cases, it was not possible to replicate results for some of the scenarios.

Table 3 shows the difference between journey time results in the report and those produced by the submitted models. The submitted models fail to replicate results for routes B-A, C-A and D-A in the AM peak.

Table 3. Comparison of journey time results (seconds) extracted from the submitted models, (with a random seed increment of 10), and the results contained in the forecast report – AM Peak. The routes highlighted are those with the largest inconsistencies.

Route	Scenario 2		Scenario 3		Scenario 4		Scenario 5		Scenario 6	
	Modelled	Reported								
1: A-GW	102	102	101	102	102	103	103	104	104	106
2: A-B	27	26	26	26	27	26	27	26	27	26
3: A-C	112	115	119	118	117	126	111	115	116	122
4: A-D	124	132	134	126	128	135	124	132	125	135
6: B-GW	137	160	181	172	189	226	136	170	200	218
7: B-A	340	369	317	325	373	424	217	246	240	253
8: B-C	60	64	64	65	63	67	62	63	62	65
9: B-D	80	86	84	78	80	85	81	85	79	87
10: B-E	115	108	112	113	116	110	114	108	116	113
11: C-GW	128	169	152	130	140	172	127	167	136	174
12: C-A	315	339	303	311	366	422	191	209	216	229
13: C-B	102	118	119	102	108	121	102	122	104	122
14: C-D	44	45	45	44	45	46	45	46	44	45
15: C-E	92	102	102	95	93	102	91	101	92	102
16: D-GW	269	69	69	220	438	74	287	70	363	74
17: D-A	274	280	242	272	329	359	152	149	170	165
18: D-B	59	57	58	57	59	60	58	59	60	61
19: D-C	139	146	149	146	148	156	141	146	145	152
20: D-E	49	51	51	50	50	51	50	51	50	51
21: E-GW	57	55	56	56	58	68	56	55	59	61
23: E-B	44	43	44	44	45	45	44	44	45	46
24: E-C	121	130	132	128	128	144	121	127	125	139
25: E-D	141	149	151	142	148	154	143	150	144	156

Given the significance of the discrepancies, it appears that the submitted model might be a different version to that used to produce the forecast report.

It is recommended that the correct version of the model is submitted, or that the forecast model accompanying report is updated with the results of the latest version of the model.

This issue is considered **SIGNIFICANT**.

4.2 Analysis of results

Table 4 below shows the forecast results for all PM forecast scenarios (only PM results will be presented in this TN, as the AM results could not be replicated). The most significant increases in journey times are on routes passing through Kelly's Kitchen roundabout:

- from the A5 northbound into Brickhill Street (route B-A);
- the northbound straight-ahead movement along the A5 (route B-E);
- from the A4146 towards the A5 southbound (routes C-GW and C-B); and
- on the approach to the junction along the A5 southbound (route E-GW).

These results show a significant increase (between 20 seconds and 63 seconds or 10% to 66% respectively) in journey time through the junction and along two of the approaches (the A4146 and the A5 southbound), caused by the addition of the development flows.

The committed scheme at Tilbrook Roundabout has little or no impact on the operation of Kelly's Kitchen roundabout. For the 2023 assessment year the results for the scenario 'with the Tilbrook' scheme are identical to those within the scenario 'without the Tilbrook' scheme. For the 2031 assessment year the scenario with the Tilbrook scheme indicates a mixture of results, with increases in journey times plus some reductions.

Route	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Difference 2 - 1 (Development impact)	Scenario 5	Difference 5 – 1 (Development Impact with Tilbrook Scheme)	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Difference 4 – 3 (Development impact)	Scenario 6	Difference 6 – 4 (Development Impact with Tilbrook Scheme)
1: A-GW	108	112	4	112	4	115	124	9	127	12
2: A-B	26	26	0	26	0	26	26	0	26	0
3: A-C	116	122	6	122	6	135	132	-3	134	-1
4: A-D	95	102	7	102	7	103	115	12	119	16
6: B-GW	45	47	2	47	2	49	53	4	57	8
7: B-A	196	212	16	212	16	217	237	20	231	14
8: B-C	75	80	5	80	5	87	85	-2	85	-2
9: B-D	61	65	4	65	4	68	76	8	77	9
10: B-E	106	126	20	126	20	114	142	28	142	28
11: C-GW	58	71	13	71	13	71	118	47	128	57
12: C-A	182	195	13	195	13	193	208	15	199	6
13: C-B	102	116	14	116	14	118	129	11	138	20
14: C-D	44	45	1	45	1	45	45	0	44	-1
15: C-E	86	91	5	91	5	92	96	4	98	6

Table 4. PM journey time results (seconds).

Route	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Difference 2 - 1 (Development impact)	Scenario 5	Difference 5 – 1 (Development Impact with Tilbrook Scheme)	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Difference 4 – 3 (Development impact)	Scenario 6	Difference 6 – 4 (Development Impact with Tilbrook Scheme)
16: D-GW	78	79	1	79	1	112	113	1	123	11
17: D-A	141	145	4	145	4	139	147	8	144	5
18: D-B	61	66	5	66	5	66	71	5	73	7
19: D-C	150	158	8	158	8	170	175	5	179	9
20: D-E	47	49	2	49	2	48	49	1	50	2
21: E-GW	63	80	17	80	17	138	201	63	215	77
23: E-B	45	48	3	48	3	48	51	3	52	4
24: E-C	119	127	8	127	8	140	141	1	144	4
25: E-D	112	123	11	123	11	126	141	15	146	20

The analysis of network performance results in the accompanying report is missing the base scenarios and Scenarios 5 and 6. It is recommended that all scenarios are included in the report. The latent demand results should also be considered when analysing the impact of the proposed scenarios, since the reported impacts do not reflect all of the development traffic, as some is suppressed by a lack of available capacity. It is recommended that this information is provided by BWB. This issue considered to be MEDIUM.

Figure 9 shows the network performance delay results of all PM forecast models (all delay including latent delay) and average speed.

Total delay including latent Average Speed (mph) (seconds) 30 2500000 25 2000000 20 1500000 15 1000000 10 500000 5 0 0 2023 PM Base (Scenario 1) 2023 PM Base + Dev (Scenario 2) 2031 PM Base (Scenario 3) 2031 PM Base + Dev (Scenario 4) 2023 PM Base + Dev + Tilbrook 2031 PM Base + Dev + Tilbrook 2023 PM Base + Dev (Scenario 2) 2023 PM Base (Scenario 1) 2031 PM Base (Scenario 3) 2031 PM Base + Dev (Scenario 4) 2023 PM Base + Dev + Tilbrook 2031 PM Base + Dev + Tilbrook (Scenario 5) (Scenario 6) (Scenario 5) (Scenario 6) ■ Total delay (inc latent) Average Speed

Figure 9. PM Network performance results for overall delay and average speed produced by the submitted model.

The analysis of PM journey time results in Table 4, and the network performance results shown in Figure 9, indicate that the proposed development would have a substantial impact on committed Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout scheme, which the committed Tilbrook Roundabout scheme does not offset, indeed, for the 2031 assessment, the Tilbrook Scheme is shown to exacerbate some the issues identified.

A number of issues have been highlighted regarding the coding, operation of the signals and the submitted models being inconsistent with reported AM results. It is therefore recommended that these are addressed before drawing any final conclusions about the impact of the proposed development on the operation of the Kelly's Kitchen Roundabout.



5 Conclusions

AECOM has undertaken an audit of the South Caldecotte Vissim Base and Forecast models, as part of a wider review of the potential impact of the proposed South Caldecotte development on the strategic road network.

The coding concerns raised during the previous audits of the base models have been addressed.

Several coding issues have been raised in this report regarding the operation of the signals and network coding of Kelly's Kitchen roundabout in the forecast scenarios. Additionally, it was not possible to replicate the results reported in the Forecast Model Report with the submitted models.

It is recommended that all coding issues highlighted in this report are addressed before the impact of the development can be reliably assessed based on modelling results.

Nevertheless, the PM peak results suggest that the development traffic has a significant adverse impact on the junction operation.

A more robust model is needed to allow reliable analysis of the impacts and identification of mitigation measures, to optimise the operation of Kelly's Kitchen roundabout or provide additional capacity to mitigate for the development impact. It is therefore recommended that the issues raised within this report are addressed and that revised forecast models and results analysis are re-submitted.