

Statement to Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
21 May 2018

Summary

I'd like to thank the chairman and the panel for this opportunity to speak. This is not strictly about Sulis Down: rather I have found some evidence of traffic congestion in papers submitted as part of that planning application that I wanted to draw to the attention of this panel.

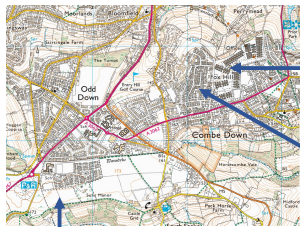
Traffic from the committed development at Mulberry Park is predicted to cause severe congestion on Wellsway and at the Red Lion roundabout in the afternoon rush hour – this before any building at Sulis Down. The attached slides attempt to summarise this evidence.

Briefly, by 2022, the modelled area (in red, top right slide) will already be so congested in the afternoon peak that it cannot predict accurately how long the queues will be – just that they will likely extend down Wellsway into Bear Flat and that building at Sulis Down will just make things worse.

My concern is that Highways have overlooked or misunderstood this evidence. My last slide lists the questions that should concern the panel according to its scrutiny brief.

Steven Gourley

More traffic is unavoidable



450 at Sulis Down:

- 171 dwellings proposed (17/02588/EFUL pending consideration)
- 279 more to come

700 at Mulberry Park:

- 276 dwellings now (15/02465/RES approved)
- 424 more to come (14/04354/EOUT approved)

Foxhill redevelopment:

- 158 more dwellings* (16/05219/EOUT approved)

Total?

- 1000+ dwellings

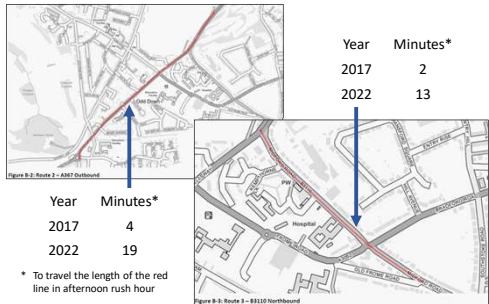
* Curo announced they won't build these but they still have permission. Judicial review judgement pending.

Traffic modelling for Sulis Down



Source: Sulis Down, Bath (Phase 1) Transport Assessment Addendum, Appendix F
Sulis Down VISSIM Model – Local Model Validation Report, CH2M, Nov 2017
Figure 2.1

Model: travel takes 5 times longer



Year Minutes*

2017	4
2022	19

* To travel the length of the red line in afternoon rush hour

Times for 2022 unchanged no matter how much building at Sulis Down.

Source: Sulis Down, Bath (Phase 1) Transport Assessment Addendum, Appendix F
Sulis Down VISSIM Model – Local Model Validation Report, CH2M, Nov 2017
Tables 3-4, 4-3, 5-3

Model: new "latent" demand

	Number of cars waiting to travel				Equivalent queue length (m)		
Hour from	2017	2022 dwellings at Sulis Down			2022 dwellings at Sulis Down		
		0	173	450	0	173	450
07:00	4.7	34	20	68	171	100	340
08:00	0.4	2	11	92	8	56	459
09:00	0.6	1	0	0	4	2	2
16:00	0.0	41	69	135	203	346	677
17:00	0.9	349	451	592	1,743	2,256	2,961
18:00	0.2	98	191	425	489	957	2,126
Traffic growth		~7.5%					
Additional dwellings					Main source: Sulis Down, Both (Phase 1)		
Mulberry Park		700			Transport Assessment Addendum: Appendix C		
Foxhill rebuild		158			Sulis Down VISSIM Model – Future Years		
Sulis Down, P1		173			Impacts Report, Ch2M, Nov 2017		
Sulis Down, P2/3/4		277			Tables 3-1, 3-7, 4-6, 5-6		
					Equiv. queue lengths: number of cars x 5m (length of Fiat 500 plus 1.5m)		

Main source: Sulis Down, Bath (Phase 1) Transport Assessment Addendum, Appendix G
Sulis Down VISSIM Model – Future Years Impacts Report, CH2M, Nov 2017
Tables 3-1, 3-7, 4-6, 5-6

Equiv. queue lengths: number of cars x 5m (length of Fiat 500 plus 1.5m)

Model: PM queues outside area



- PM peak hours in "2022" RC
- Queuing in modelled area shown in blue
- Latent demand queues *outside* modelled area *not* shown
- Where will they be?

Source: Sulis Down, Bath (Phase 1) Transport Assessment Addendum, Appendix G
Sulis Down VISSIM Model – Future Years Impacts Report, CH2M, Nov 2017
Tables 3-6, 4-6, 5-5

If afternoon traffic is so bad...

Highways:

- What does Highways think about PM congestion?
- Why was this omitted from their report to Planning?
- Why have CH2M not been asked to remodel?
- What about AM peak: Wellsway, Ralph Allen Drive?

CH2M report authors:

- Why is the published report still only "draft"?
- Where are the PM peak queues likely to be?
- What reduction in traffic would be necessary to make congestion only twice as bad as now?

Policy:

- How does this affect Park & Ride / coach park?