



Daily patterns of bridge swings of the A830 Banavie road bridge on the Caledonian Canal

Scottish Canals keep a record of the times of all bridge swings.

The following is a summary of Scottish Canal's information from the last two years (2011 and 2012) to try and help road users plan journeys to minimise the chance of delays.

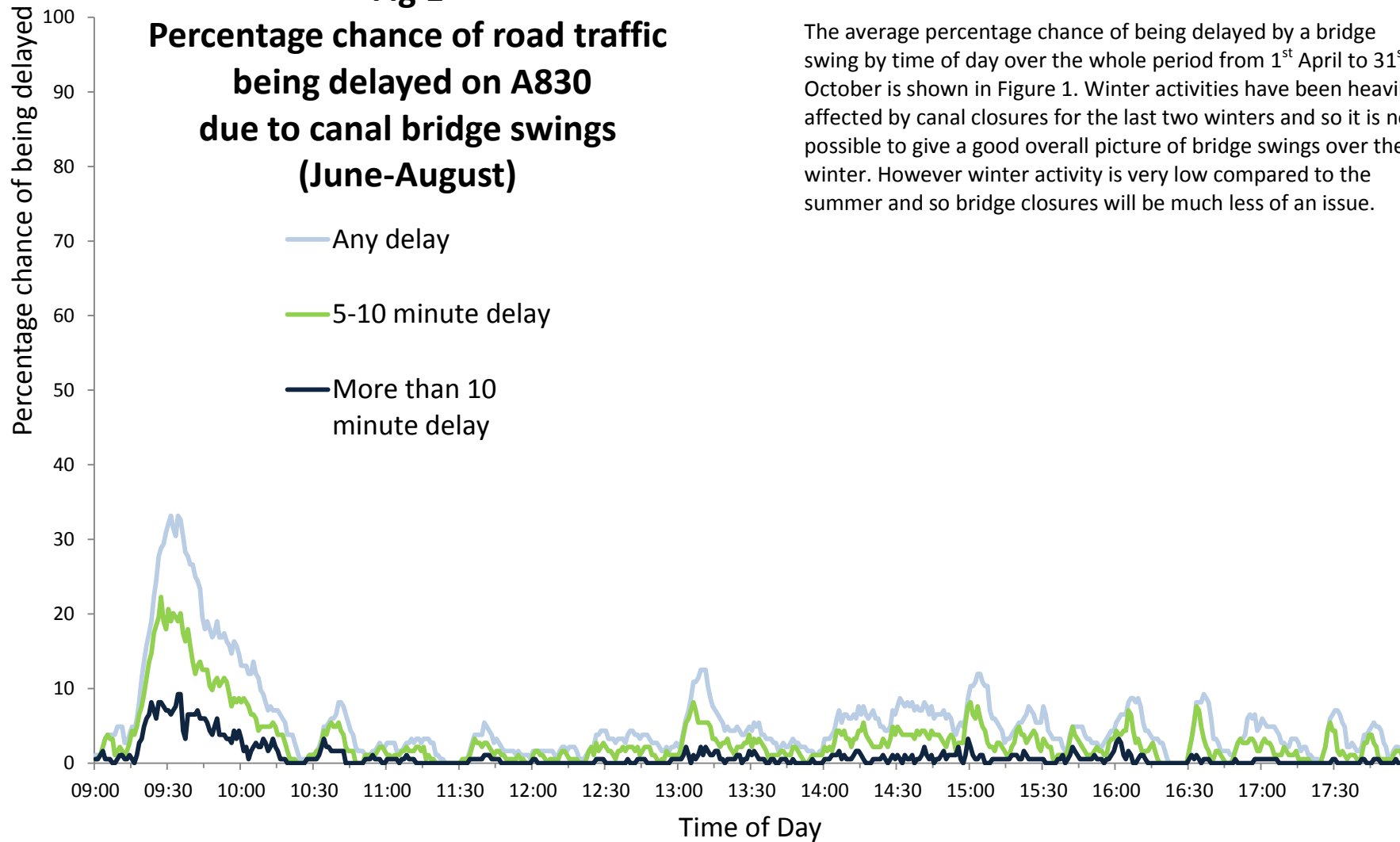
Fig 1 June – August

Fig 2 April – October

Fig 3 April – May & September - October

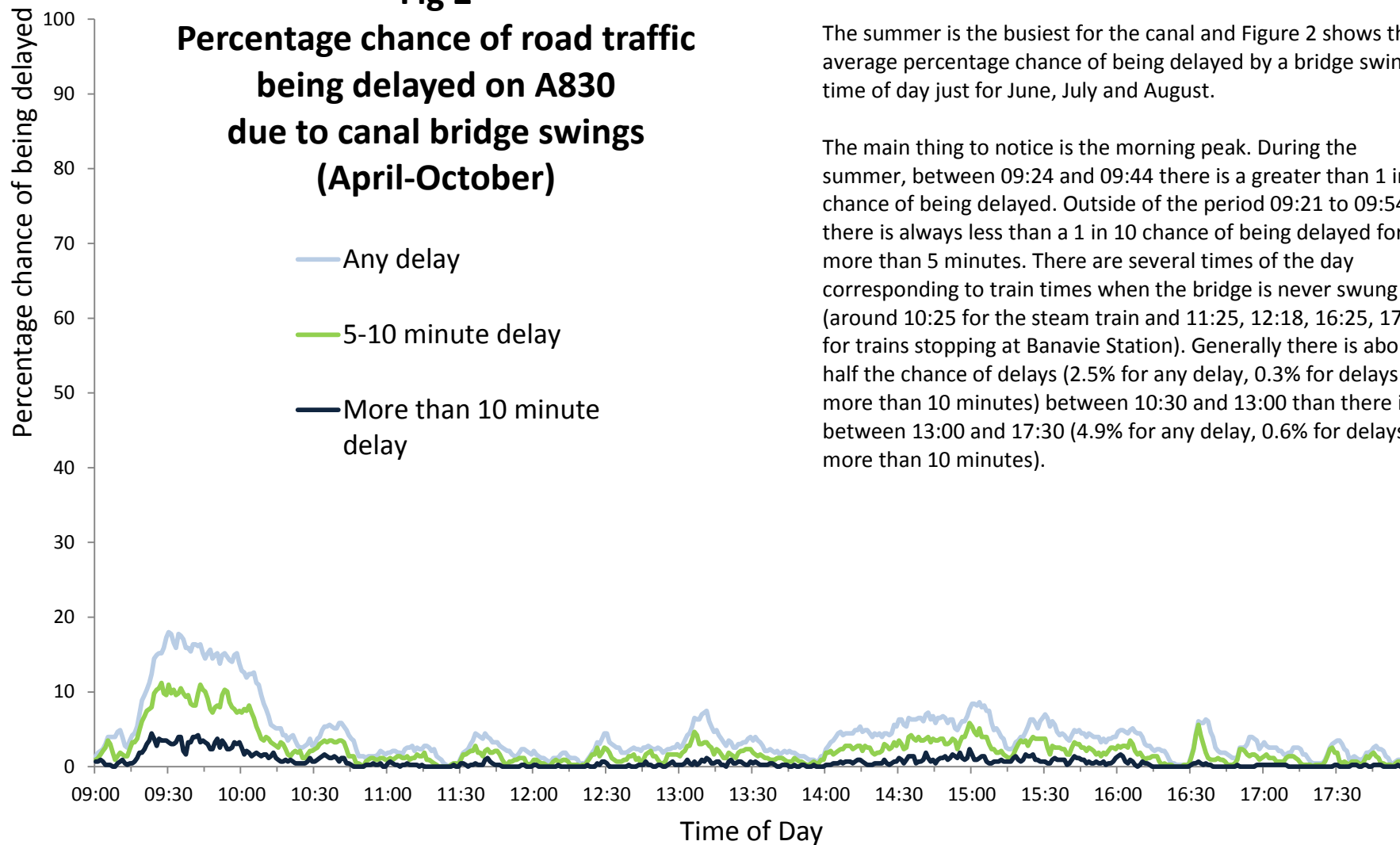
Nov 2012

Fig 1
Percentage chance of road traffic
being delayed on A830
due to canal bridge swings
(June-August)



The average percentage chance of being delayed by a bridge swing by time of day over the whole period from 1st April to 31st October is shown in Figure 1. Winter activities have been heavily affected by canal closures for the last two winters and so it is not possible to give a good overall picture of bridge swings over the winter. However winter activity is very low compared to the summer and so bridge closures will be much less of an issue.

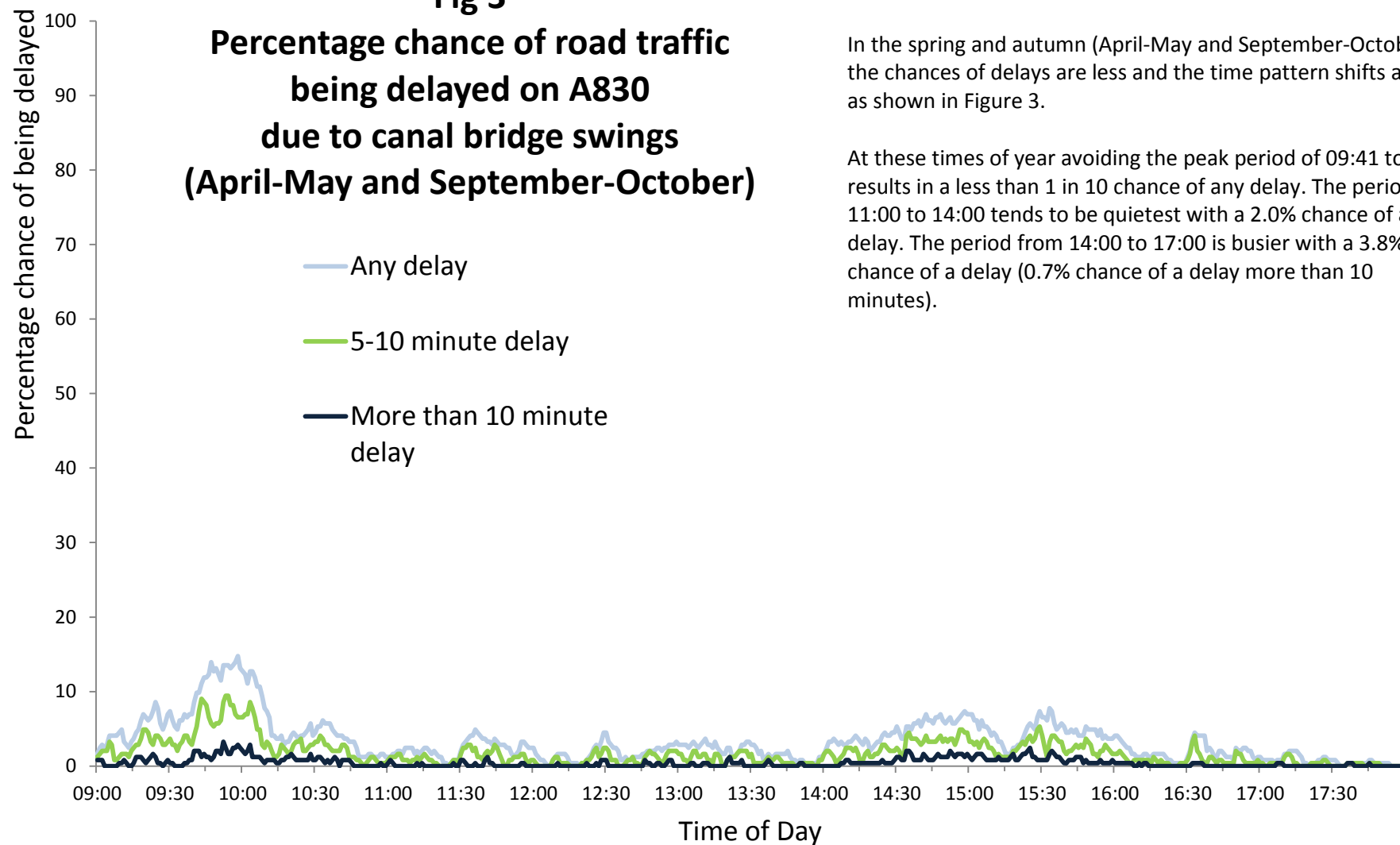
Fig 2
Percentage chance of road traffic
being delayed on A830
due to canal bridge swings
(April-October)



The summer is the busiest for the canal and Figure 2 shows the average percentage chance of being delayed by a bridge swing by time of day just for June, July and August.

The main thing to notice is the morning peak. During the summer, between 09:24 and 09:44 there is a greater than 1 in 5 chance of being delayed. Outside of the period 09:21 to 09:54 there is always less than a 1 in 10 chance of being delayed for more than 5 minutes. There are several times of the day corresponding to train times when the bridge is never swung (around 10:25 for the steam train and 11:25, 12:18, 16:25, 17:20 for trains stopping at Banavie Station). Generally there is about half the chance of delays (2.5% for any delay, 0.3% for delays more than 10 minutes) between 10:30 and 13:00 than there is between 13:00 and 17:30 (4.9% for any delay, 0.6% for delays more than 10 minutes).

Fig 3
Percentage chance of road traffic
being delayed on A830
due to canal bridge swings
(April-May and September-October)



In the spring and autumn (April-May and September-October) the chances of delays are less and the time pattern shifts a little as shown in Figure 3.

At these times of year avoiding the peak period of 09:41 to 10:07 results in a less than 1 in 10 chance of any delay. The period from 11:00 to 14:00 tends to be quietest with a 2.0% chance of any delay. The period from 14:00 to 17:00 is busier with a 3.8% chance of a delay (0.7% chance of a delay more than 10 minutes).