

Car boot effect on Southam Lane

Bill Motion 09th July 2021

The data used in the following discussion was recorded using the MVAS (#10614) on Southam Lane. This unit records the traffic flow travelling east on Southam Lane for all of this data. The data set goes from the 3rd April 2021 through to the 8th May 2021.

The data sets for Saturdays do contain some rain affected counts, but not so many as to be remarkable. As far as I am aware the first car boot sale, in this data set, took place on the 17th April 2021. What I have done is to look at the Saturday and Sunday traffic flows on dates either side of the first car boot sale to try and highlight any significant changes in traffic flow. During this period all of the car boot sales have been on Southam Lane or Kayte Lane. There have been no car boot sales on New Road during this time.

The first chart (Figure 1) shows a plot from the Houston Radar software. It is a bit tricky to read the timescale, but you can clearly see some weekend peaks following the 17th April 2021.

The second chart (Figure 2) is an excel plot looking at the vehicle counts from the unit every 15 minutes throughout all of the Saturdays in the data set. The peak on the 1st May 2021 is the most notable feature, it is quite distinct but it is not repeated, was it car boot, I expect so but why wasn't it repeated on any other weekends?

The third chart (Figure 3) is an excel plot looking at the vehicle counts from the unit every 15 minutes throughout all of the Sundays in the data set. The traffic pattern here is quite clear. We are seeing a significant burst of traffic travelling away from the car boot sale around 1300.

Examining the Sunday data a bit more closely we can estimate that the average increase in vehicle counts between 11:45 and 14:00 was 481 in the 2 hours over lunch. This was estimated by comparing the average number of vehicles in the 11:45-14:00 timeslot on the (04apr21, 11apr21) and the (18apr21, 25apr21, 02may21). The average whole day vehicle count for the (04apr21, 11apr21) was 1581/day. The average whole day vehicle count for the (18apr21, 25apr21, 02may21) was 2482/day. This may indicate that there is a more general increase in traffic flow as a result of the car boot sale and that it is spread out over a longer period of time, that is, earlier than 11:45 and later than 14:00. Please bear in mind that there were many other activities 'unlocking' during this (April21, May21) period, which may also have contributed to the increase. The same average numbers for Saturdays were 1949/day on (03apr21, 10apr21) and 2137/day on (17apr21, 24apr21, 01may21). This is odd given that the car boot occurs on both days, although the pitch does move to different fields in Southam Lane and Kayte Lane.

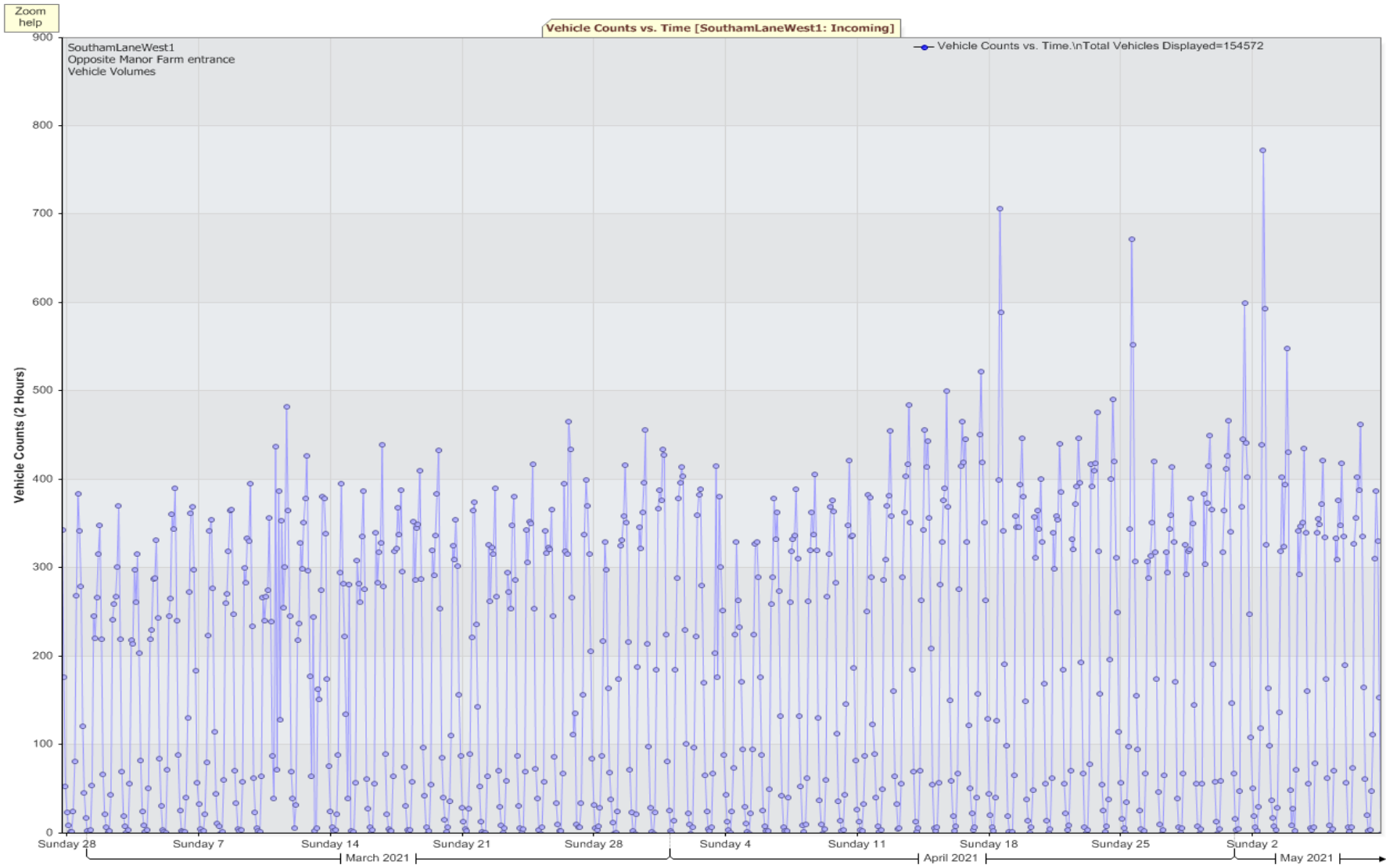


Figure 1

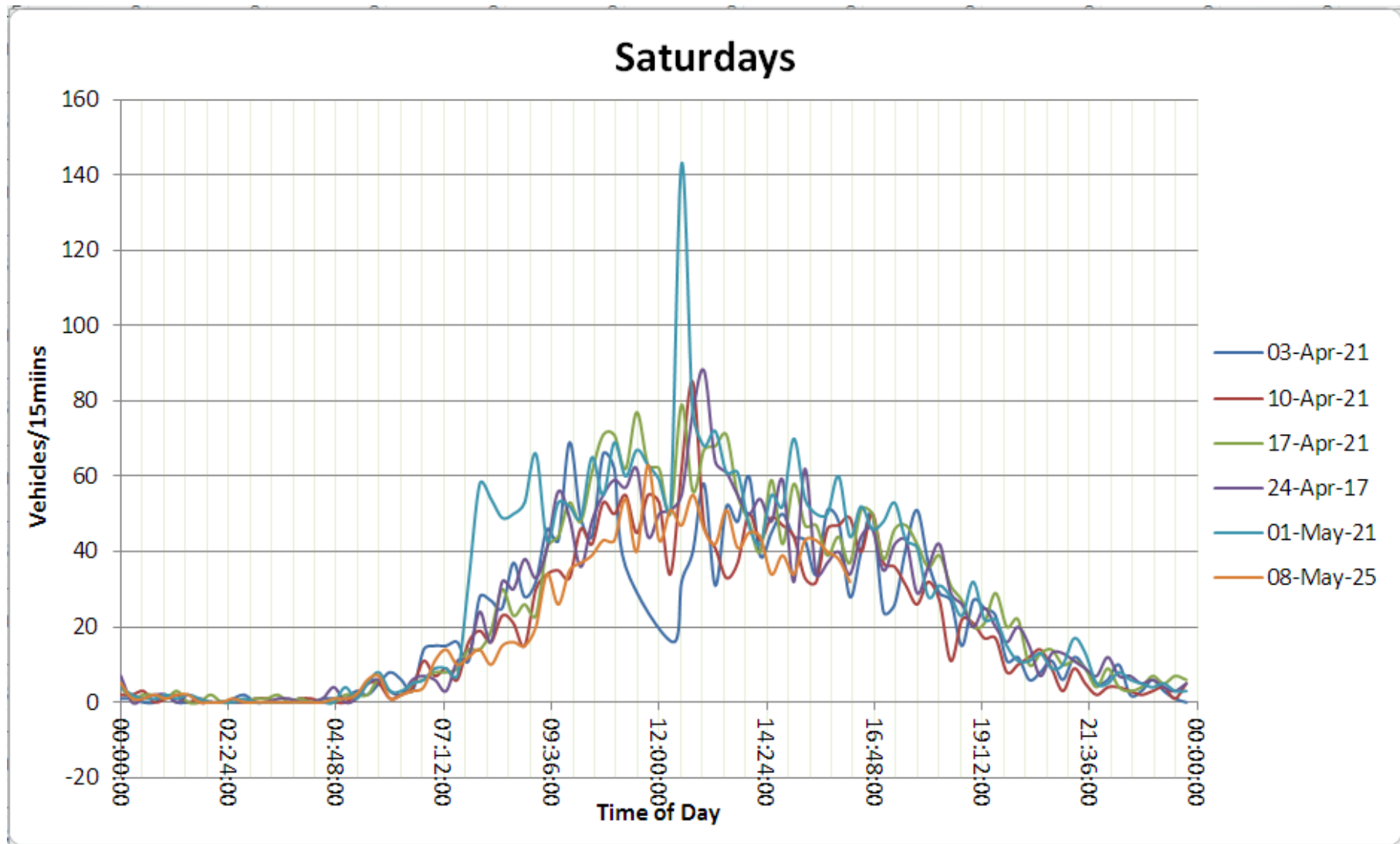


Figure 2

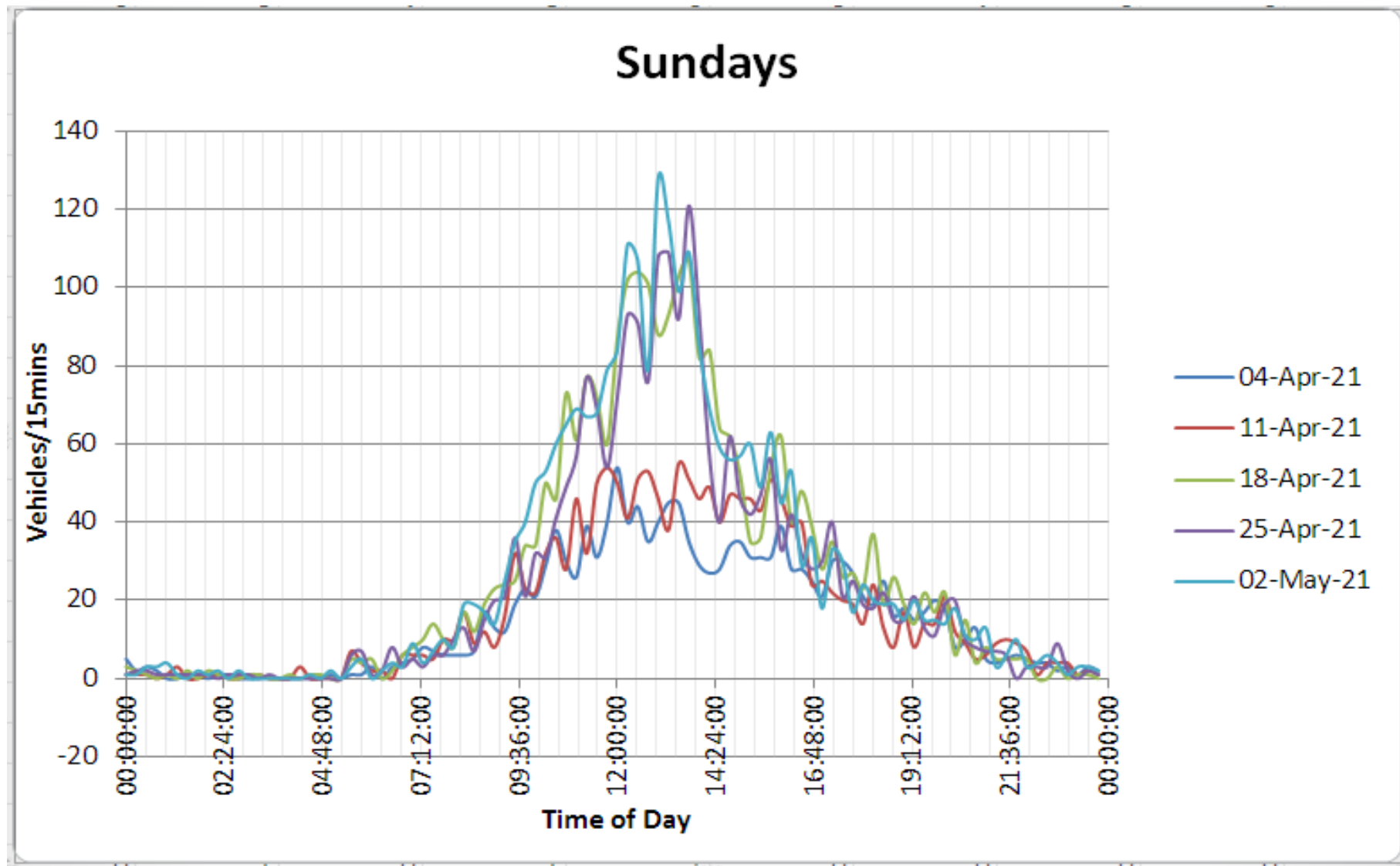


Figure 3