**BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY** 

# **Hartland Observatory**

Monthly Magnetic Bulletin

November 2007

07/11/HA

HARTLAND POINT









#### HARTLAND OBSERVATORY MAGNETIC DATA

#### 1. Introduction

This bulletin is published to meet the needs of both commercial and academic users of geomagnetic data. Magnetic observatory data is presented as a series of plots of one-minute, hourly and daily values, followed by tabulations of monthly values, geomagnetic activity indices and reports of rapid variations. The operation of the observatory and presentation of data are described in the rest of this section.

Enquiries about the data should be addressed to:

National Geomagnetic Service British Geological Survey Murchison House, West Mains Road Edinburgh EH9 3LA Scotland, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 131 667 1000 Fax: +44 (0) 131 650 0265 E-mail: orba@bgs.ac.uk Internet: www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk

#### 2. Position

Hartland Observatory, one of the three geomagnetic observatories operated and maintained in the UK by BGS, is situated on the NW boundary of the village of Hartland in North Devon. The observatory co-ordinates are:

Geographic: 50°59.7′N 355°31.0′E Geomagnetic: 53°54.1′N 080°08.1′E Height above mean sea level: 95 m

The geomagnetic co-ordinates are calculated using the 10th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field at epoch 2007.5

## 3. The Observatory Operation

#### **3.1 GDAS**

The observatory operates under the control of the Geomagnetic Data Acquisition System (GDAS), which was developed by BGS staff, installed in 2002, and became fully operational in January 2003. The system operates under the control of data acquisition software running on QNX computers, which control the data logging and communications.

There are two sets of sensors used for making magnetic measurements. A tri-axial linear-core fluxgate magnetometer, manufactured by the Danish Meteorological Institute, is used to measure the variations in the horizontal (*H*) and vertical (*Z*) components of the field. The third sensor is oriented perpendicular to these, and measures variations, which are proportional to the changes in declination (*D*). Measurements are made at a rate of 1 Hz.

In addition to the fluxgate sensors there is a proton precession magnetometer making measurements of the absolute total field intensity (F) at a rate of 0.1Hz.

The raw unfiltered data are retrieved automatically via Internet connections to the BGS office in Edinburgh in near real-time. The fluxgate data are filtered to produce one-minute values using a 61-point cosine filter whilst the total field intensity samples are filtered using a 7-point cosine filter. These one-minute values are used to update the Geomagnetism Information and Forecast Service (GIFS), an on-line information system accessed via the World Wide Web at the address given in Section 1.1. GIFS also provides information on geomagnetic and solar activity.

#### 3.2 Back-up Systems

There are two other fully independent identical systems, GDAS 2 and GDAS 3, operating at the observatory. The data from these are also processed in near real-time and used for quality control purposes. They can also be used to fill any gaps or replace any corrupt values in the primary system, GDAS 1.

#### 3.3 Absolute Observations

The GDAS fluxgate magnetometers accurately measure variations in the components of the geomagnetic field, but not the absolute magnitudes. Two sets of absolute measurements of the field are made manually once per week. A fluxgate sensor mounted on a theodolite is used to determine *D* and inclination (*I*); the GDAS PPM measurements, with a site difference correction applied, are used for *F*. The absolute observations are used in conjunction with the GDAS variometer measurements to produce a continuous record of the absolute values of the geomagnetic field elements as if they had been measured at the observatory reference pillar.

#### 4. Data Presentation

The data presented in the bulletin are in the form of plots and tabulations described in the following sections.

#### 4.1 Absolute Observations

The absolute observation measurements made during the month are tabulated. Also included are the corresponding baseline values, which are the differences between the absolute measurements and the variometer measurements of D, H and Z (in the sense absolute—variometer). These are also plotted (markers) along with the derived preliminary daily baseline values (line) throughout the year. Daily mean differences between the measured absolute F and the F computed from the baseline corrected H and H values are plotted in the fourth panel (in the sense measured—derived). The bottom panel shows the daily mean temperature in the fluxgate chamber.

#### 4.2 Summary magnetograms

Small-scale magnetograms are plotted which allow the month's data to be viewed at a glance. They are plotted 16 days a page and show the variations in D, H and Z. The scales are shown on the right-hand side of the page. On disturbed days the scales are multiplied by a factor, which is indicated above the panel for that day. The variations are centred on the monthly mean value, shown on the left side of the page.

## 4.3 Magnetograms

The daily magnetograms are plotted using oneminute values of D, H and Z from the fluxgate sensors, with any gaps filled using back-up data. The magnetograms are plotted to a variable scale; scale bars are shown to the right of each plot. The absolute level (the monthly mean value) is indicated on the left side of the plots.

# **4.4 Hourly Mean Value Plots**

Hourly mean values of D, H and Z for the past 12 months are plotted in 27-day segments corresponding to the Bartels solar rotation number. Magnetic disturbances associated with active regions on the surface of the Sun may recur after 27 days: the same is true for geomagnetically quiet intervals. Plotting the data in this way highlights this recurrence, and also illustrates seasonal and diurnal variations throughout the year.

#### 4.5 Daily and Monthly Mean Values

Daily mean values of D, H, Z and F are plotted throughout the year. In addition, a table of monthly mean values of all the geomagnetic elements is provided. These values depend on accurate specification of the fluxgate sensor baselines. Provisional and definitive values are indicated in the table as  $\mathbf{P}$  or  $\mathbf{D}$  respectively. It is anticipated that provisional values will not be altered by more than a few nT or tenths of arcminutes before being made definitive.

## 4.6 Geomagnetic activity indices

The Observatory K index. This summarises geomagnetic activity at an observatory by assigning a code, an integer in the range 0 to 9, to each 3-hour Universal Time (UT) interval. The index for each 3-hour UT interval is determined from the ranges in H and in D (scaled in nT), with allowance made for the regular (undisturbed) diurnal variation. The conversion from range to an index value is made using a quasi-logarithmic scale, with the scale values dependent on the geomagnetic latitude of the observatory. The K index retains the local time (LT) and seasonal dependence of activity associated with the position of the observatory.

The provisional aa index. A number of 3-hour geomagnetic indices are computed by combining Kindices from networks of observatories to characterise global activity levels and to eliminate LT and seasonal effects. The simplest of these is the aa index, computed using the K indices from approximately antipodal observatories: Hartland in the UK and Canberra in Australia. The aa index is calculated from linearisations of the Hartland and Canberra K indices, and has units of nT. The daily mean value of aa (denoted Aa), the mean values of aa for the intervals 00-12UT and 12-24UT and the daily mean values for Hartland alone  $(Aa_n)$  and Canberra alone  $(Aa_s)$  are tabulated.

Although the *aa* index is based on data from only two observatories, provided averages over 12 hours or longer are used, the index is strongly correlated with the *ap* and *am* indices, which are derived using data from more extensive observatory networks.

The *aa* indices listed in this publication are provisional only; the definitive values are published by the International Service for Geomagnetic Indices, CRPE/CNET - CNRS, 4 Avenue de Neptune, F-94107 Saint Maur Cedex, France.

## **4.7 Rapid Variations**

Charged particles stream from the Sun in the solar wind. The solar wind interacts with the geomagnetic field to create a cavity, the magnetosphere, in which the field is confined. When a region of enhanced velocity and/or density in the solar wind arrives at the day-side boundary of the magnetosphere (at about 10 earth radii) the boundary is pushed towards the Earth. Currents set up on the boundary of the magnetosphere can cause an abrupt change in the geomagnetic field measured on the ground and this is recorded on observatory magnetograms as a Sudden Impulse (SI). If, following an SI, there is a change in the rhythm of activity, the SI is termed a Storm Sudden Commencement (SSC). A classical magnetic storm exhibiting initial, main and recovery phases (shown by, for instance, the Dst ring current index) can often occur after a SSC, in which case the start of the storm is taken as the time of the SSC.

Solar flares, seen at optical wavelengths as a sudden brightening of a small region of the Sun's surface, are also responsible for increased X-ray emissions. The X-rays cause increased ionisation in the ionosphere, which leads to absorption of shortwave radio signals. On an observatory magnetogram a Solar Flare Effect (SFE), or "crochet" may be observed. This is an enhancement to the diurnal variation of the order of 10 nT, lasting about an hour.

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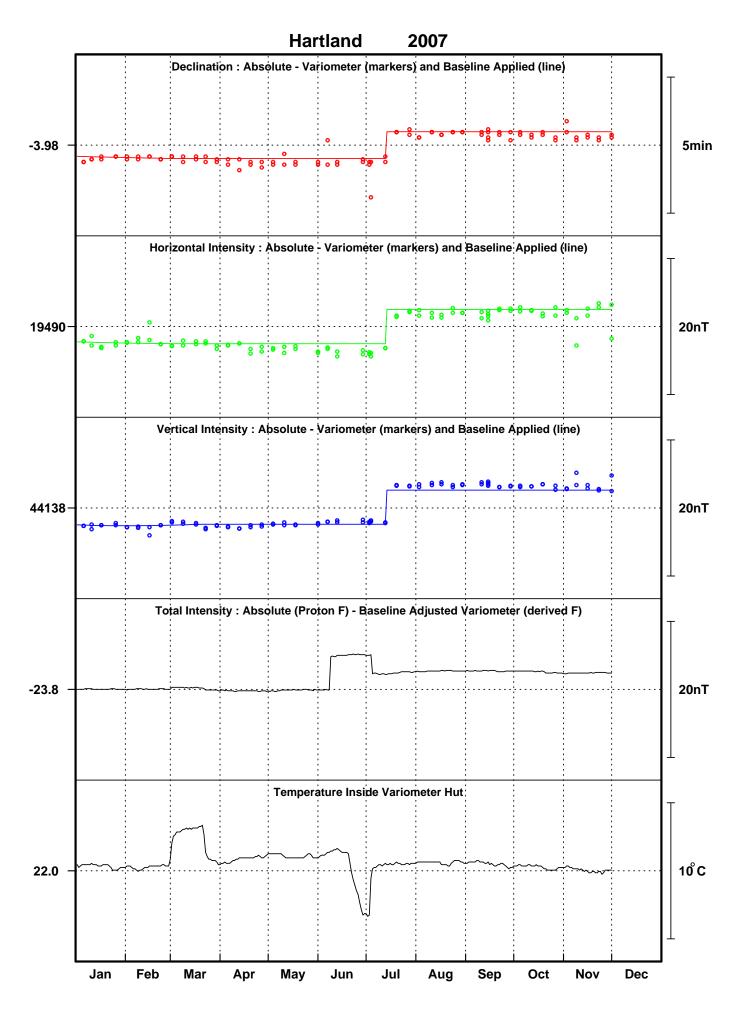
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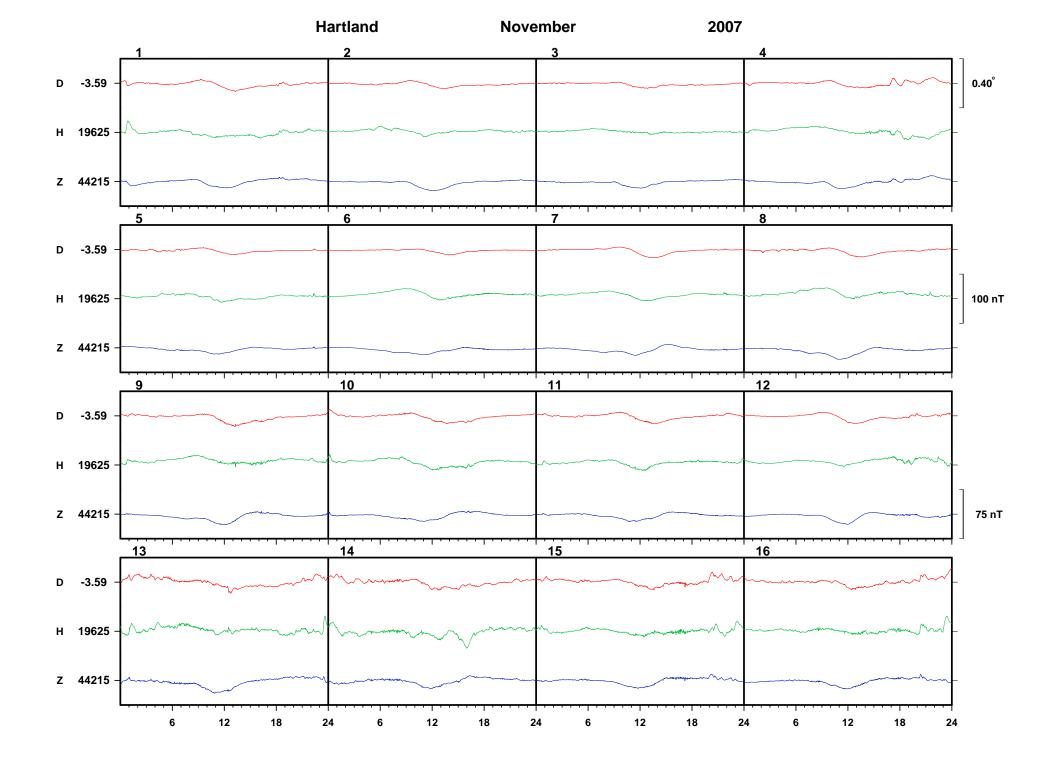
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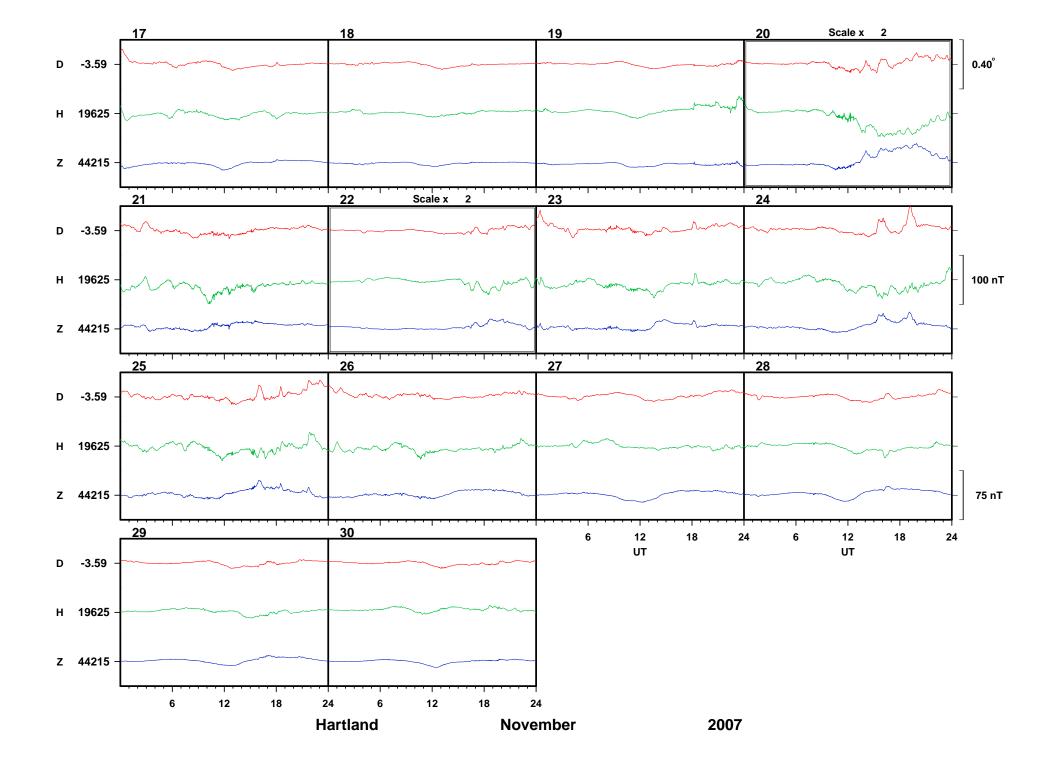
# HARTLAND OBSERVATORY

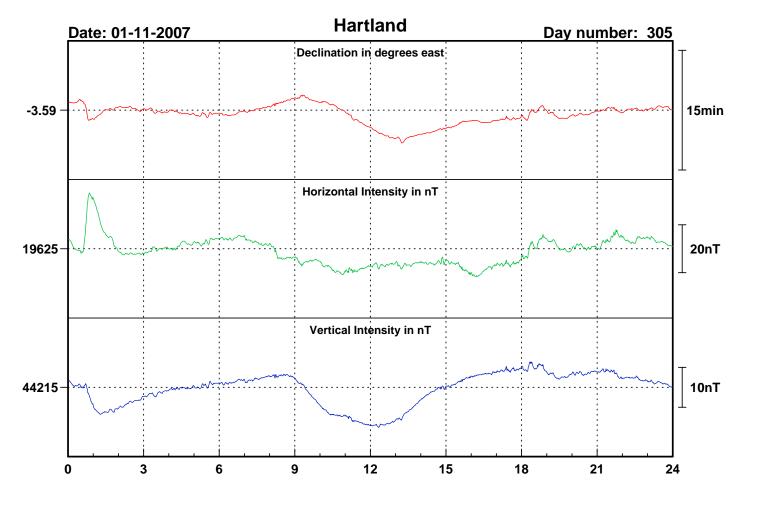
# ABSOLUTE OBSERVATIONS

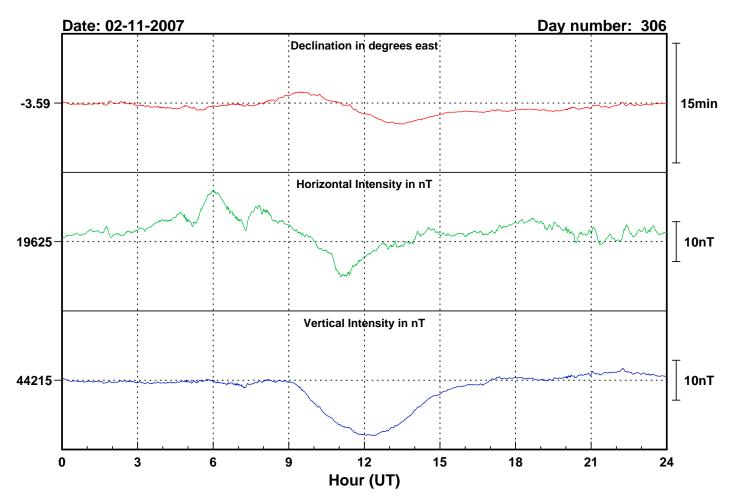
DECLINATION			INCLINATION									
Date	Day Number	Time (UT)	Absolute (°)	Baseline (°)	Time (UT)	Inclination (°)	Total Field Intensity (nT)	H Absolute (nT)	H Baseline (nT)	Z Absolute (nT)	Z Baseline (nT)	Observer
02-Nov-07	306	10:46	-3.5892	-3.5483	10:55	66.0688	48361.5	19617.4	19667.8	44204.0	44219.7	ST
02-Nov-07	306	11:01	-3.5850	-3.5417	11:10	66.0689	48360.4	19616.8	19668.2	44203.0	44219.6	ST
08-Nov-07	312	11:48	-3.6252	-3.5517	11:57	66.0624	48361.5	19622.3	19663.0	44201.8	44222.0	ST
08-Nov-07	312	12:03	-3.6346	-3.5533	12:12	66.0581	48362.6	19626.0	19667.0	44201.4	44220.2	ST
15-Nov-07	319	13:10	-3.6506	-3.5517	13:20	66.0646	48366.7	19622.7	19668.4	44207.3	44219.7	ST
15-Nov-07	319	13:26	-3.6500	-3.5500	13:35	66.0664	48367.2	19621.5	19667.4	44208.4	44220.2	ST
22-Nov-07	326	13:33	-3.6390	-3.5517	13:42	66.0624	48375.3	19627.9	19668.6	44214.4	44219.6	ST
22-Nov-07	326	13:49	-3.6444	-3.5533	13:57	66.0631	48375.8	19627.6	19669.2	44215.1	44219.4	ST
30-Nov-07	334	09:42	-3.5798	-3.5517	09:52	66.0617	48374.5	19628.2	19669.0	44213.5	44219.3	ST
30-Nov-07	334	10:01	-3.5790	-3.5500	10:10	66.0696	48373.5	19621.6	19664.0	44215.3	44221.6	ST

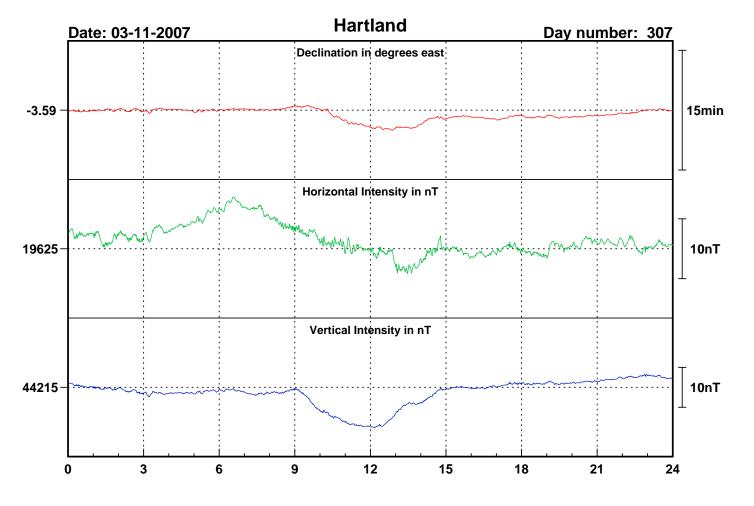


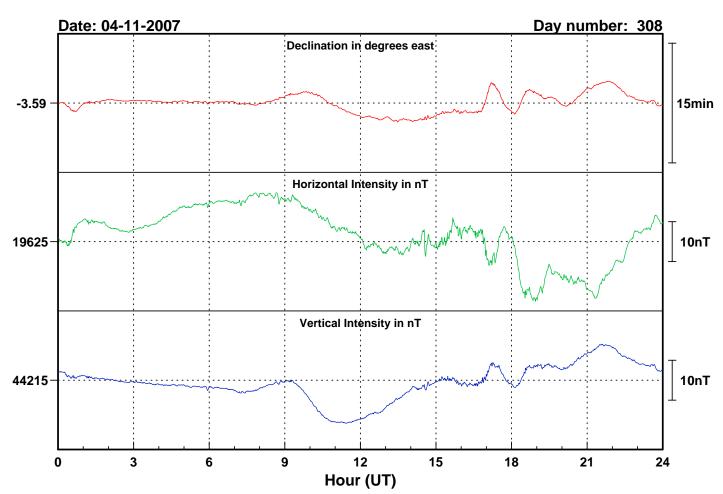


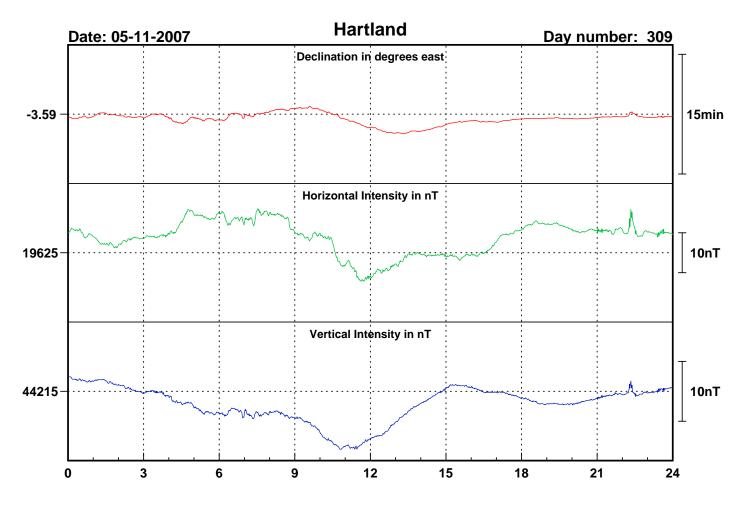


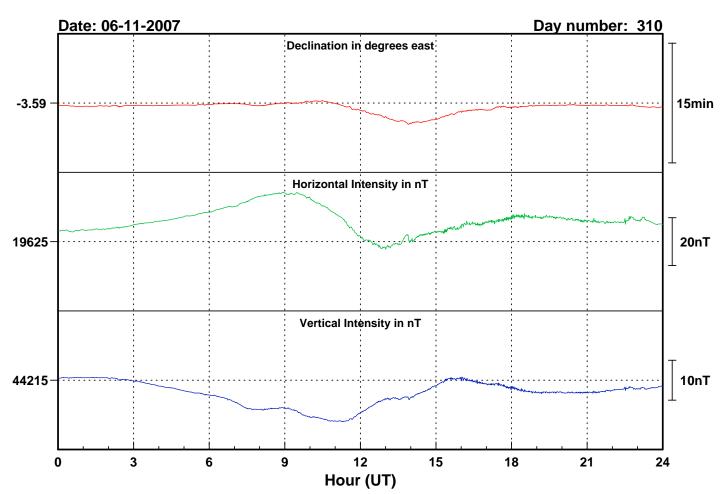


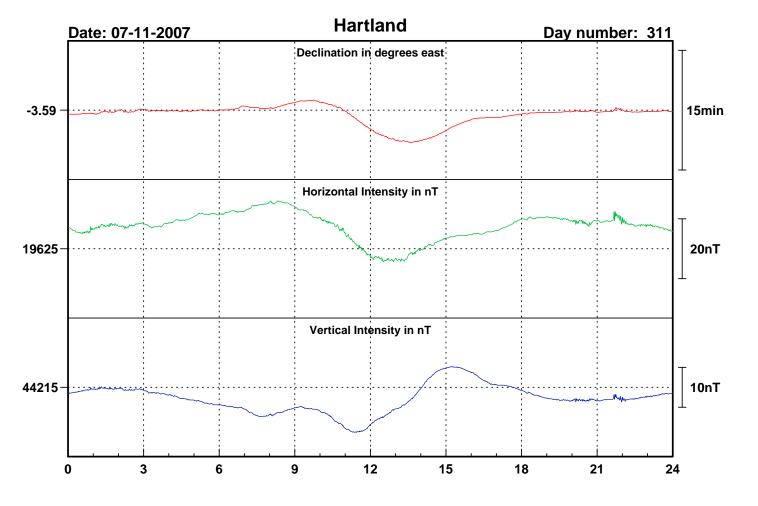


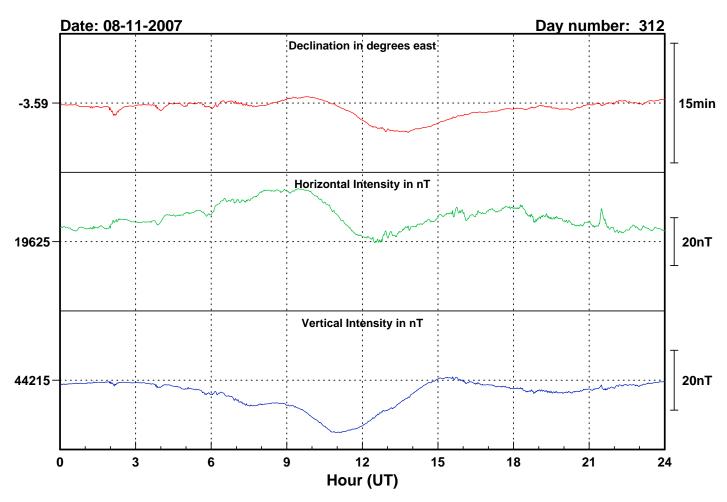


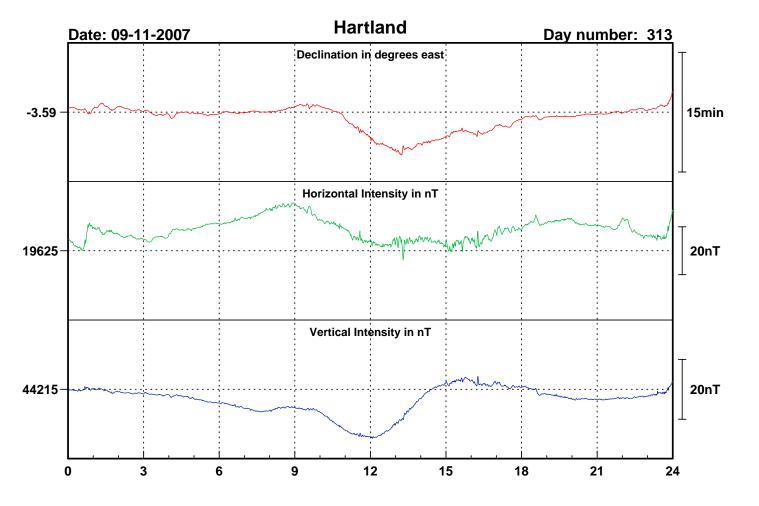


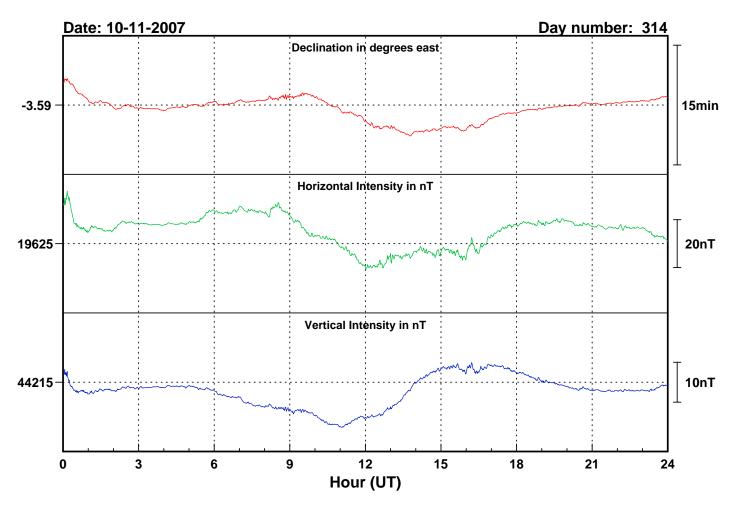


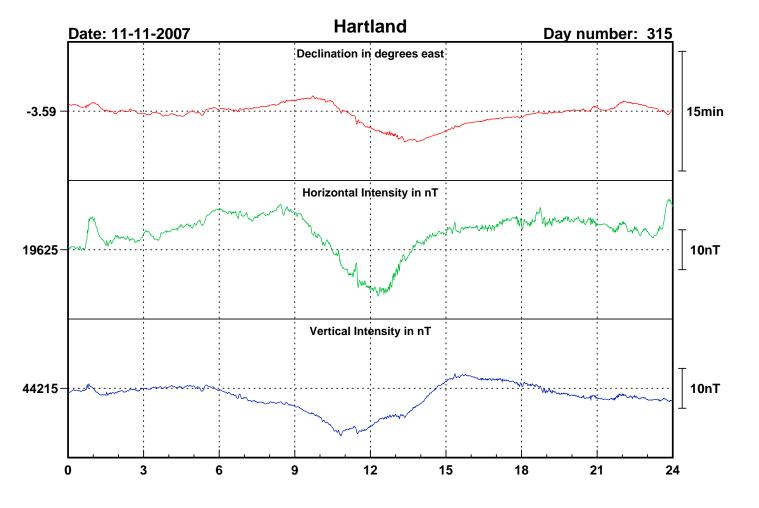


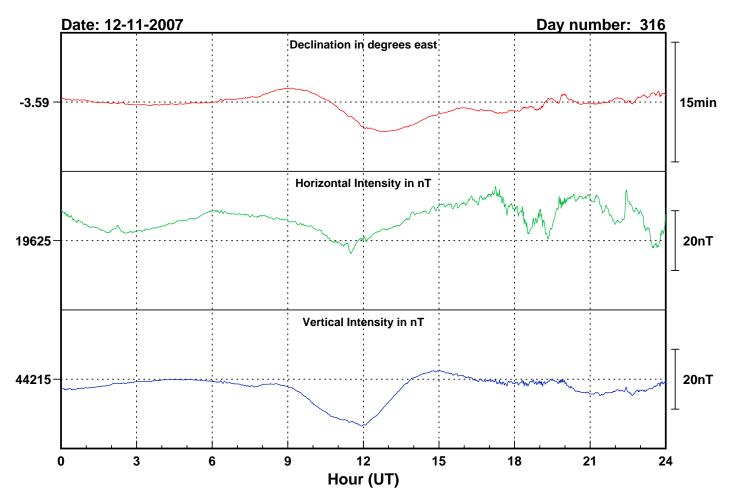


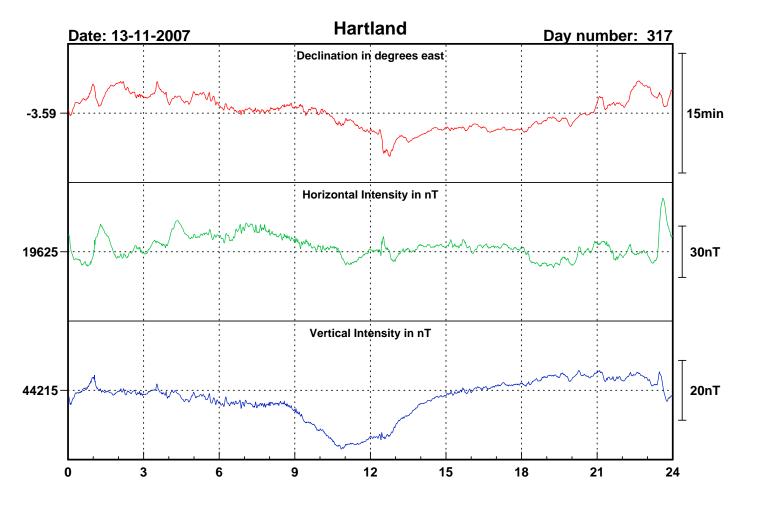


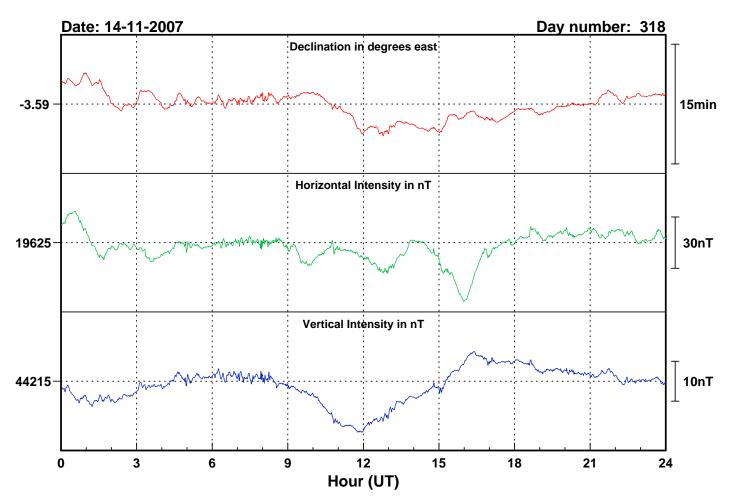


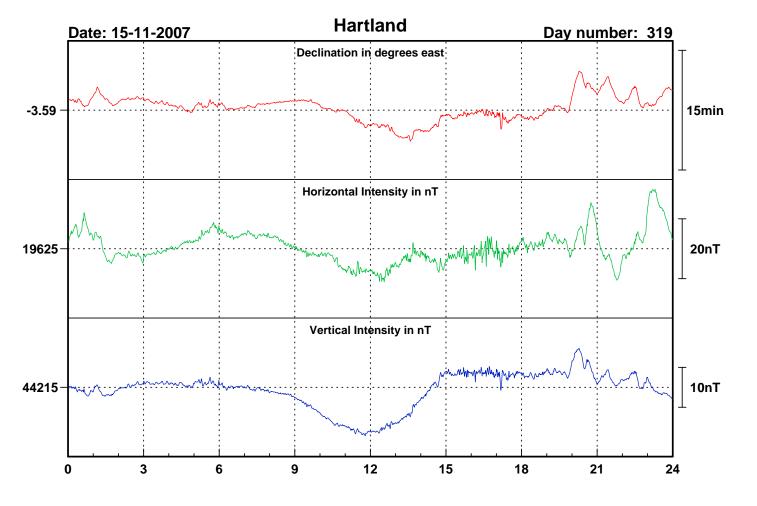


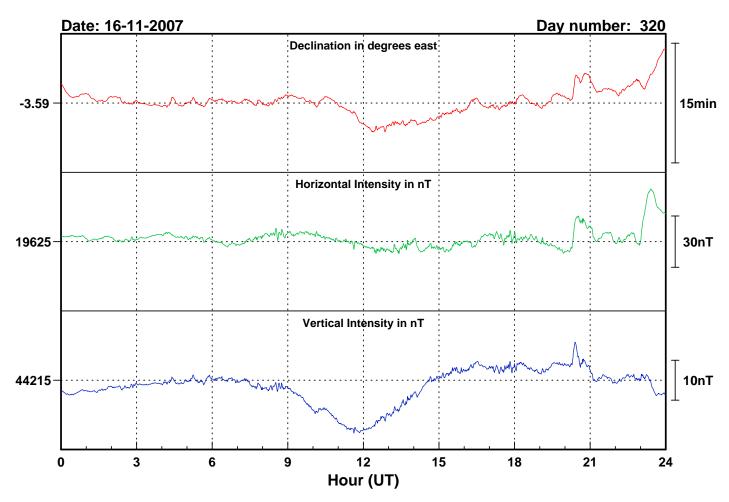


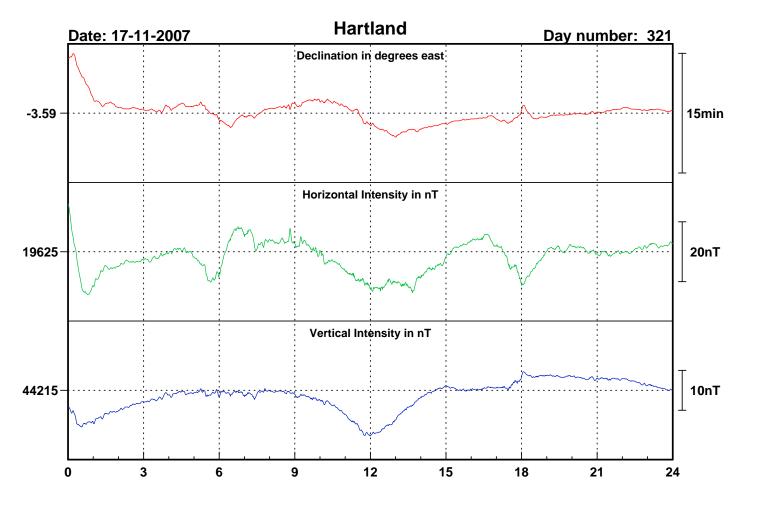


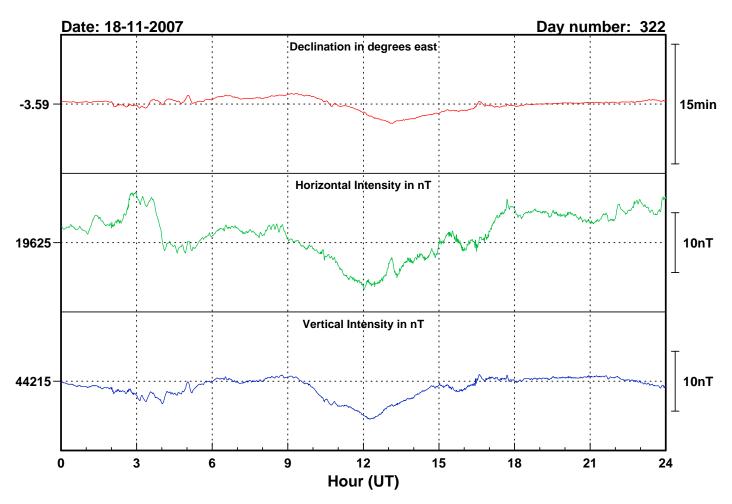


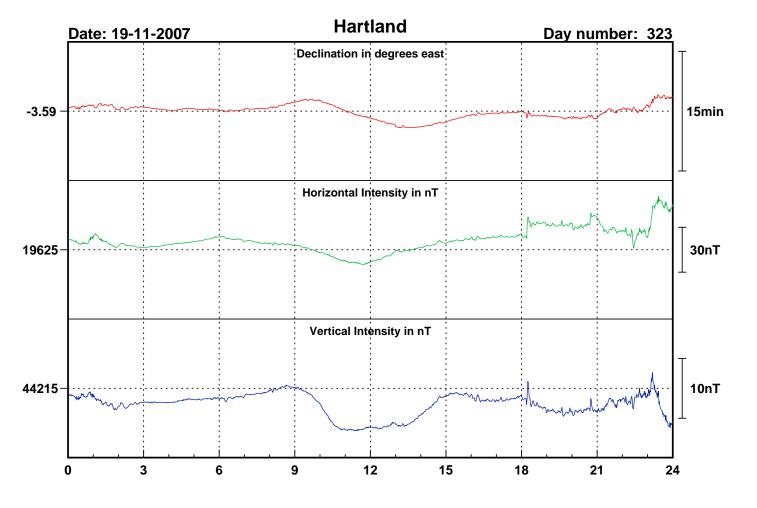


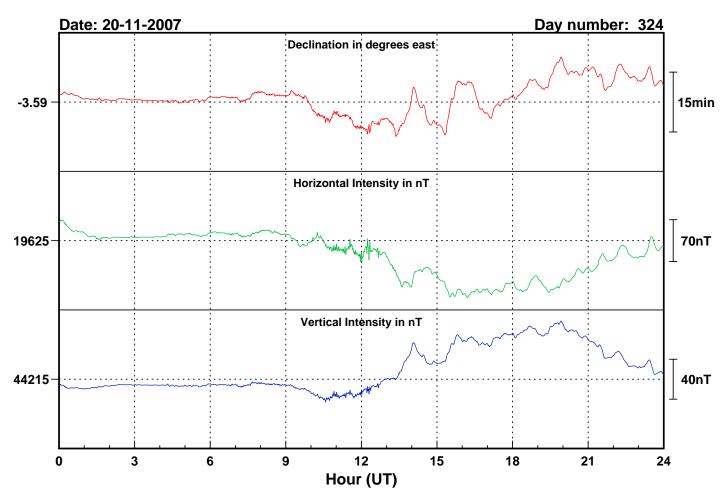


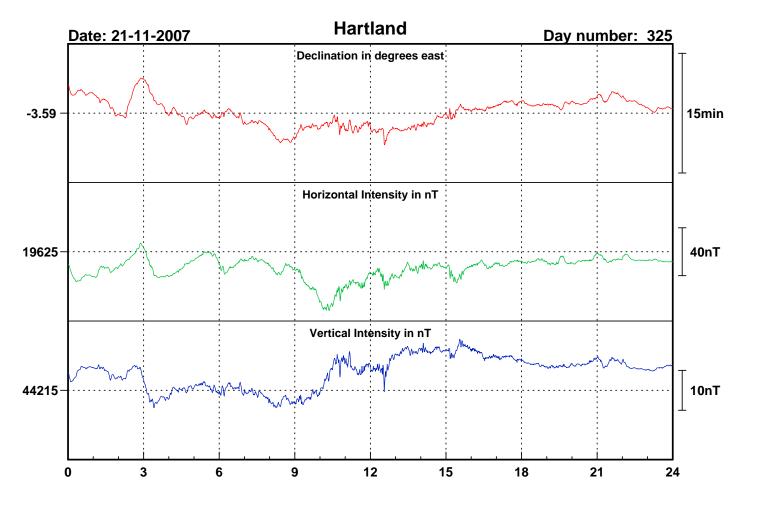


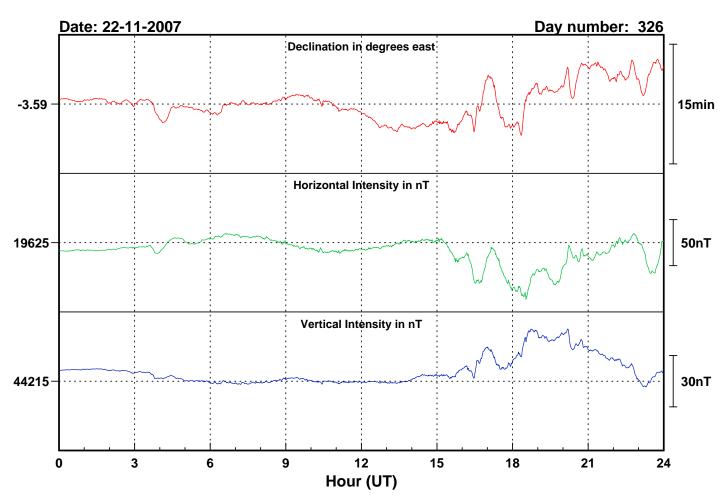


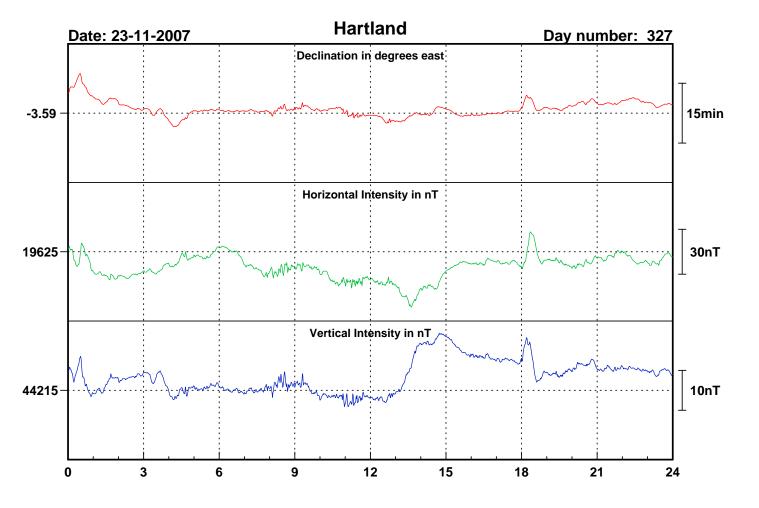


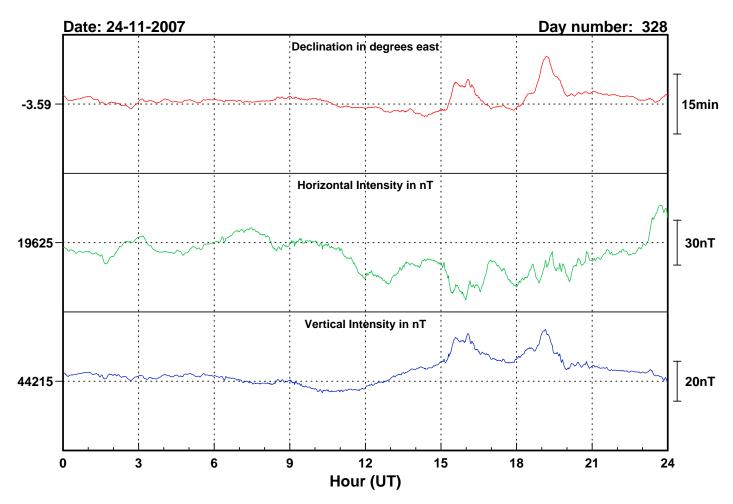


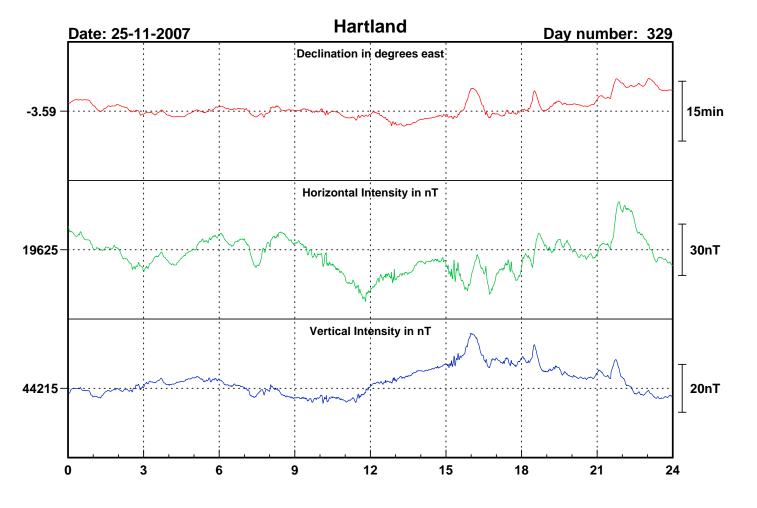


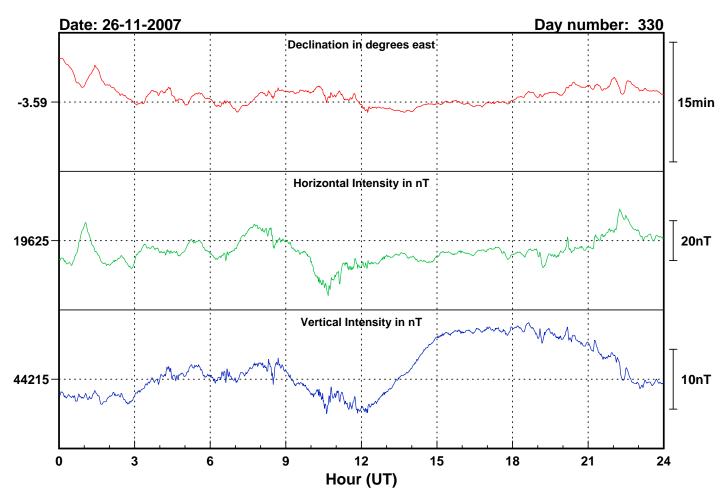


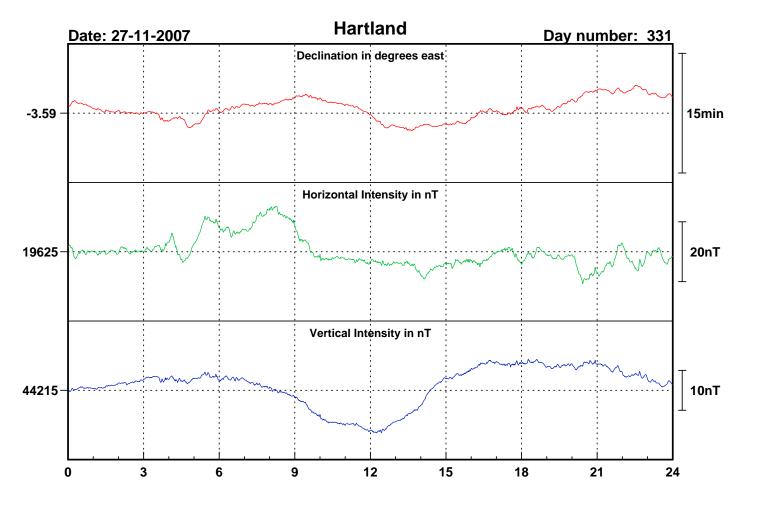


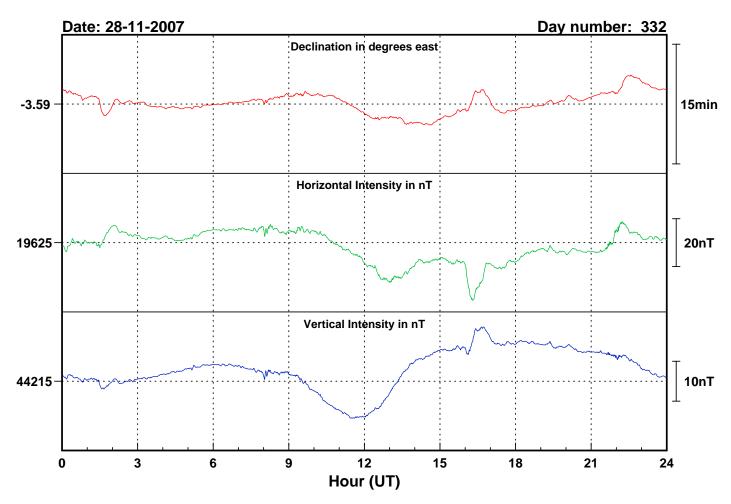


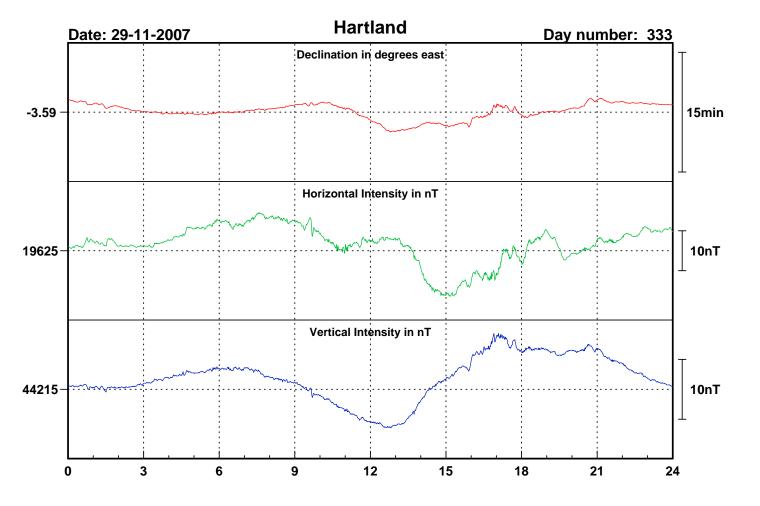


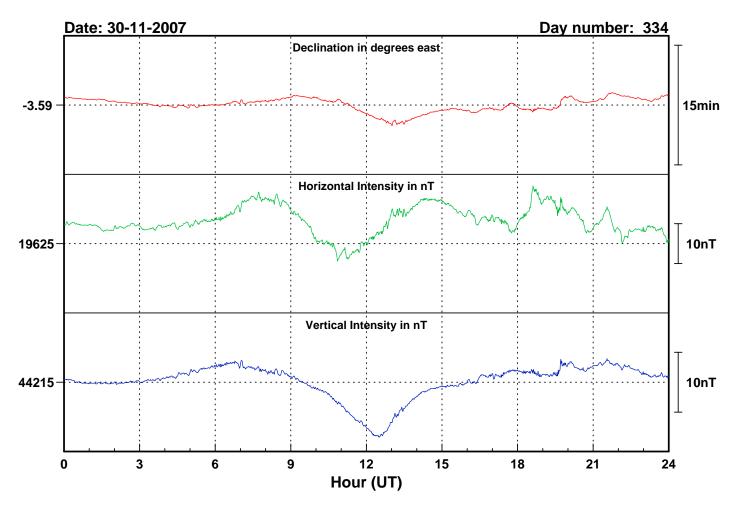




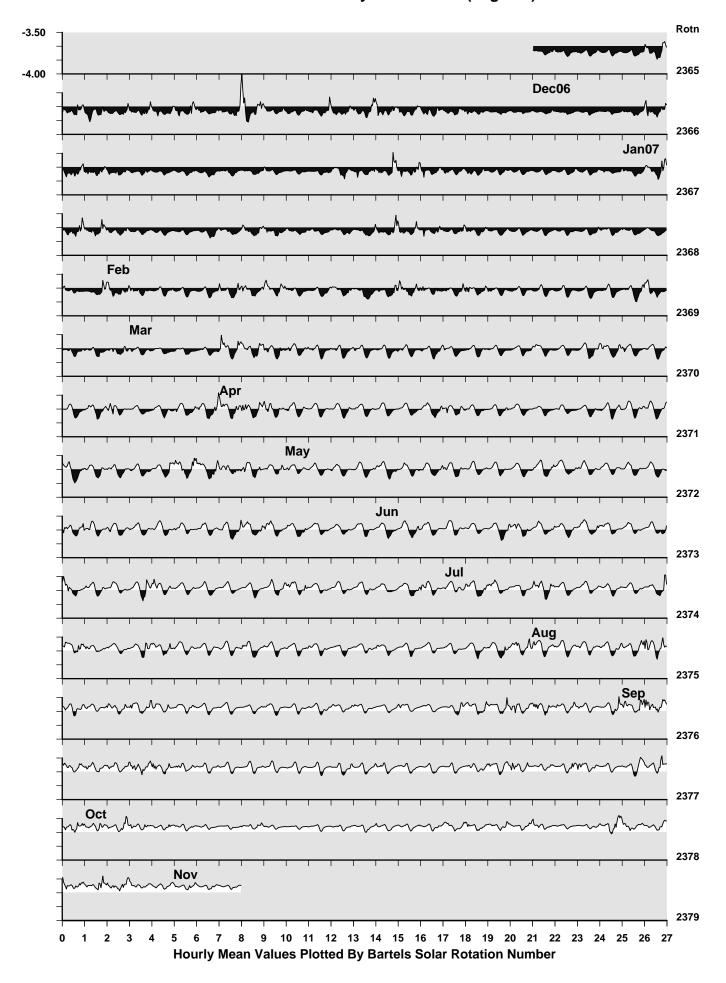




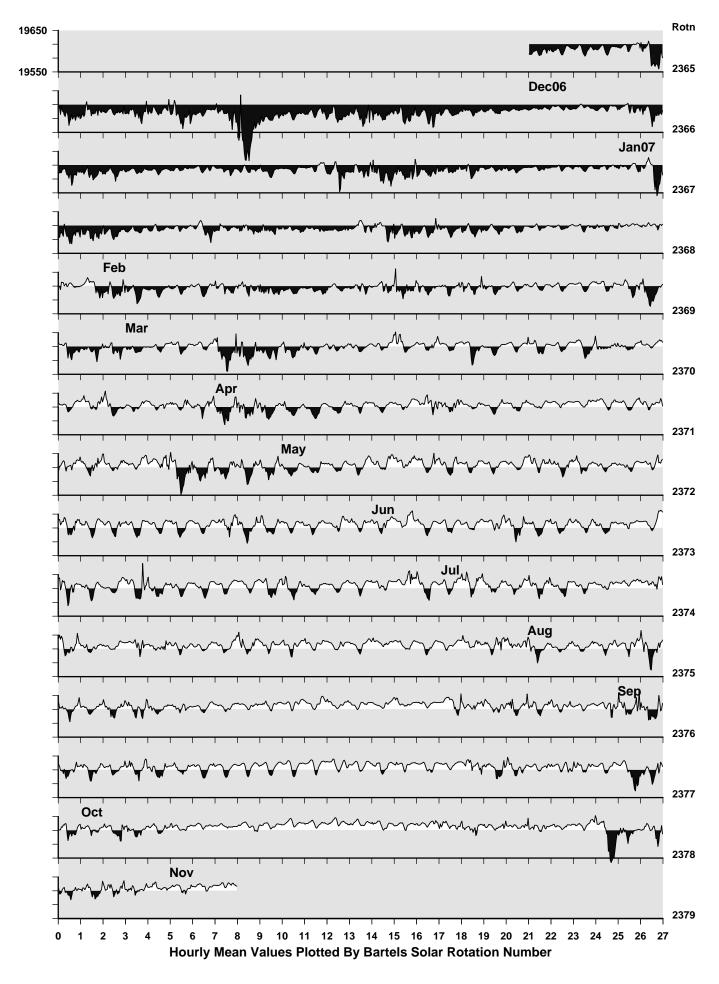




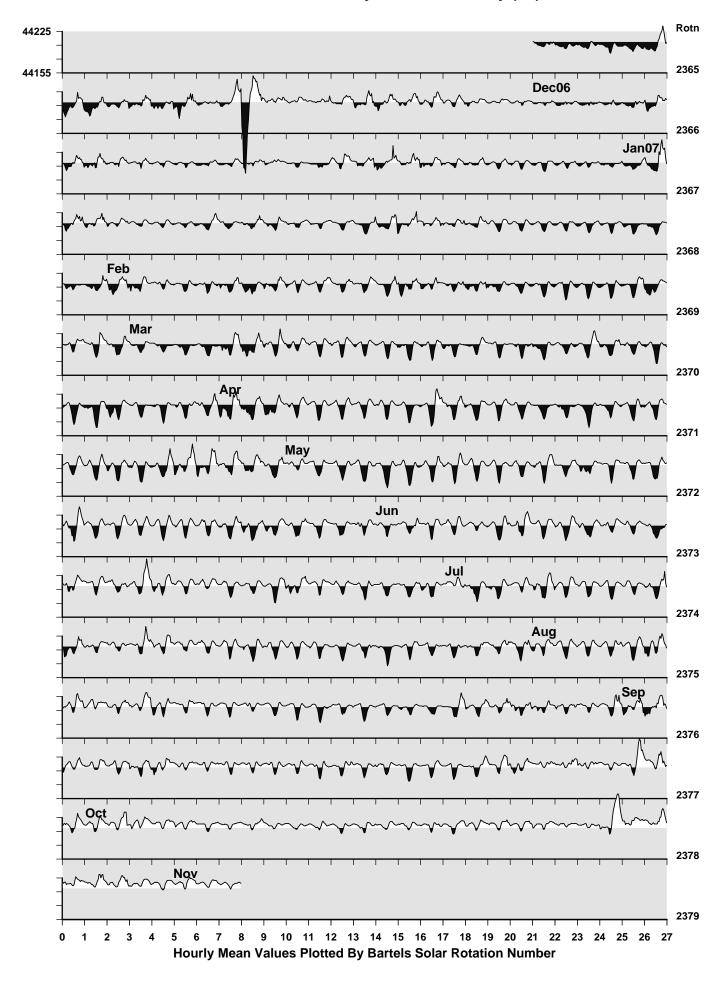
# **Hartland Observatory: Declination (degrees)**

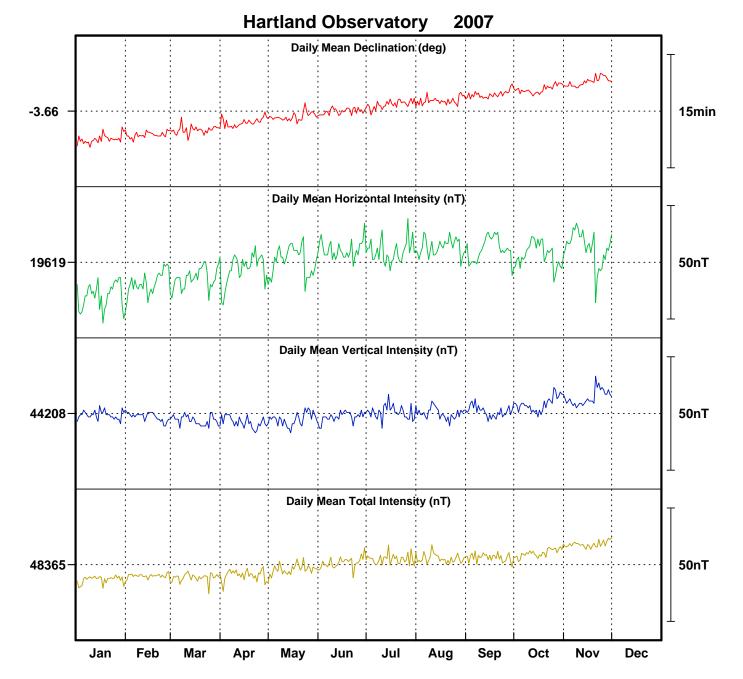


# Hartland Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT)



# **Hartland Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)**





# Monthly Mean Values for Hartland Observatory 2007

Month	D	H	I	X	Y	Z	F
January	-3° 43.1′	19604 nT	66° 5.1′	19563 nT	-1271 nT	44207 nT	48359 nT
February	-3° 42.5′	19610 nT	66° 4.7′	19569 nT	-1269 nT	44206 nT	48360 nT
March	-3° 41.9′	19612 nT	66° 4.5′	19571 nT	-1265 nT	44204 nT	48360 nT
April	-3° 40.9′	19616 nT	66° 4.2′	19575 nT	-1259 nT	44204 nT	48360 nT
May	-3° 40.1′	19620 nT	66° 4.0′	19580 nT	-1255 nT	44205 nT	48363 nT
June	-3° 39.4′	19624 nT	66° 3.7′	19584 nT	-1252 nT	44206 nT	48366 nT
July	-3° 38.5′	19624 nT	66° 3.8′	19584 nT	-1247 nT	44208 nT	48368 nT
August	-3° 38.0′	19625 nT	66° 3.7′	19586 nT	-1244 nT	44207 nT	48368 nT
September	-3° 37.2′	19624 nT	66° 3.8′	19585 nT	-1239 nT	44209 nT	48368 nT
October	-3° 36.5′	19622 nT	66° 4.0′	19583 nT	-1235 nT	44212 nT	48371 nT
November	-3° 35.5′	19625 nT	66° 3.9′	19587 nT	-1230 nT	44215 nT	48374 nT

# Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.

# INDICES OF GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY

# The K Index

Hartland Observatory November 2007

		$\boldsymbol{V}$	TAIDIOEC							
	K – INDICES FOR THREE-HOUR INTERVAL									
Day	00-03	03-06	06-09	09-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-24	SUM	
1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	11	
2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	
3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	
4	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	3	10	
5	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	
6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	6	
9	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	9	
10	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	6	
11	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	5	
12	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	8	
13	3	2	2	2	3	1	2	3	18	
14	3	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	18	
15	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	15	
16	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	15	
17	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	0	13	
18	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	
19	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	6	
20	3	1	2	4	5	5	4	4	28	
21	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	18	
22	0	2	1	1	2	4	4	4	18	
23	4	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	21	
24	2	2	2	2	3	4	5	3	23	
25	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	24	
26	3	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	16	
27	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	11	
28	2	0	1	0	1	3	1	2	10	
29	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	6	
30	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	6	

Lower bound (nT) for the range for each index value at Hartland Observatory									
K-Index									
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	5	10	20	40	70	120	200	330	500

The aa Index

Date	Day	K-North	K-South	(a)	<b>(b)</b>	(c)	(d)	(e)
01-11-07	305	3 1 1 1 1 1 2 1	12110211	12	9	12	9	11
02-11-07	306	01110001	$0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1$	5	6	7	4	5
03-11-07	307	00011000	$0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 0\ 0\ 0$	4	5	4	5	4
04-11-07	308	10001323	$1\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 2\ 1\ 1$	13	9	4	17	11
05-11-07	309	01010001	$1\; 1\; 1\; 2\; 1\; 0\; 0\; 1$	4	8	8	4	6
06-11-07	310	00001000	00001000	3	3	2	4	3
07-11-07	311	00000000	$0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1$	2	3	2	3	3
08-11-07	312	10101111	$1\; 1\; 1\; 0\; 1\; 1\; 1\; 2$	6	8	6	9	7
09-11-07	313	21011112	$1\; 1\; 0\; 1\; 2\; 2\; 0\; 1$	9	9	8	10	9
10-11-07	314	20111100	2222100	7	12	12	6	9
11-11-07	315	10011011	$0\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 1$	6	6	6	6	6
12-11-07	316	10011122	$0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 2\ 2$	8	8	4	12	8
13-11-07	317	3 2 2 2 3 1 2 3	3 3 2 3 3 2 2 3	21	26	24	23	24
14-11-07	318	3 2 2 3 2 3 1 2	2 2 2 2 3 3 1 2	21	19	20	20	20
15-11-07	319	21112233	$1\; 2\; 1\; 1\; 2\; 2\; 1\; 1$	17	11	10	18	14
16-11-07	320	11122233	1 1 2 2 3 2 1 2	17	15	11	21	16
17-11-07	321	3 2 2 1 1 2 2 0	21312101	14	12	17	10	13
18-11-07	322	11001100	$1\; 1\; 0\; 0\; 0\; 2\; 0\; 1$	5	6	5	6	6
19-11-07	323	10000023	1 1 1 0 1 0 2 3	8	11	5	14	10
20-11-07	324	3 1 2 4 5 5 4 4	22346432	54	51	30	75	52
21-11-07	325	3 3 2 3 2 2 1 2	2 3 4 4 3 2 2 1	21	30	35	16	25
22-11-07	326	02112444	$0\; 2\; 2\; 2\; 2\; 4\; 4\; 2$	28	25	11	43	27
23-11-07	327	43223232	2232321	27	19	25	21	23
24-11-07	328	22223453	21233332	36	23	17	42	30
25-11-07	329	3 2 3 3 3 4 3 3	22332322	33	22	26	29	28
26-11-07	330	3 2 2 3 1 1 2 2	22132011	18	13	21	10	16
27-11-07	331	12111122	11111101	11	7	9	9	9
28-11-07	332	20101312	$0\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 0\ 1$	11	11	7	15	11
29-11-07	333	00011211	$0\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 2\ 1\ 1$	7	9	4	11	8
30-11-07	334	00101121	$0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 1$	7	8	6	9	7
Monthly mean value = 14.0								

The northern daily mean value,  $Aa_n$  The southern daily mean value,  $Aa_s$ (a)

- The mean value of aa for the interval 00-12 UT (c)
- The mean value of aa for the interval 12-24 UT (d)
- The daily mean value of aa (Aa) (e)

## <u>Notes</u>

- i. The values are rounded to the nearest integer.
- The units of the aa index are nT. ii.
- The values shown here are provisional. The definitive values are computed and published by the iii. International Service for Geomagnetic Indices, Paris

<sup>(</sup>b)

## HARTLAND RAPID VARIATIONS

## SIs and SSCs

Date	Time (UT)	Туре	Quality	H (nT)	D (min)	Z (nT)
04-11-07	14 30	SI*	В	-6.6	0.39	-1.4
19-11-07	18 10	SSC*	A	14.4	-0.65/0.74	3.9

#### **Notes:**

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the principal impulse was preceded by a smaller reversed impulse. The quality of the event is classified as follows:

A =very distinct

B = fair, ordinary, but unmistakable

C = doubtful

The amplitudes given are for the first chief movement of the event.

## **SFEs**

Date		Universal Time			D (min)	Z (nT)
	Start	Maximum	End			
			NONE			

## **Note:**

The amplitudes given are for the first chief movement of the event.