BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY Hartland Observatory Monthly Magnetic **Bulletin June 2008** Ballhill **08/06/HA** Hartland Rosedo



Hotel

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 <i>° 59</i> .7′N	355°31.0′E
Geomagnetic:	53 <i>° 54.2 ' N</i>	080°07.6′E
Height above m	ean sea level:	95 m

The geomagnetic co-ordinates are calculated using the 10th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field at epoch 2008.5

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 61point 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 Fand the F computed from the baseline corrected Hand Z 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 **P** or **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: two 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.

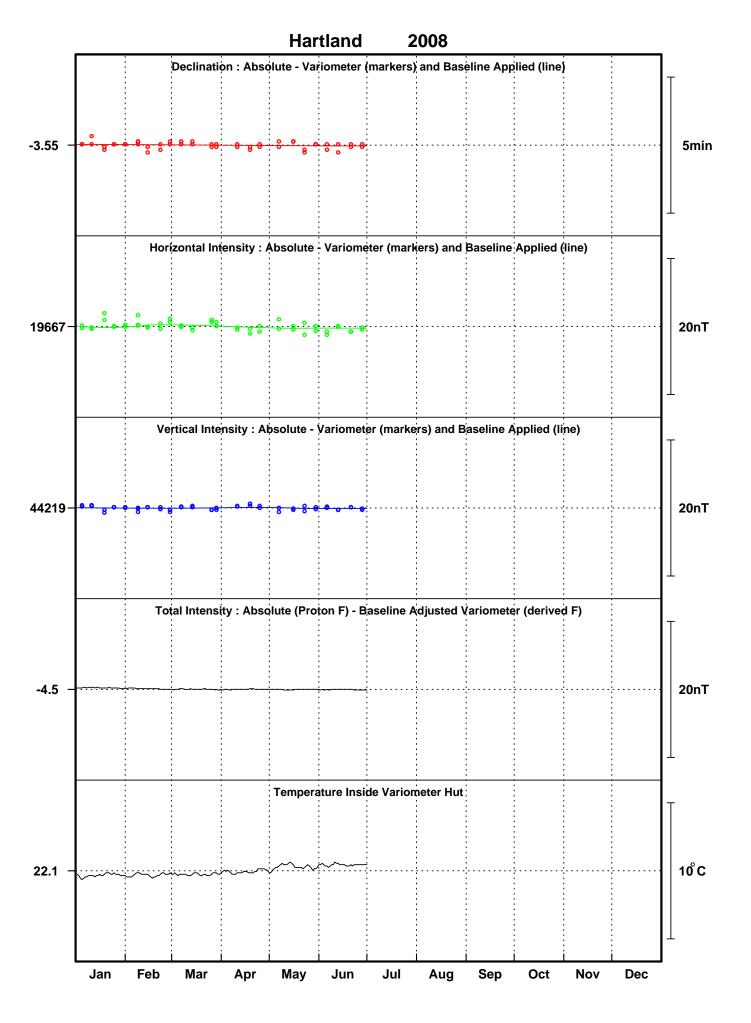
This product includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey with the permission of HMSO © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence Number: 100017897/2008

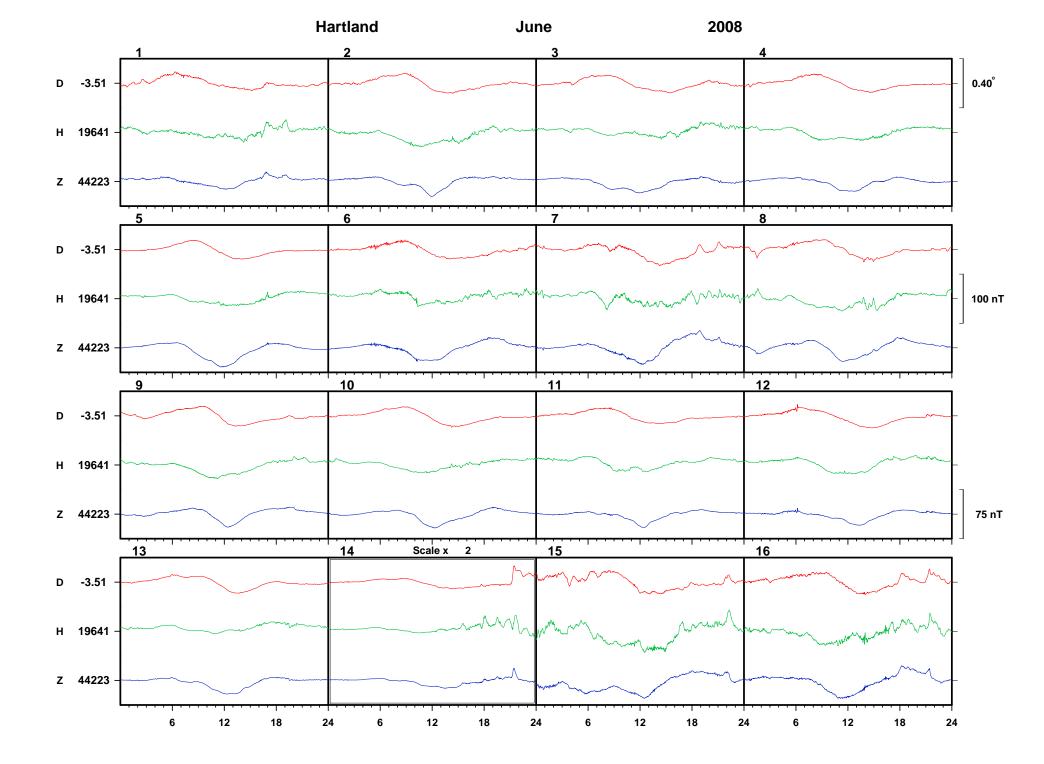
© NERC 2008

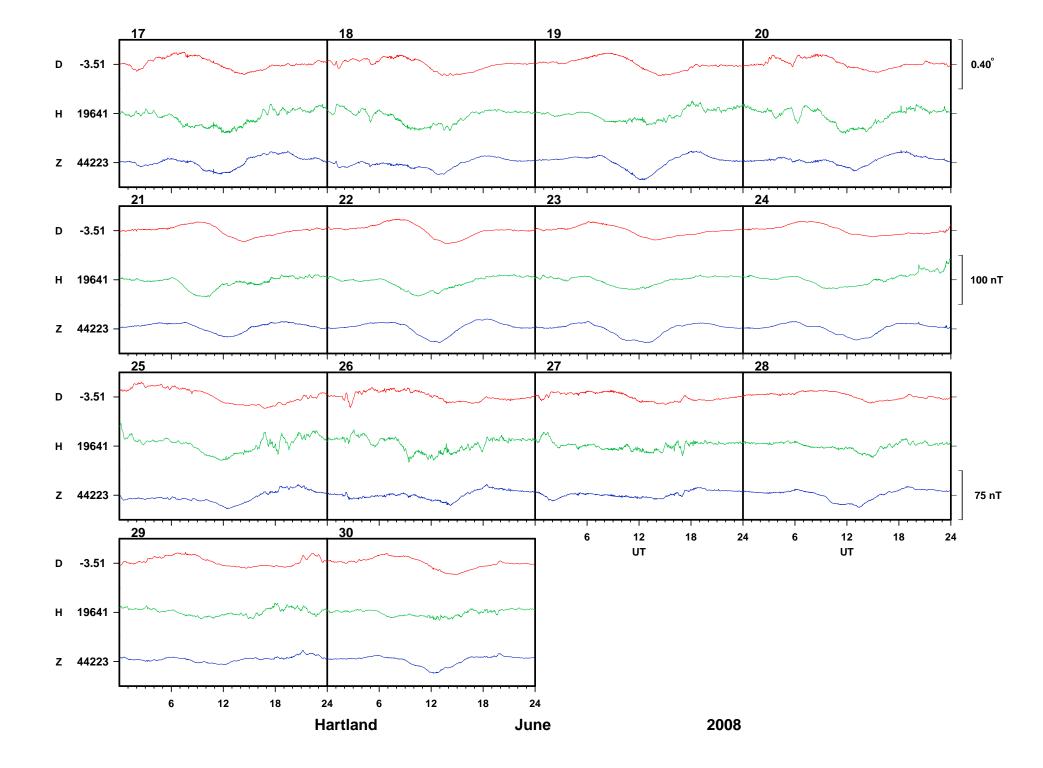
HARTLAND OBSERVATORY

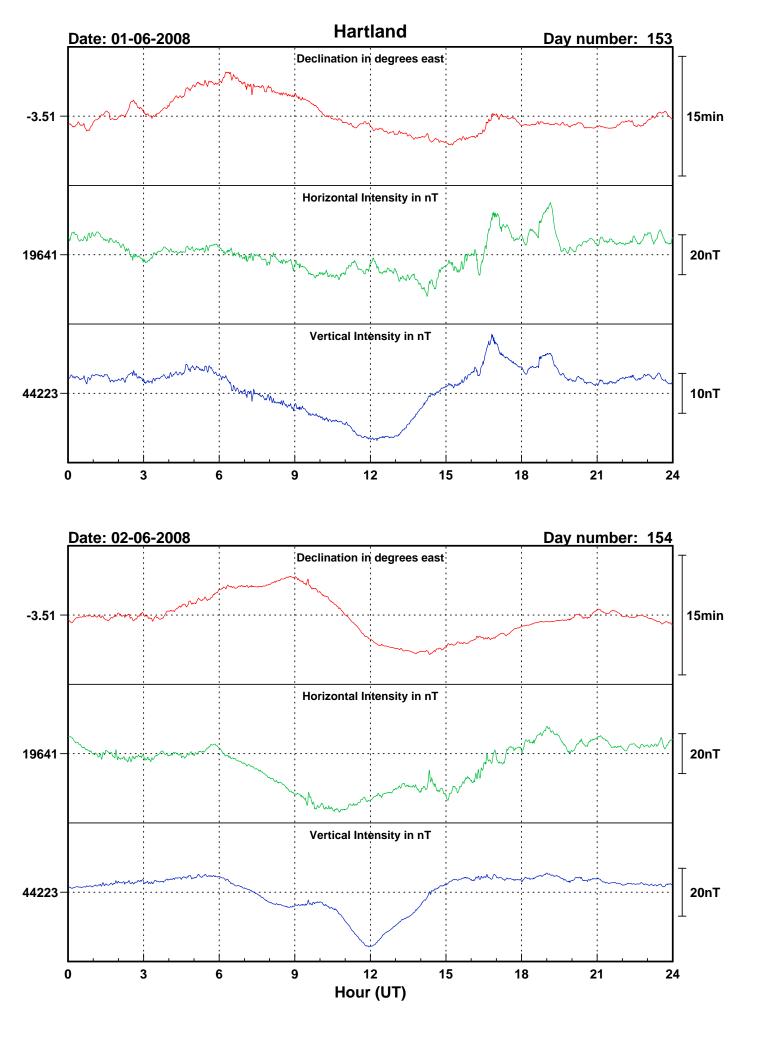
ABSOLUTE OBSERVATIONS

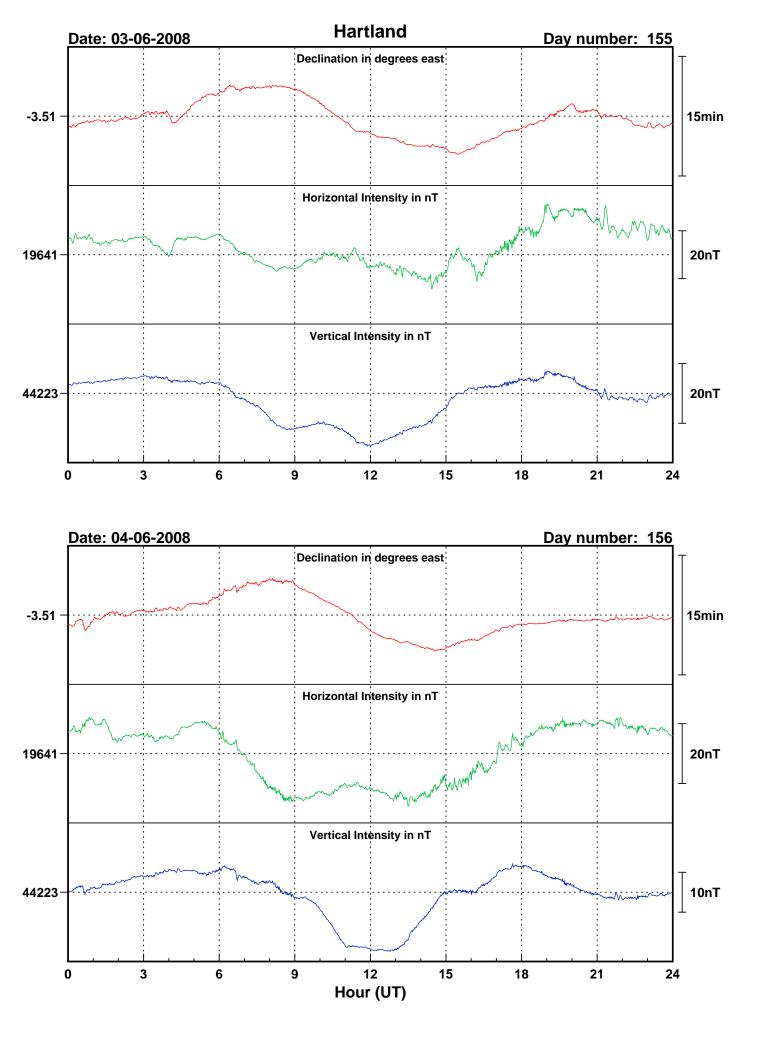
	DECLINATION		INCLINATION									
Date	Day Number	Time (UT)	Absolute (°)	Baseline (°)	Time (UT)	Inclination (°)	Total Field Intensity (nT)	H Absolute (nT)	H Baseline (nT)	Z Absolute (nT)	Z Baseline (nT)	Observer
05-Jun-08	157	13:12	-3.5781	-3.5500	13:21	66.0576	48364.3	19627.2	19666.5	44202.7	44219.1	ST
05-Jun-08	157	13:28	-3.5830	-3.5533	13:36	66.0606	48367.1	19625.9	19666.0	44206.4	44219.3	ST
12-Jun-08	164	10:28	-3.5069	-3.5500	10:36	66.0669	48375.8	19624.6	19667.3	44216.4	44218.8	ST
12-Jun-08	164	10:43	-3.5197	-3.5550	10:51	66.0671	48375.9	19624.5	19667.2	44216.5	44218.8	ST
20-Jun-08	172	08:08	-3.4330	-3.5517	08:16	66.0485	48391.2	19645.1	19666.5	44224.2	44219.2	ST
20-Jun-08	172	08:22	-3.4244	-3.5500	08:30	66.0461	48393.3	19647.7	19666.5	44225.3	44219.2	ST
27-Jun-08	179	14:47	-3.5544	-3.5500	14:57	66.0507	48385.4	19641.0	19666.8	44219.6	44219.0	ST
27-Jun-08	179	15:03	-3.5688	-3.5517	15:12	66.0497	48387.6	19642.7	19667.1	44221.4	44218.8	ST

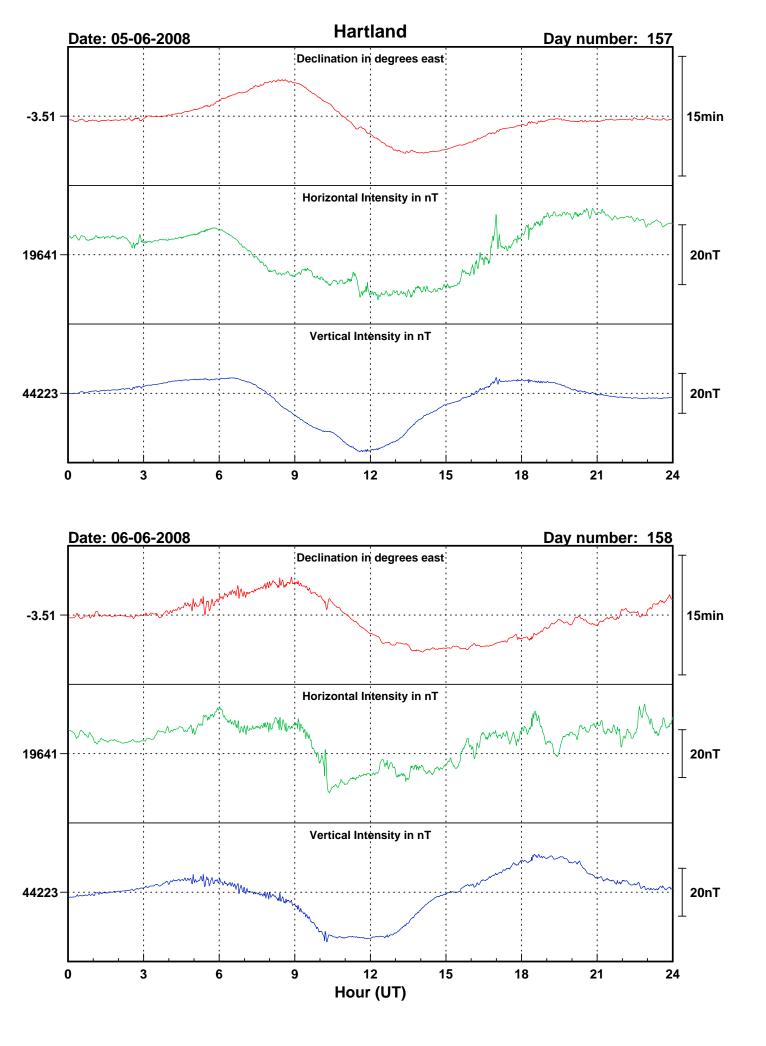


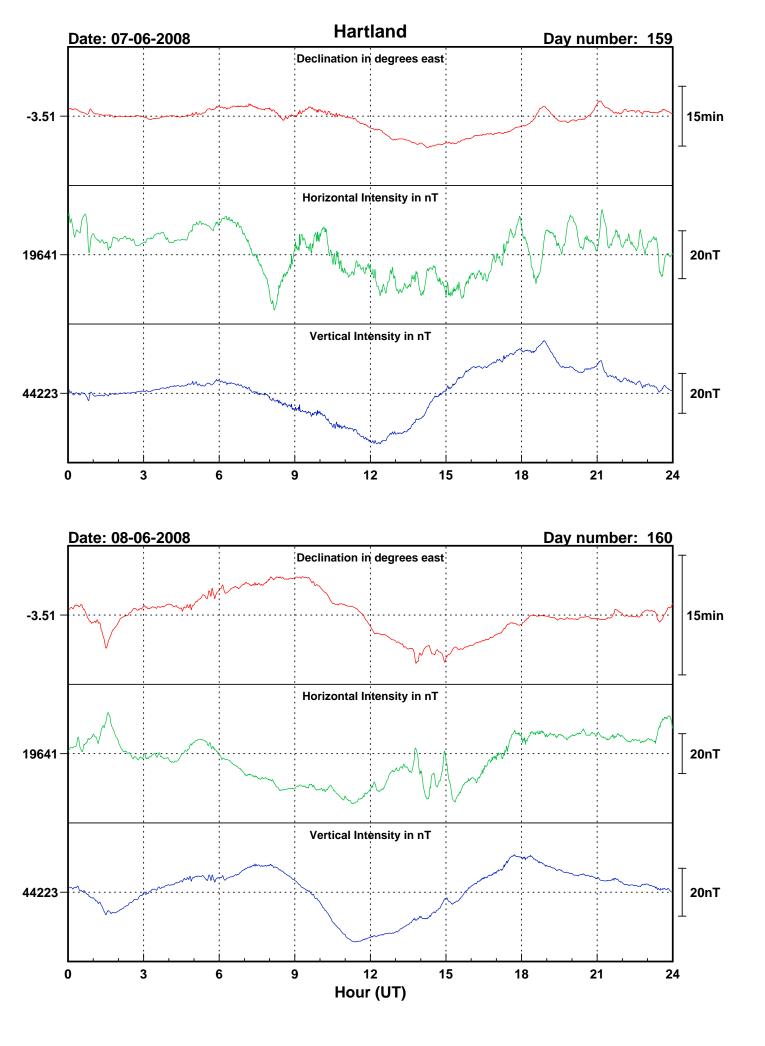


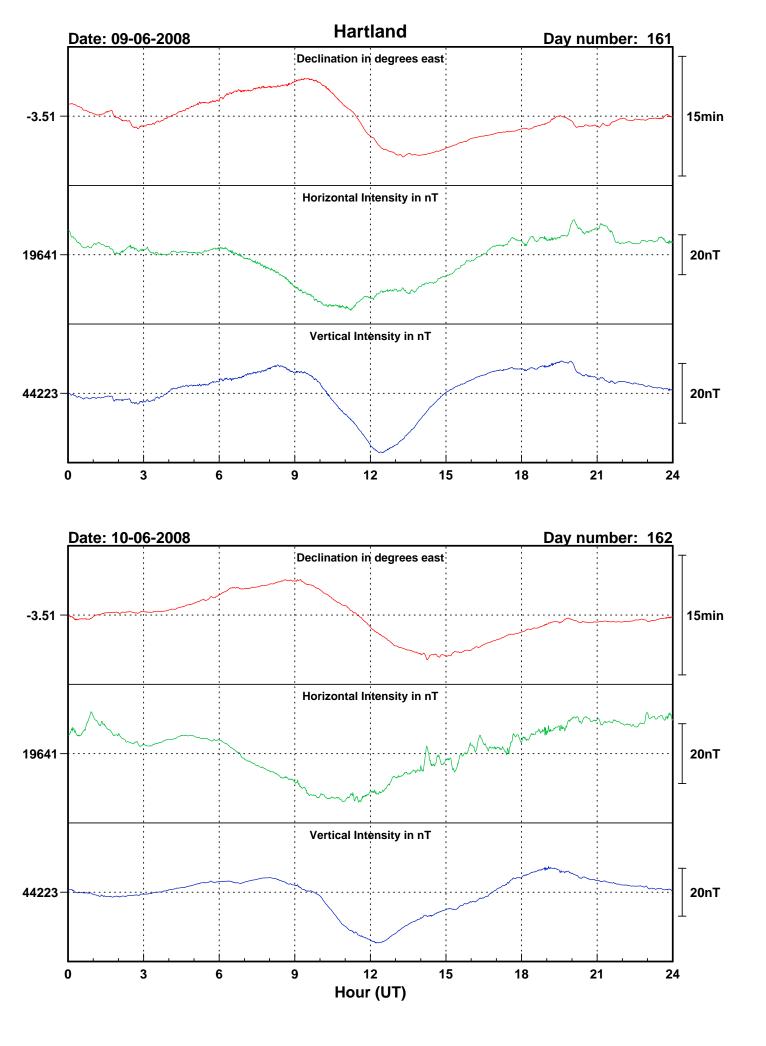


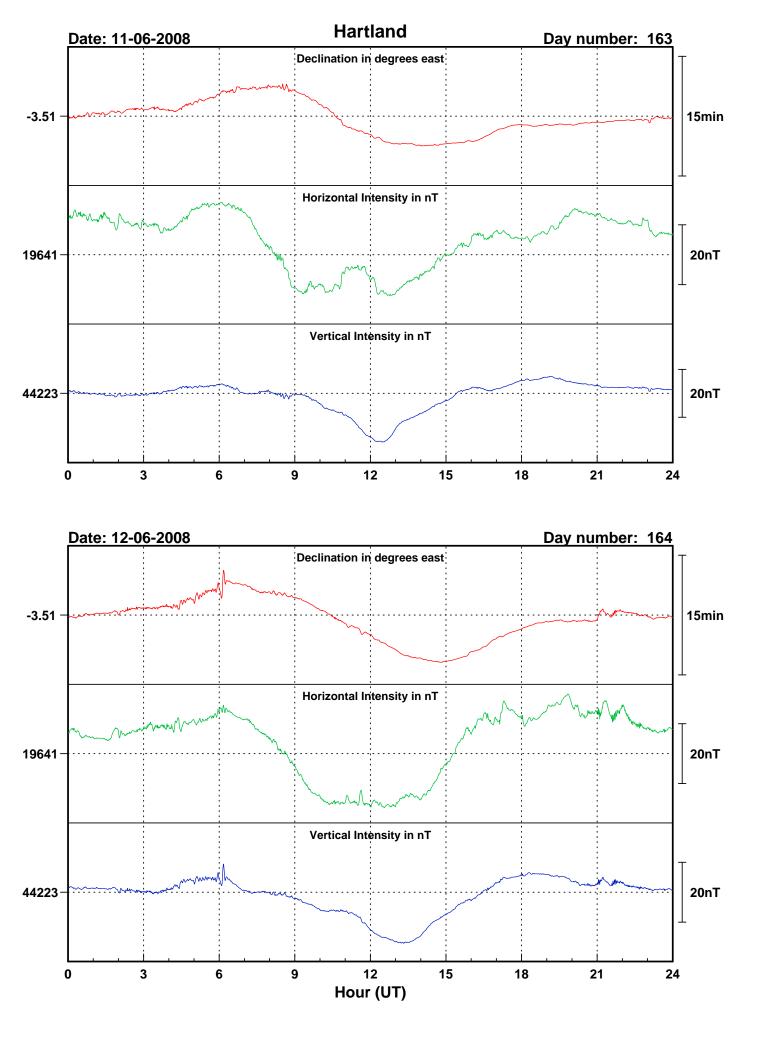


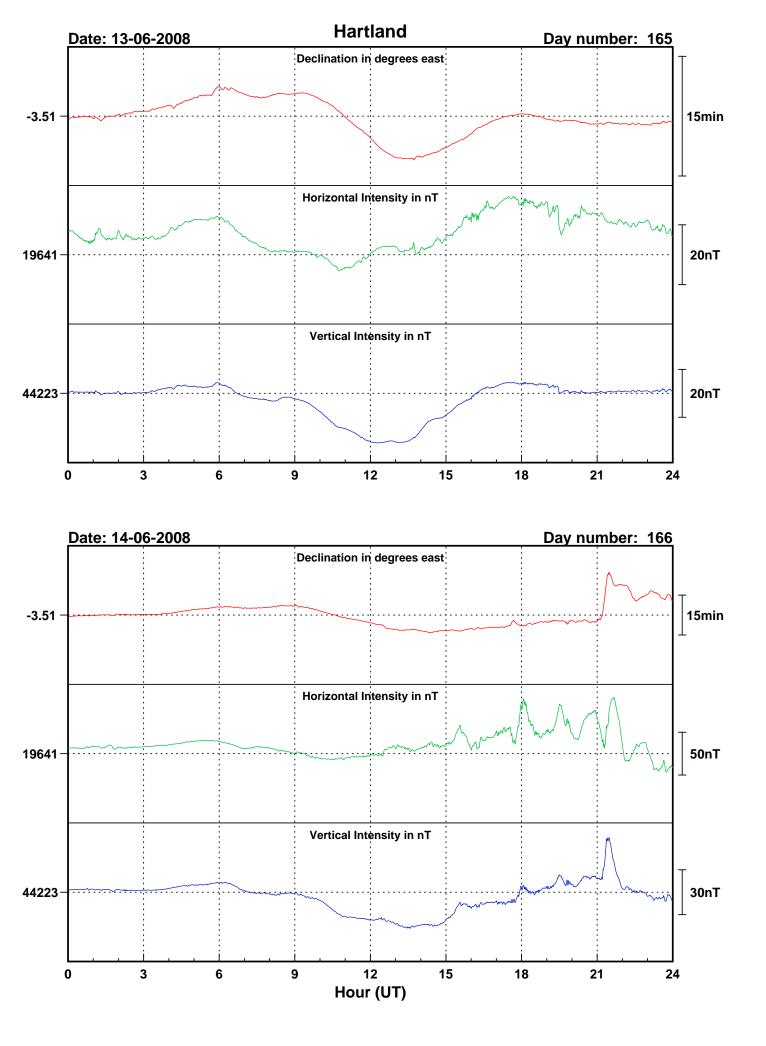


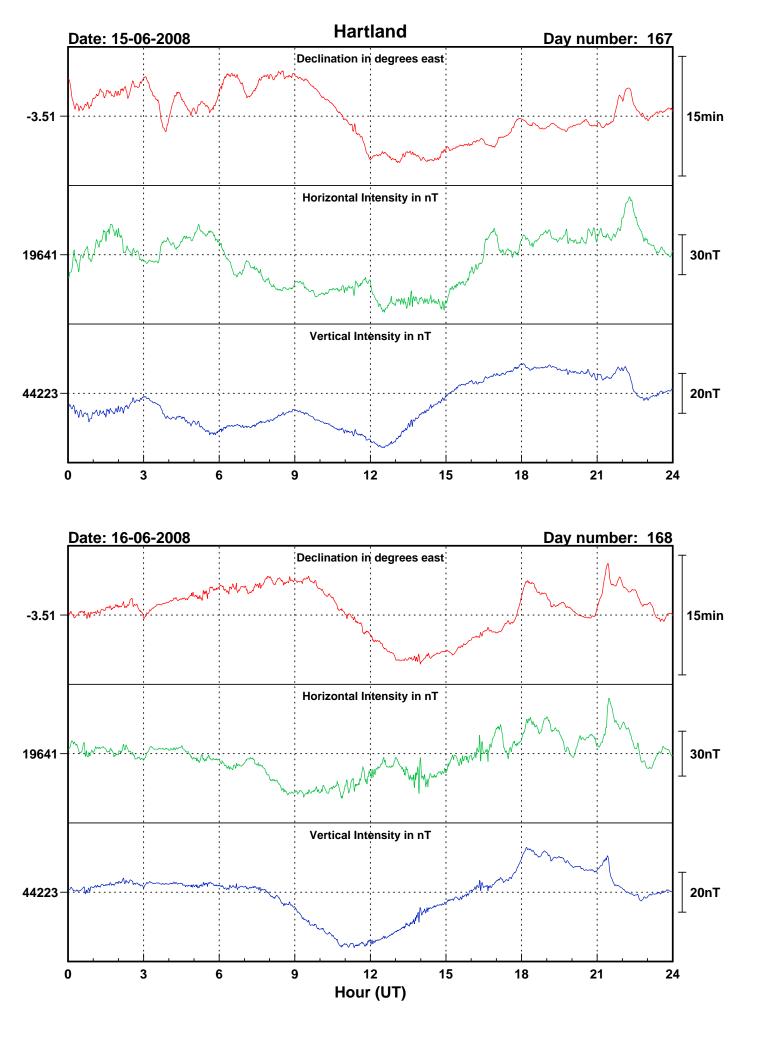


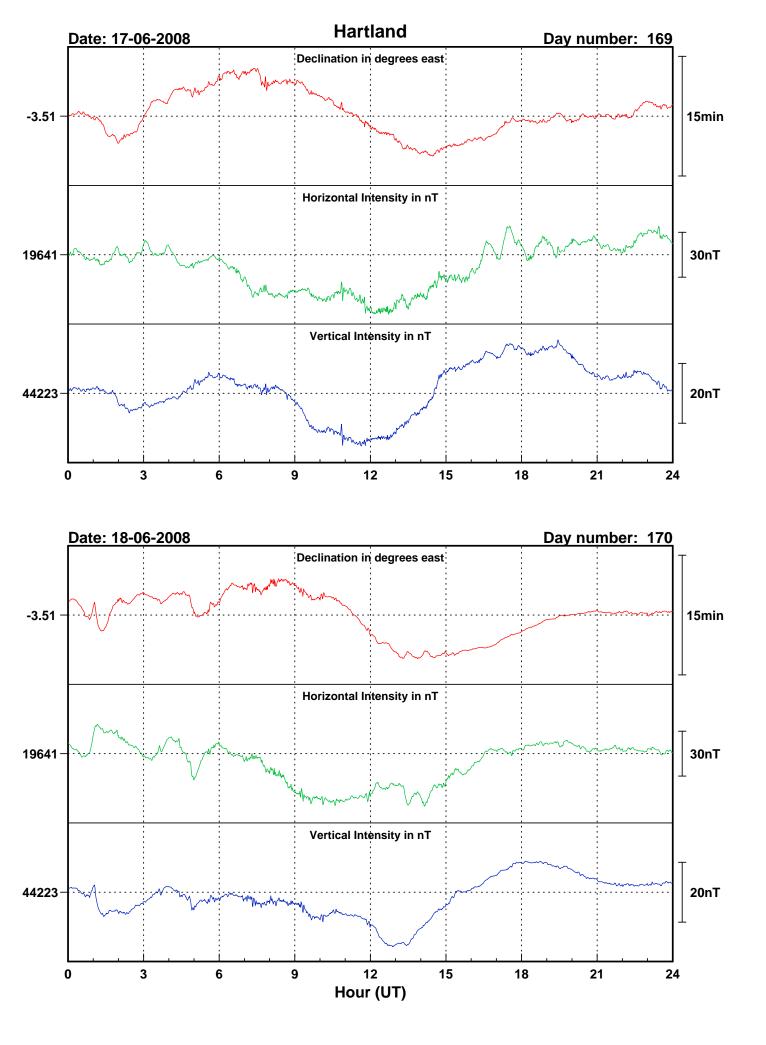


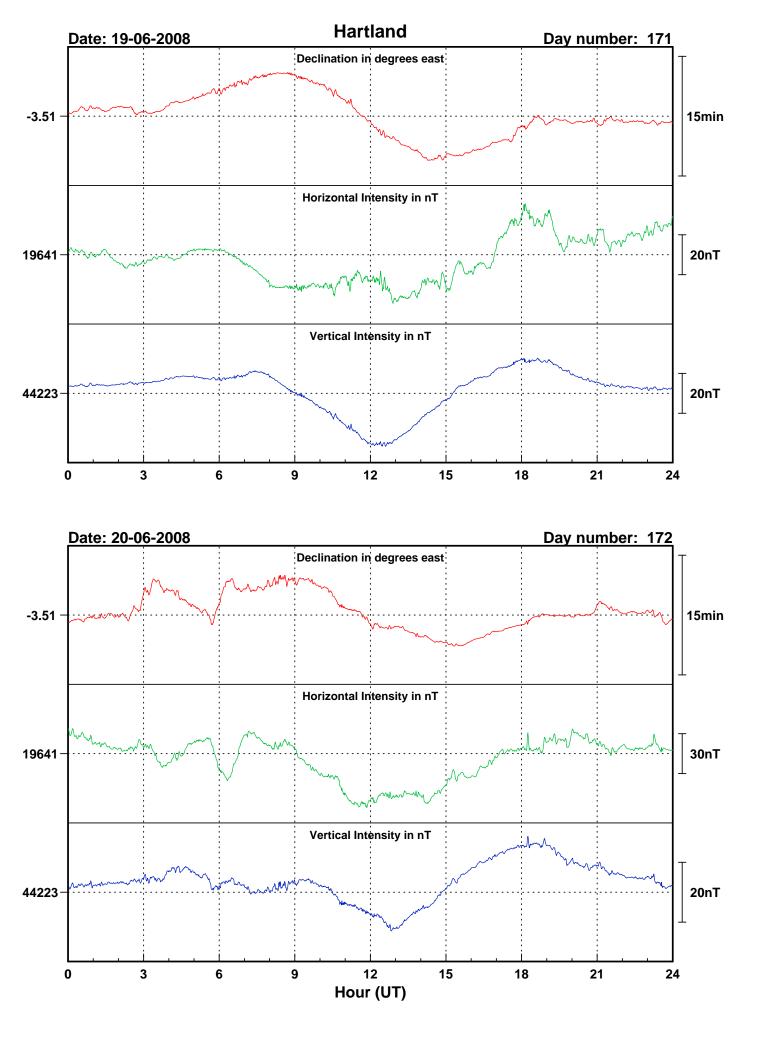


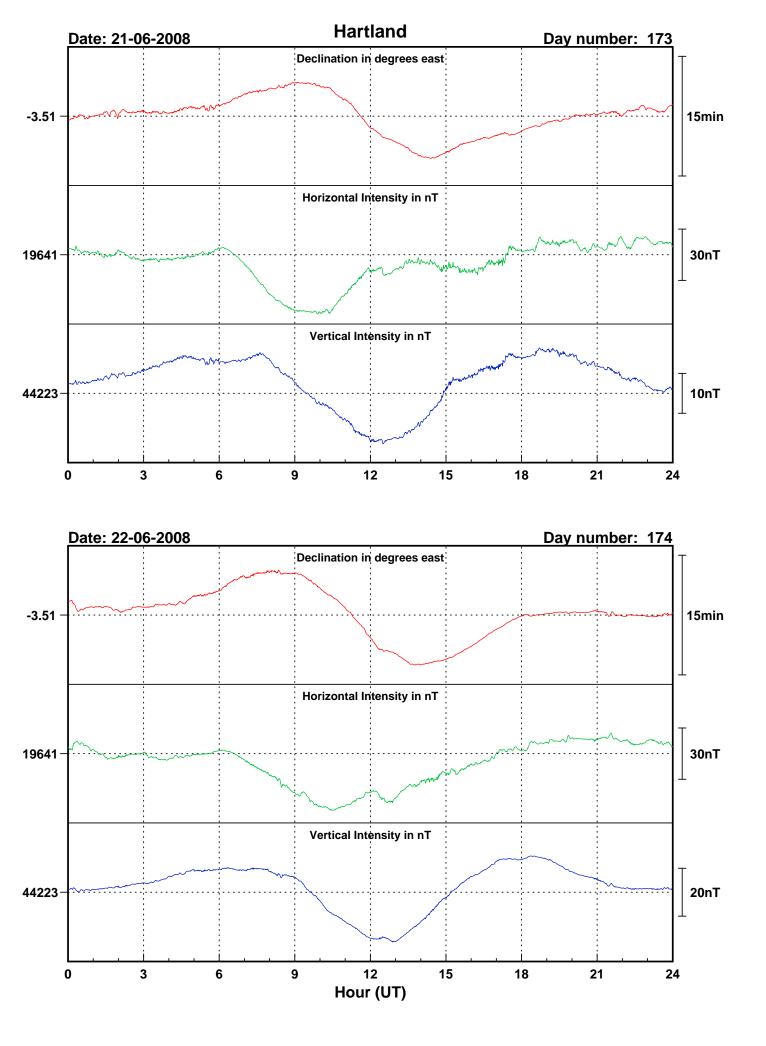


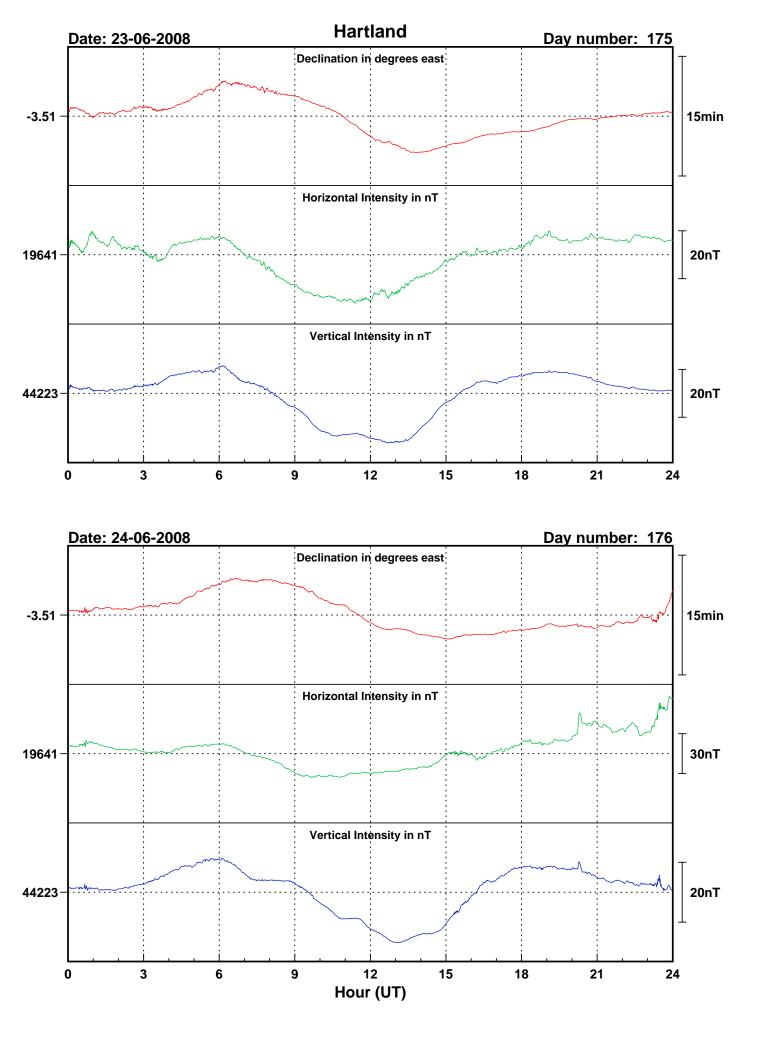


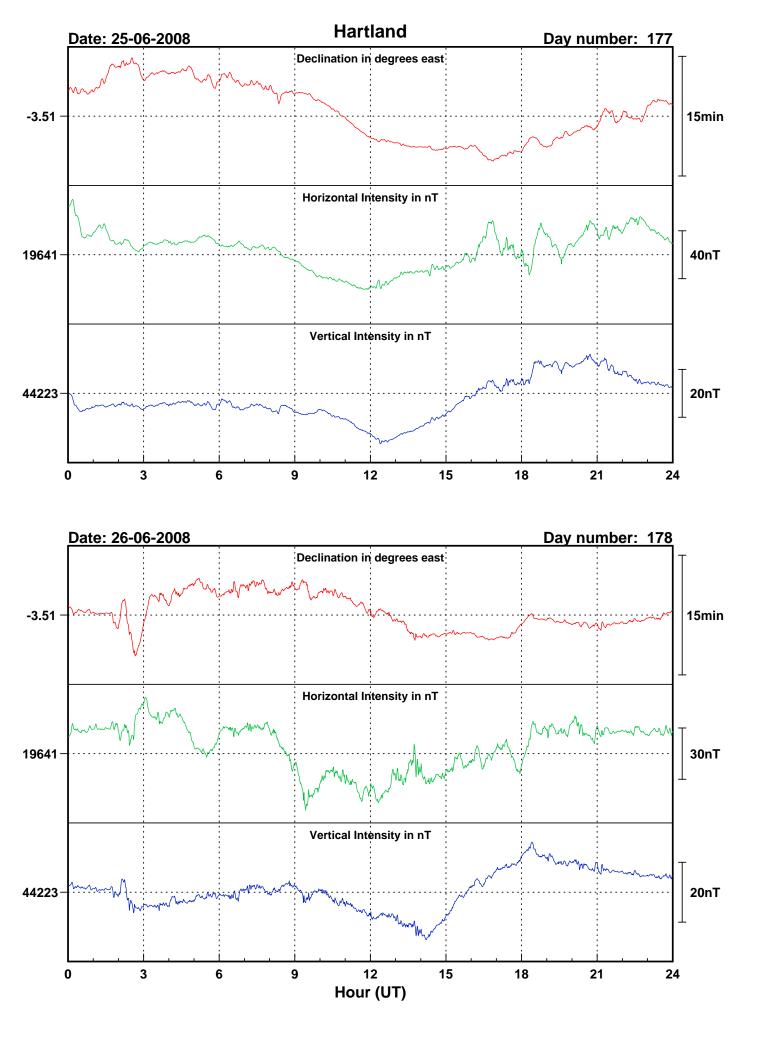


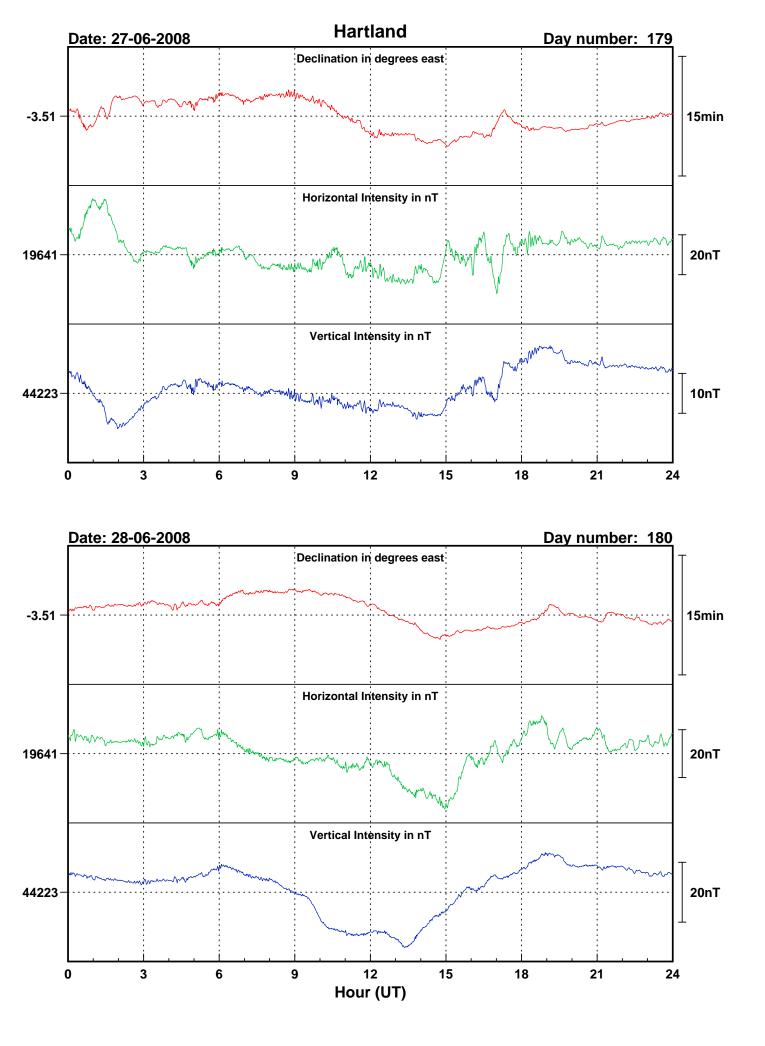


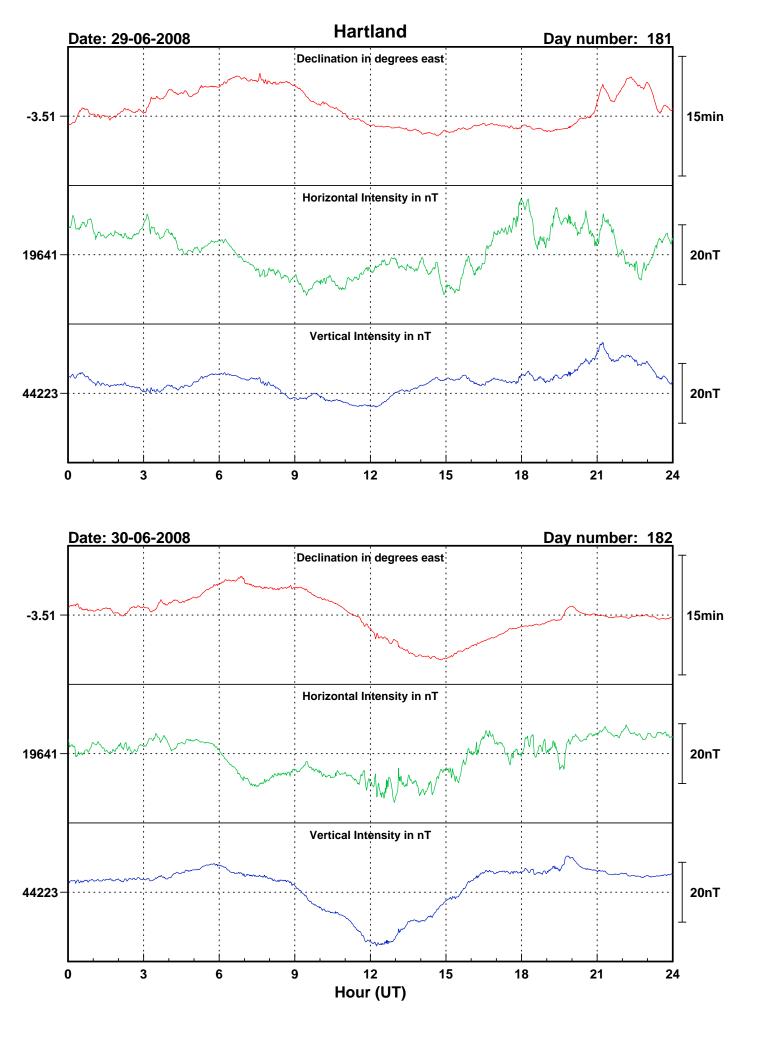




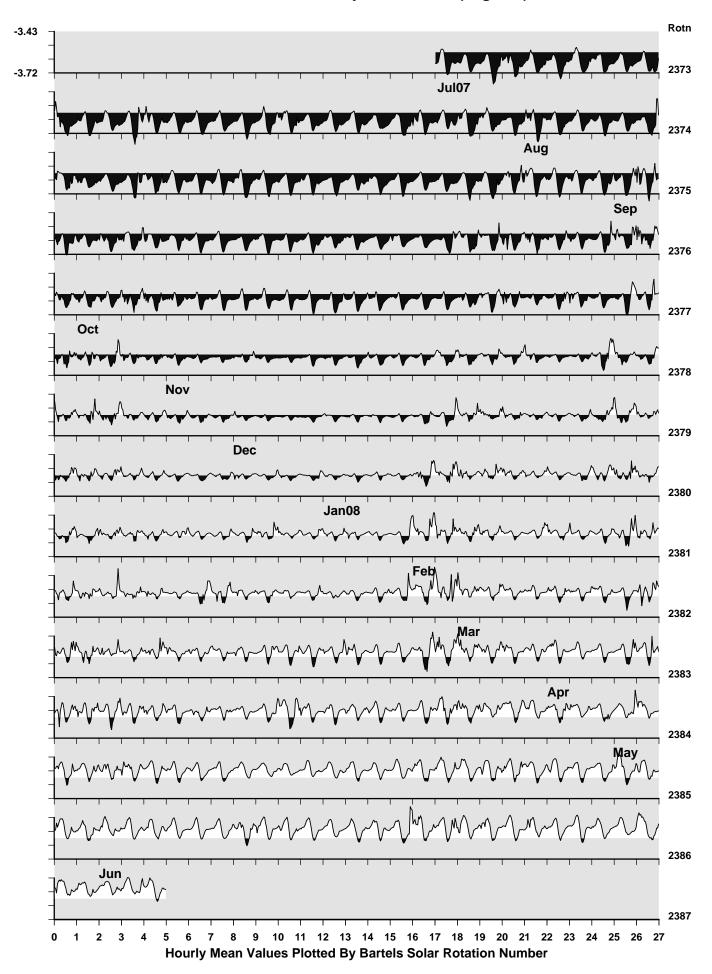




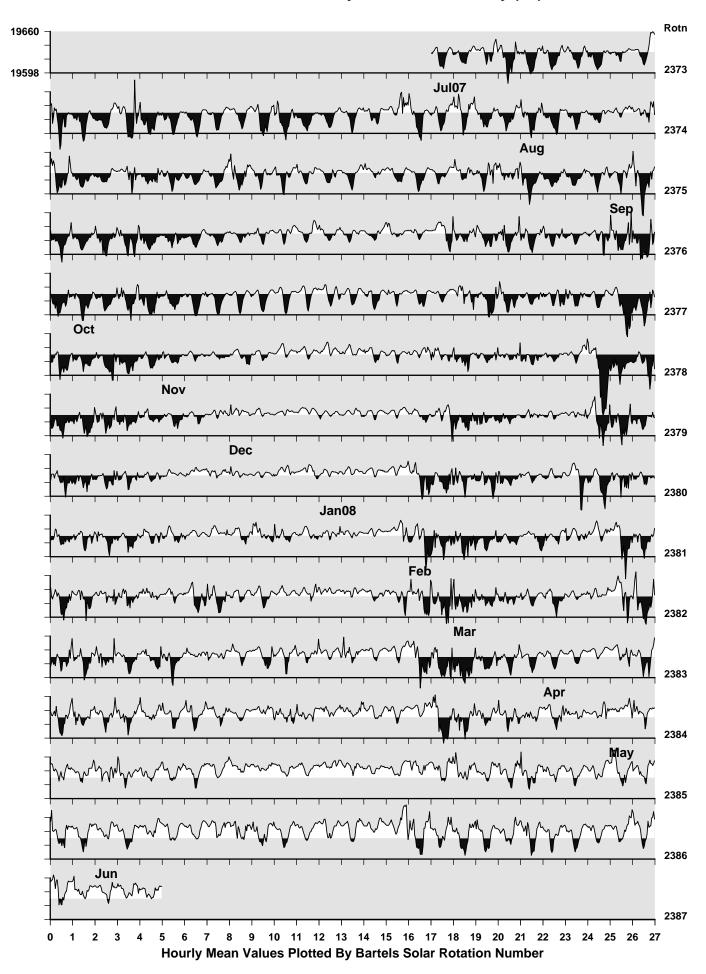




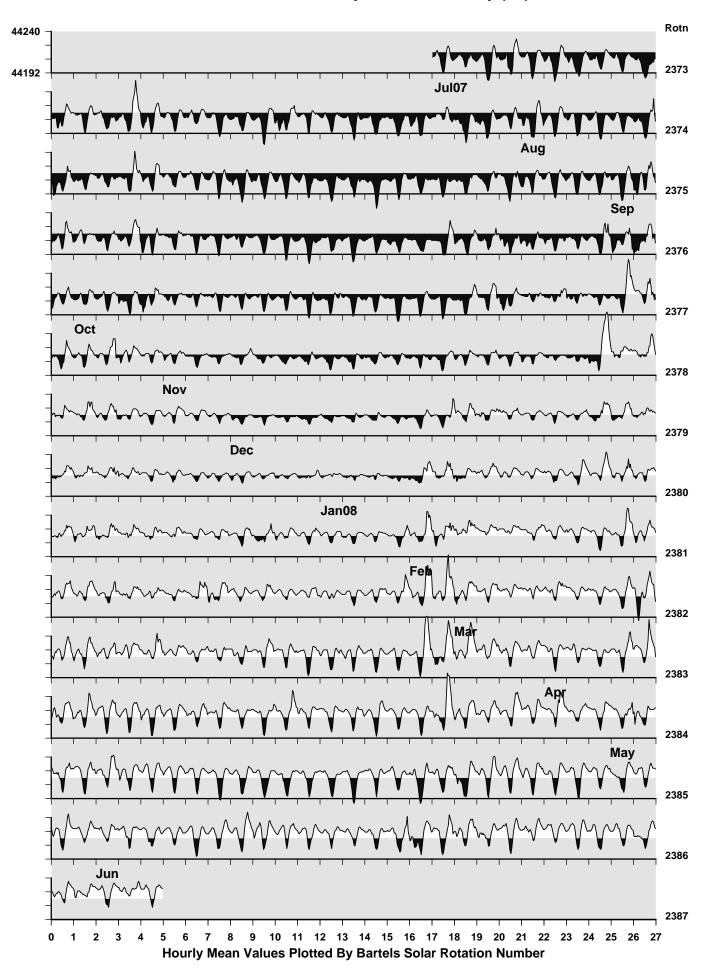
Hartland Observatory: Declination (degrees)

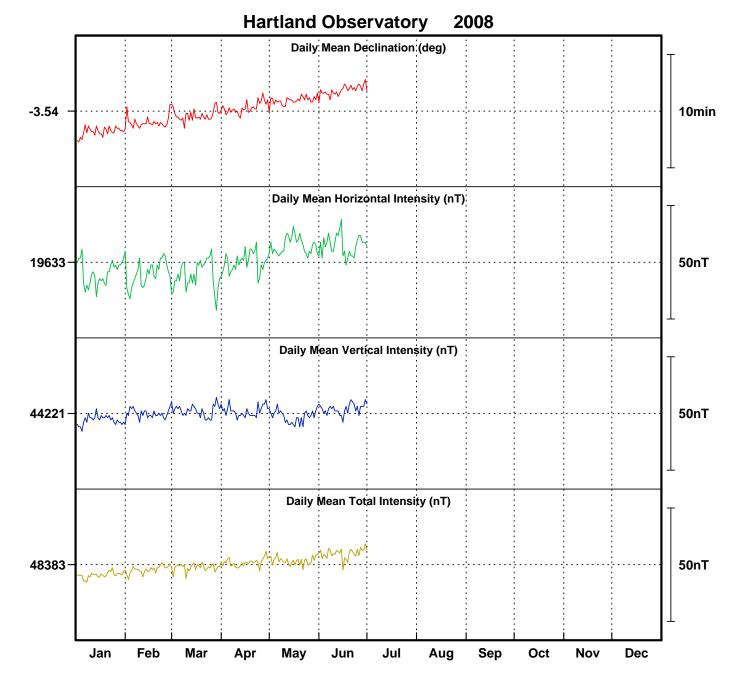


Hartland Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT)



Hartland Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)





Monthly Mean Values for Hartland Observatory 2008

February -3° 33.1′ 19628 nT 66° 3.9′ 19590 nT -1216 nT 44221 nT 48381 March -3° 32.6′ 19628 nT 66° 4.0′ 19590 nT -1213 nT 44222 nT 48382 April -3° 31.9′ 19633 nT 66° 3.6′ 19596 nT -1209 nT 44222 nT 48384 May -3° 31.2′ 19640 nT 66° 3.1′ 19603 nT -1206 nT 44220 nT 48384	Month	D	H	Ι	X	Y	Ζ	F
June -3° 30.3′ 19641 nT 66° 3.1′ 19604 nT -1201 nT 44223 nT 48388	February March April	-3° 33.1′ -3° 32.6′ -3° 31.9′	19628 nT 19628 nT 19633 nT	66° 3.9′ 66° 4.0′ 66° 3.6′	19590 nT 19590 nT 19596 nT	-1216 nT -1213 nT -1209 nT	44221 nT 44222 nT 44222 nT	48379 nT 48381 nT 48382 nT 48384 nT 48385 nT 48388 nT

Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.

INDICES OF GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY

The K Index

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

	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	

Date	Day	K-North	K-South	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
01-06-08	153	2 2 2 1 2 3 3 1	2 2 1 3 3 2 2 1	18	18	16	20	18
02-06-08	154	$1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 2 \ 2 \ 1 \ 1$	$1\ 2\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 1\ 0$	11	8	8	11	9
03-06-08	155	$0\; 2\; 1\; 1\; 1\; 2\; 2\; 2\\$	01011011	11	6	7	10	9
04-06-08	156	$2\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0$	01101000	7	5	7	4	6
05-06-08	157	00010210	00011000	5	4	4	5	5
06-06-08	158	$1\ 2\ 2\ 3\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 2$	02131121	18	12	16	14	15
07-06-08	159	2 1 3 2 2 3 3 3	1 3 4 3 4 1 3 2	23	31	25	28	27
08-06-08	160	32113312	2 2 2 1 2 2 1 1	19	13	15	17	16
09-06-08	161	$2\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 1$	$1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 0\ 1\ 1$	7	5	6	6	6
10-06-08	162	$1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 0\ 0$	00001000	5	3	3	5	4
11-06-08	163	11111011	01210000	7	6	8	4	6
12-06-08	164	02210111	10001100	8	5	7	6	6
13-06-08	165	$1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 0\ 0\ 2\ 0$	00000000	6	2	4	4	4
14-06-08	166	$1\ 1\ 1\ 0\ 2\ 4\ 4\ 5$	$1\ 0\ 0\ 1\ 2\ 2\ 3\ 5$	32	24	6	50	28
15-06-08	167	4 4 3 3 3 4 2 4	3 4 4 3 3 2 2 3	43	35	46	33	39
16-06-08	168	2 2 2 2 3 3 3 4	2 2 2 4 2 3 3 3	27	28	21	33	27
17-06-08	169	3 2 2 2 2 3 2 2	3 3 3 3 2 2 2 2	20	24	26	18	22
18-06-08	170	33213110	3 3 3 3 2 1 1 0	17	21	27	11	19
19-06-08	171	1 1 1 2 2 3 3 2	0 0 0 2 2 2 2 1	17	10	8	19	13
20-06-08	172	23322222	23322111	20	17	24	13	19
21-06-08	173	11111221	11020010	10	6	8	8	8
22-06-08	174	11011101	00011000	6	4	5	5	5
23-06-08	175	11100010	11021000	5	6	8	4	6
24-06-08	176	10001123	00000112	10	6	3	12	8
25-06-08	177	4 2 2 0 2 3 4 3	2 2 2 1 1 2 2 1	29	13	19	23	21
26-06-08	178	43233331	3 3 3 5 3 2 2 1	30	34	42	22	32
27-06-08	179	32122321	32132211	18	17	20	15	18
28-06-08	180	11112321	1 1 0 2 2 2 2 0	13	11	8	15	12
29-06-08	181	22112323	12131222	18	15	14	19	16
30-06-08	182	$1\ 1\ 1\ 1\ 2\ 2\ 0$	0 1 1 0 1 1 2 0 Est	10	7 Est	6 Est	11 Est	9 Est
Mo	onthly me	an value =	14.4 Est					

The aa Index

(a) The northern daily mean value, Aa_n

(b) The southern daily mean value, Aa_s

(c) The mean value of aa for the interval 00-12 UT

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

Notes

i. The values are rounded to the nearest integer.

ii. The units of the aa index are nT.

iii. The values shown here are provisional. The definitive values are computed and published by the International Service for Geomagnetic Indices, Paris

iv. Est. indicates values that are not definitive.

HARTLAND RAPID VARIATIONS

SIs and SSCs

Date	Time (UT)	Туре	Quality	H (nT)	D (min)	Z (nT)
14-06-08	12 22	SSC*	В	-3.9	-0.25	-1.7
24-06-08	20 09	SSC*	А	15.5	-0.33	2.3

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		H (nT)	D (min)	Z (nT)
	Start	Maximum	End			
			NONE			

Note:

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