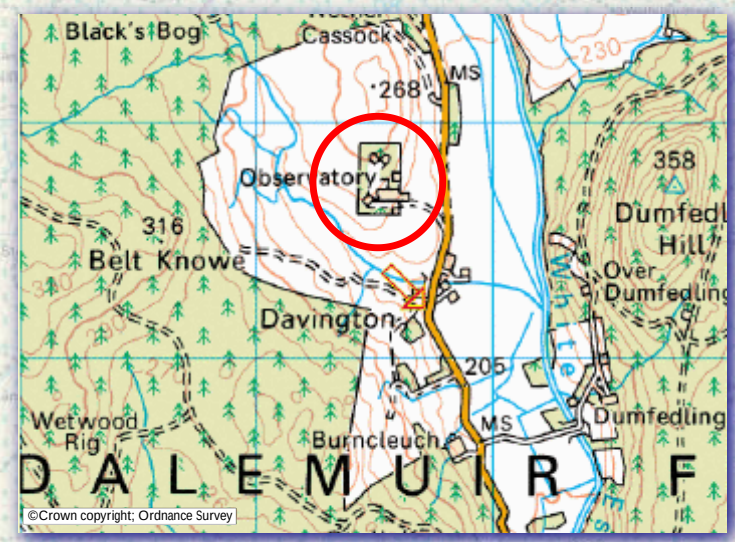
BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

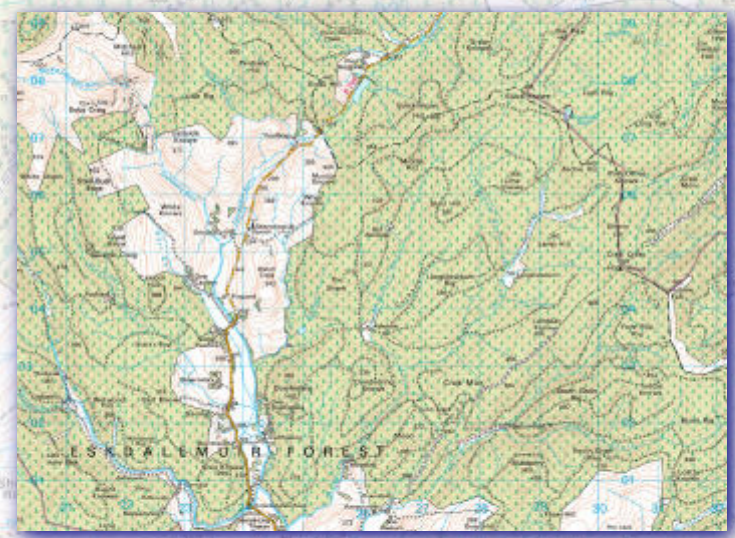
Eskdalemuir Observatory

Monthly Magnetic Bulletin

August 2011

II/08/ES





British Geological Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

ESKDALEMUIR OBSERVATORY MAGNETIC DATA

1. Introduction

Eskdalemuir observatory is one of three geomagnetic observatories in the UK operated and maintained by the British Geological Survey (BGS).

This bulletin is published to provide rapid access to the provisional geomagnetic observatory results. The information is freely available for personal, academic, educational and non-commercial research or use. Magnetic observatory data are presented as a series of plots of one-minute, hourly and daily values, followed by tabulations of monthly values, reports of rapid variations and geomagnetic activity indices. 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:

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Internet: www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk

2. Position

The observatory is situated on a rising shoulder of open moorland in the upper part of the valley of the White Esk River in the Southern Uplands of Scotland. The observatory co-ordinates are:

Geographic:	*55.317 °N*	*356.800 °E*
Geomagnetic:	*57.662 °N*	*83.747 °E*
Height above mean sea level:	*245 m*	

The geomagnetic co-ordinates are approximations, calculated using the 11th generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) at epoch 2011.5. On-line access to models (including IGRF), charts and navigational data are available at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/models_compass/home

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 data acquisition software, running on QNX operated computers, controls the data logging and the 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 (PPM) 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 and the total field intensity samples are filtered using a 7-point cosine filter. The one-minute values provide input for various data products, available on-line at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/home

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 are also 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. Observatory Results

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 *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 to a page and show the one-minute 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 one-minute 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 and/or coronal holes on the Sun may recur after 27 days: the same is true for geomagnetically quiet intervals. Plotting the data in this way highlights this recurrence. Diurnal variations are also clear in these plots and the amplitude changes throughout the year highlight the seasonal changes. Longer term secular variation is also illustrated.

Full lists of the UK observatory hourly mean values from 1983 to the present day are available at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/data/obs_data/hourly_means

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. It is anticipated that these provisional values will not be altered by more than a few nT or tenths of arcminutes before being made definitive at the end of the year.

4.6 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 dayside 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. These X-rays cause increased ionisation in the ionosphere, which leads to absorption of short-wave radio signals. A solar flare effect (*sfe*), or "crochet", may be observed on a magnetogram during geomagnetically quiet times. It is a relatively short-term change (tens of minutes) to the normal diurnal variation and can vary in size (tens of nT) depending on local time (LT), geomagnetic latitude and solar zenith angle.

4.7 Local 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 maximum range in *H* or *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 lower bounds (in nT) for the classification of each period at Eskdalemuir are:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	8	15	30	60	105	180	300	500	750

The *K* index retains the LT and seasonal dependence of activity associated with the position of the observatory. The 3-hourly *K* indices for the month are tabulated and also plotted as a histogram. All UK observatory *K* indices are available at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/data/magnetic_indices/k_indices

4.8 Global geomagnetic activity indices

The aa index. A number of 3-hour geomagnetic indices are computed by combining *K* indices 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 two 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 3-hourly *aa* indices are tabulated along with the daily mean value of *aa* (denoted *Aa*), the mean values of *aa* for the intervals 00-12UT (Aa_{am}) and 12-24UT (Aa_{pm}) and the monthly mean value. The 3-hourly *aa* indices for the month are also plotted as a histogram.

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 bulletin are available at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/data/magnetic_indices/aaindex as well as the full data set from 1868.

Definitive *aa* are published by the International Service for Geomagnetic Indices, LATMOS, 4 Avenue de Neptune, F-94107 Saint Maur Cedex, France.

5. Conditions of Use

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Reproduction of any part of this bulletin should be accompanied by the statement: 'Reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC. All rights Reserved'. Publications making use of the data should include an acknowledgment statement of the form: 'The results presented in this paper rely on the data collected at Eskdalemuir magnetic observatory, operated by the British Geological Survey.'

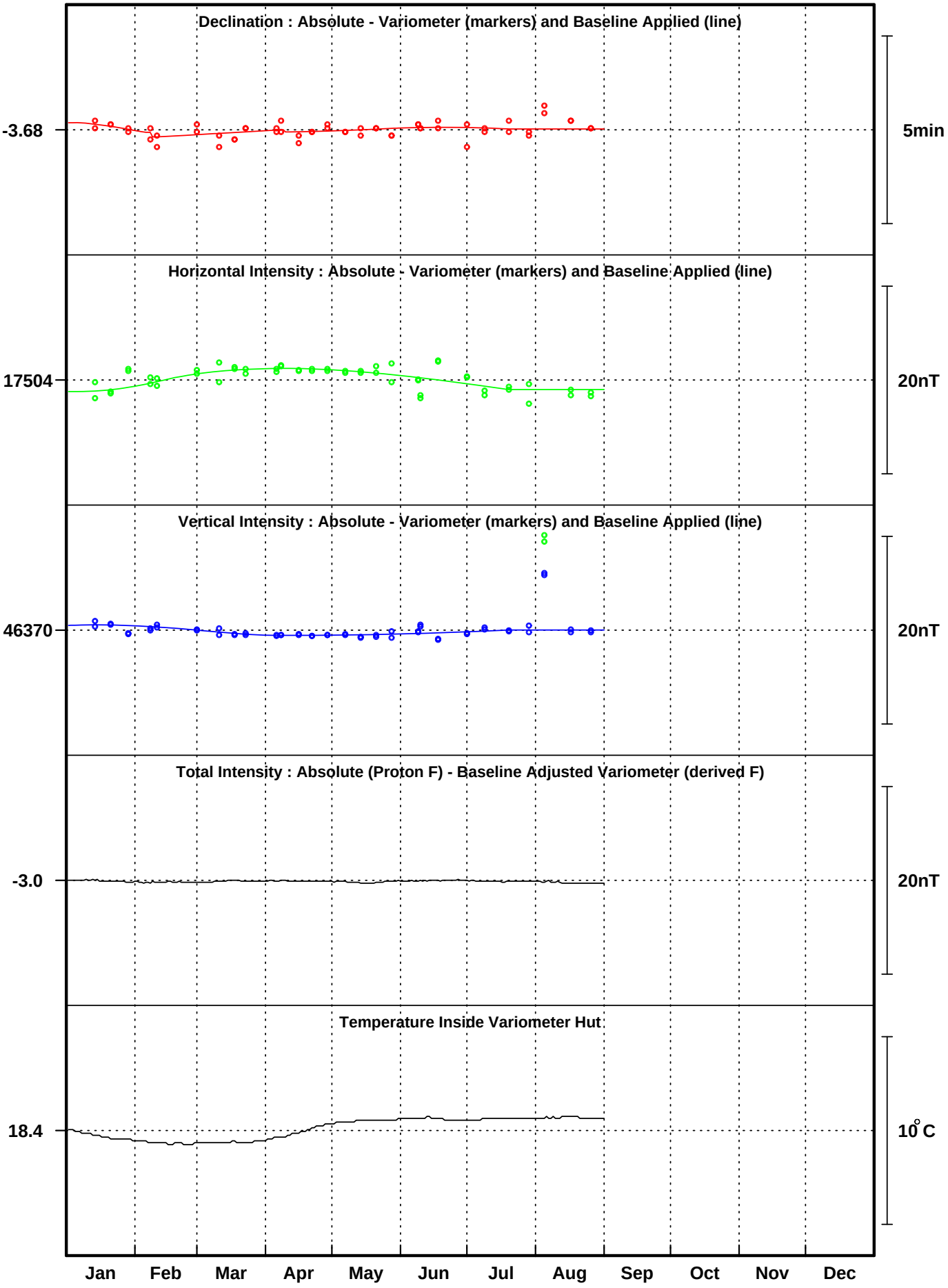
Commercial users can contact the geomagnetism team for information on the range of applications and services offered. Full contact details are available at www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/contactus/staff

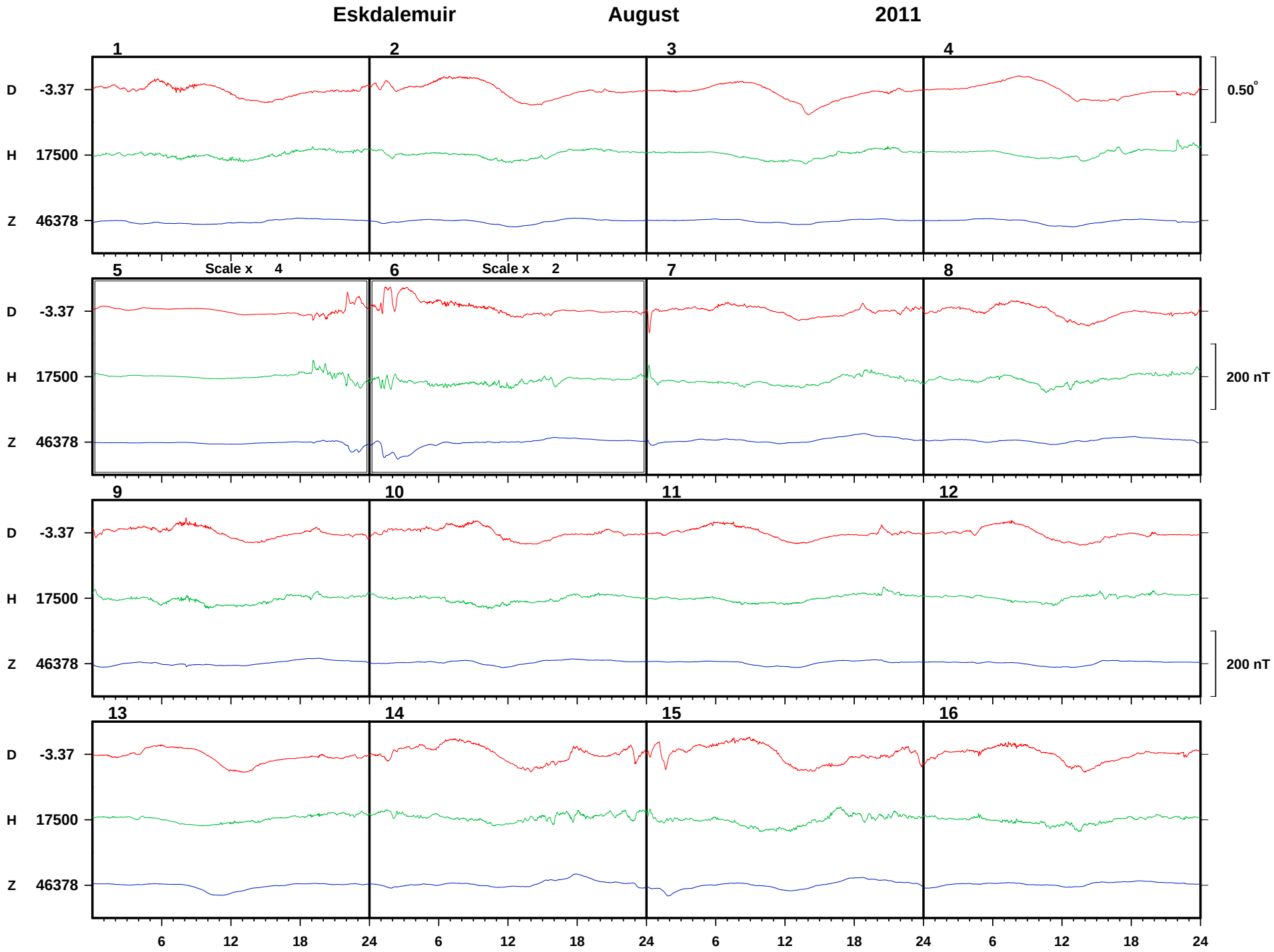
ESKDALEMUIR OBSERVATORY

ABSOLUTE OBSERVATIONS

		Declination			Inclination		Total Field		Horizontal Intensity		Vertical Intensity		
Date	**Day Number**	**Time (UT)**	**Absolute (º)**	**Baseline (º)**	**Time (UT)**	**Absolute (º)**	**Site difference (nT)**	**Absolute corrected (nT)**	**Absolute (nT)**	**Baseline (nT)**	**Absolute (nT)**	**Baseline (nT)**	**Observer**
04-Aug-11	216	15:36	-3.4444	-3.6683	15:46	69.3329	3.2	49570.2	17495.2	17487.9	46380.2	46375.5	CP
04-Aug-11	216	15:53	-3.4424	-3.6650	16:02	69.3298	3.2	49573.2	17498.8	17487.2	46382.0	46375.7	CP
16-Aug-11	228	13:05	-3.4549	-3.6717	13:20	69.3598	3.2	49554.8	17468.0	17503.4	46373.9	46369.4	AS
16-Aug-11	228	13:31	-3.4583	-3.6717	13:42	69.3521	3.2	49558.2	17475.4	17502.8	46374.8	46369.7	AS
25-Aug-11	237	09:40	-3.3134	-3.6750	09:51	69.3300	3.2	49556.2	17492.6	17503.1	46366.2	46369.4	CP
25-Aug-11	237	09:59	-3.3357	-3.6750	10:10	69.3383	3.2	49553.7	17485.0	17502.7	46366.4	46369.6	CP

Eskdalemuir 2011




Eskdalemuir
August
2011
1
2
3
4
D -3.37
H 17500
Z 46378
0.50°
5
Scale x 4
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Scale x 2
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11
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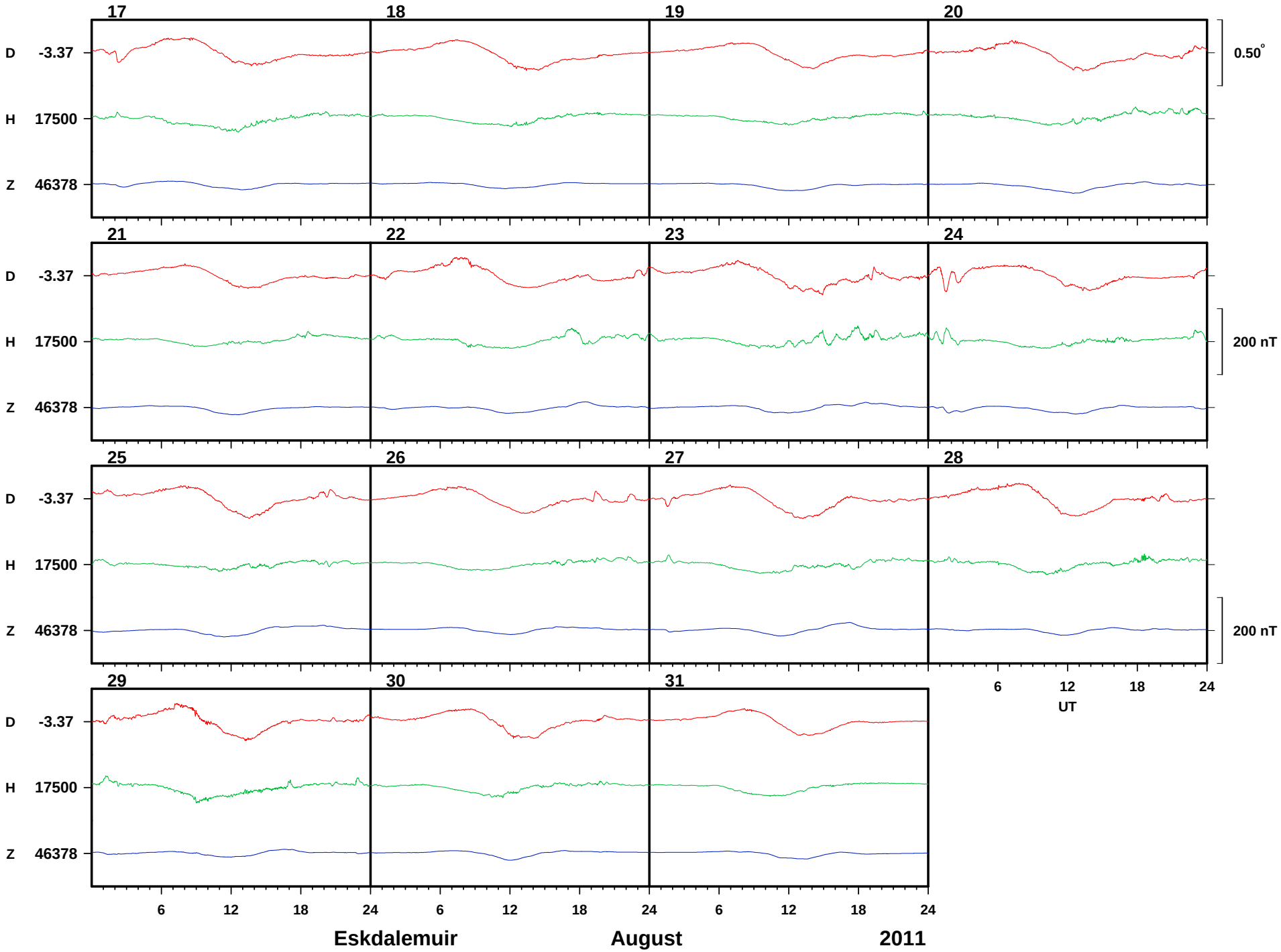
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25
26
27
28
29
30
31
D -3.37
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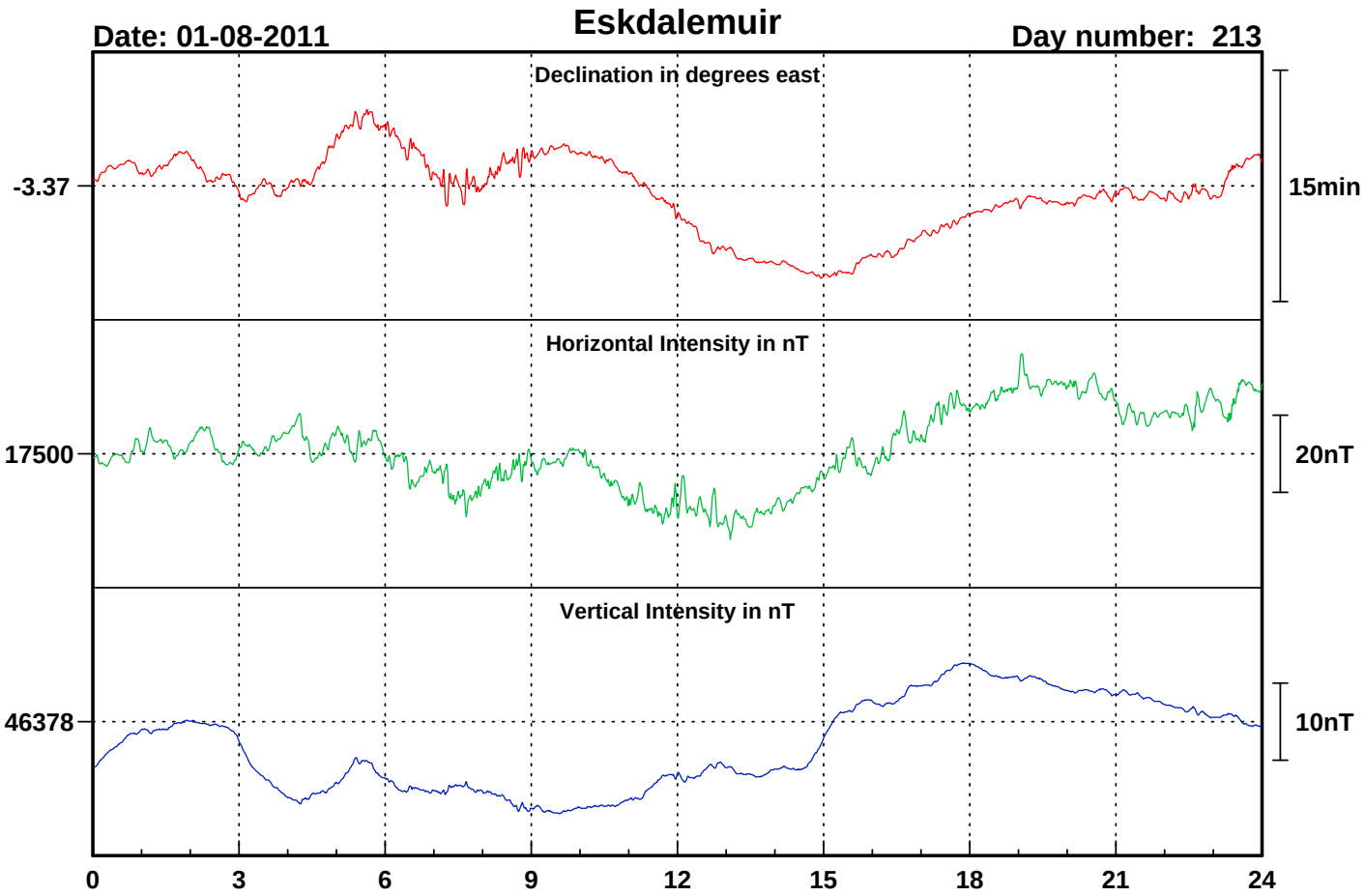
Z 46378
0.50°
200 nT
200 nT
6
12
18
24
UT
Eskdalemuir
August
2011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15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
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20nT
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0
3
6
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12
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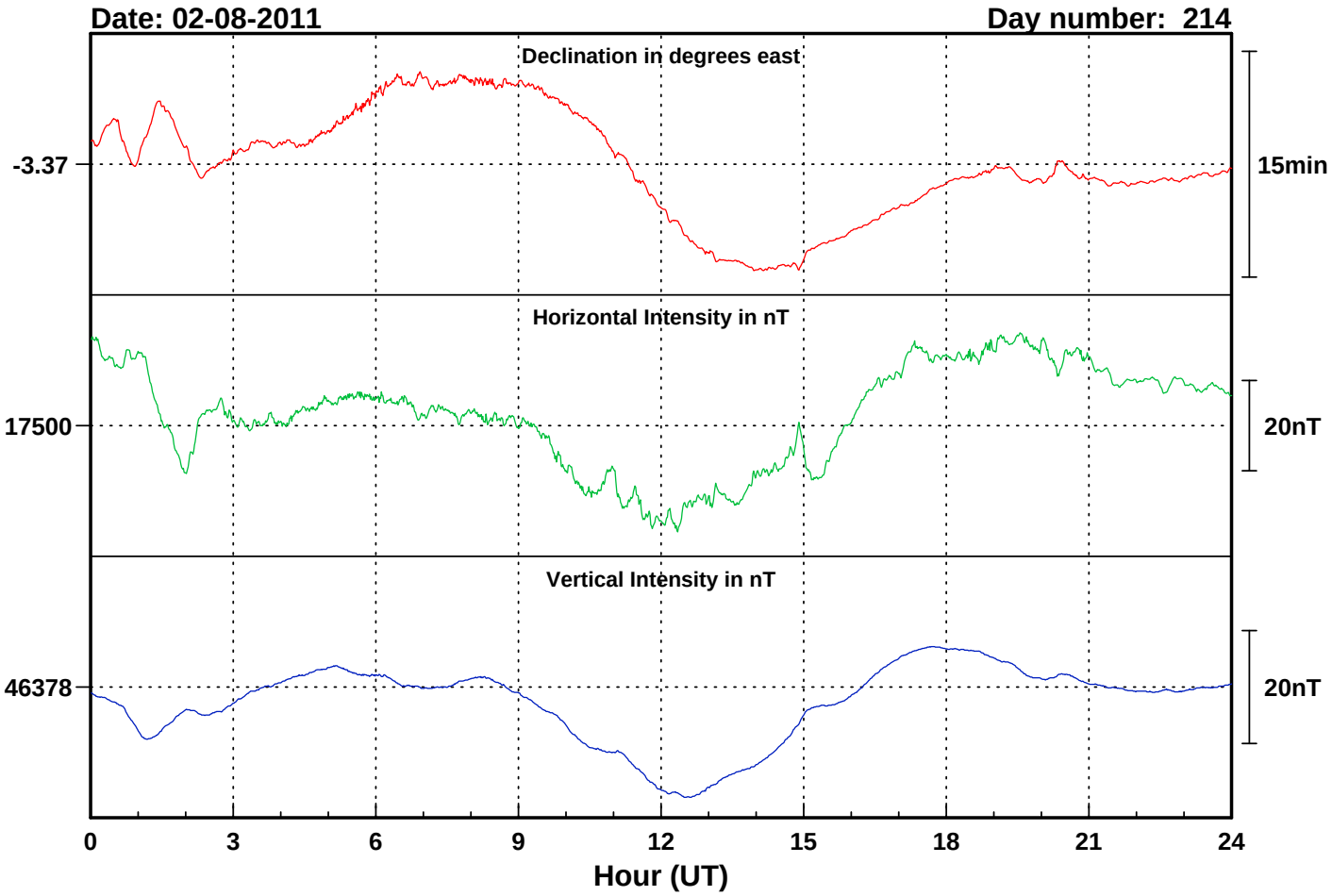
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17500
20nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
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20nT
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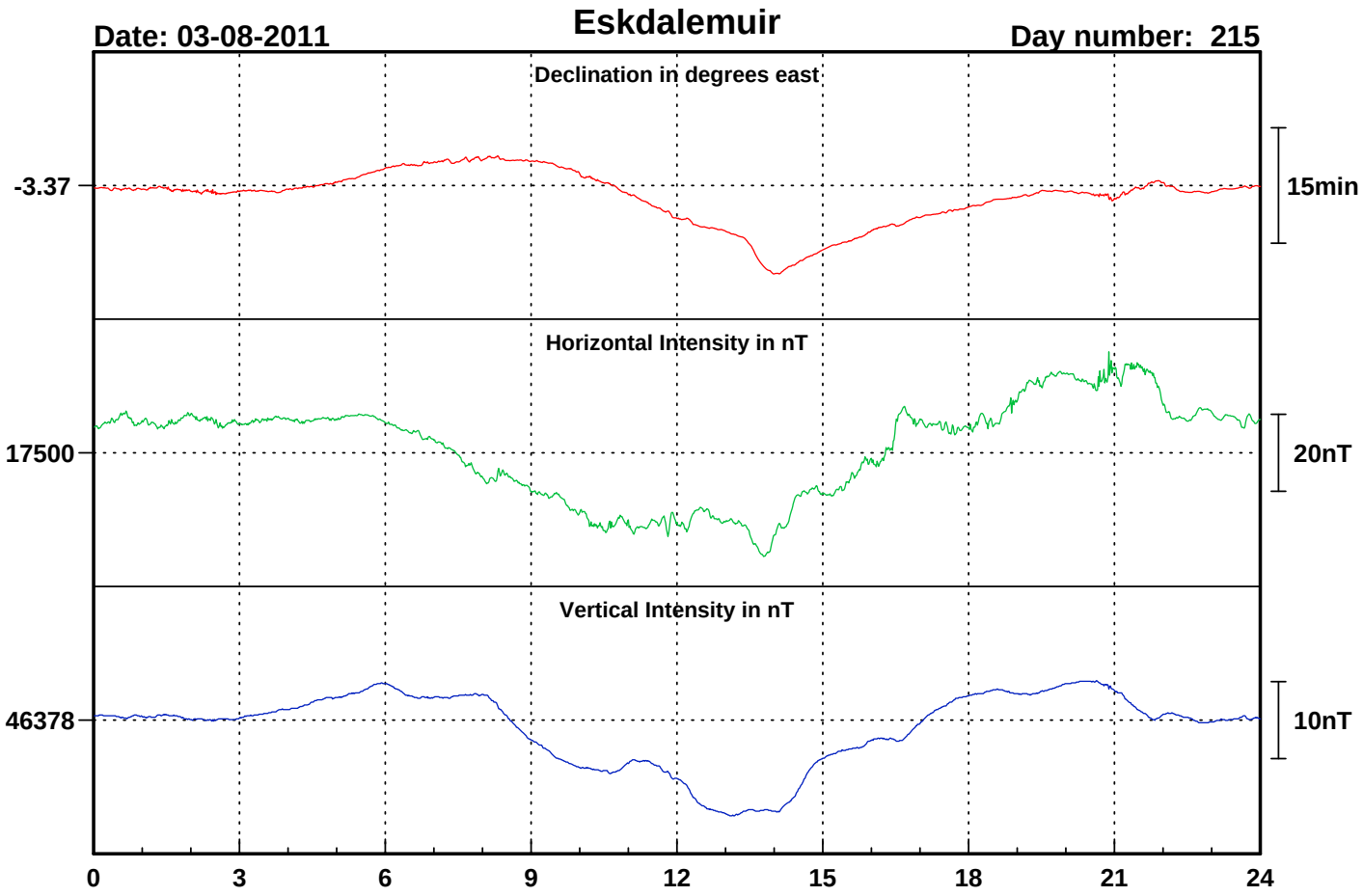
24
Hour (UT)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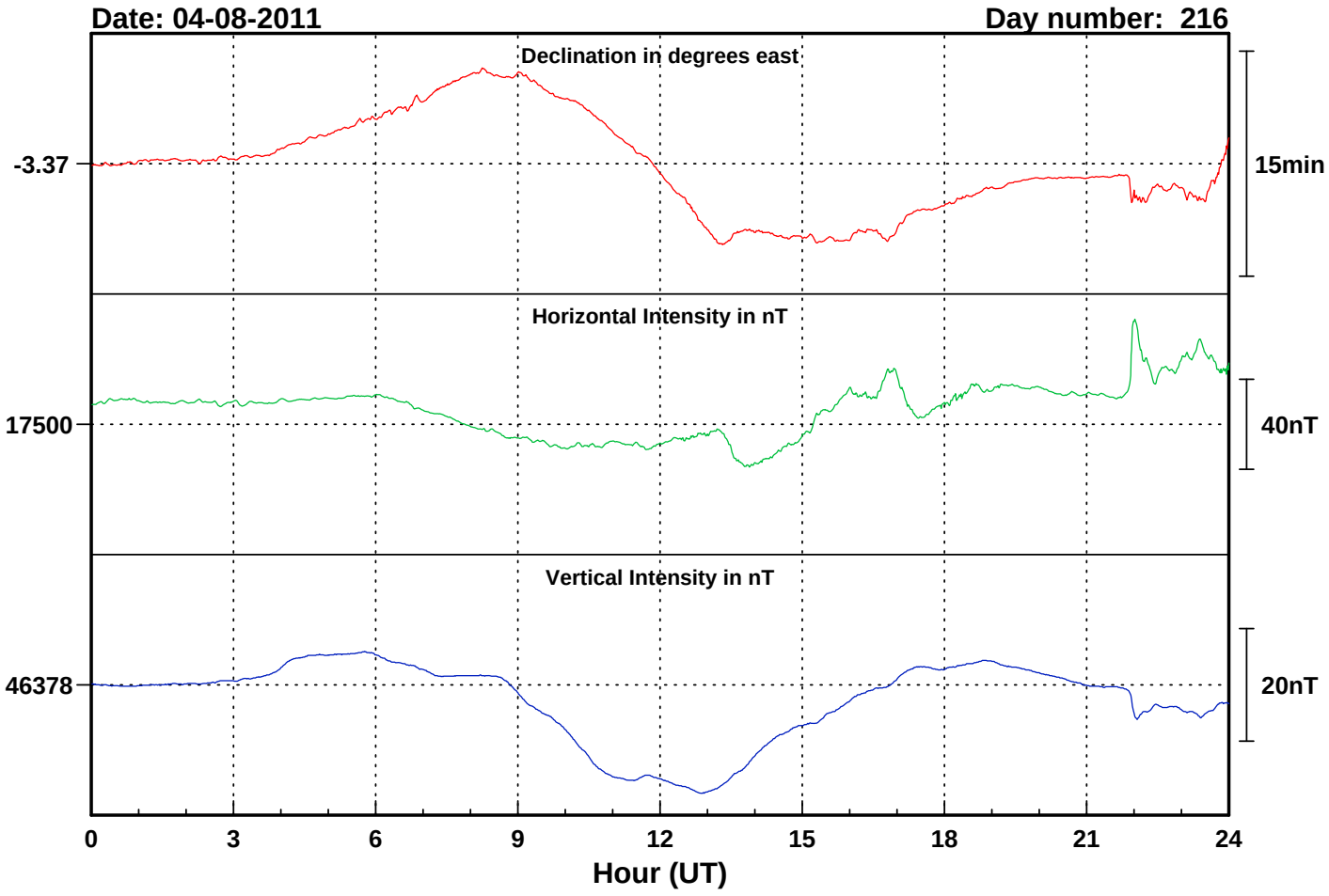
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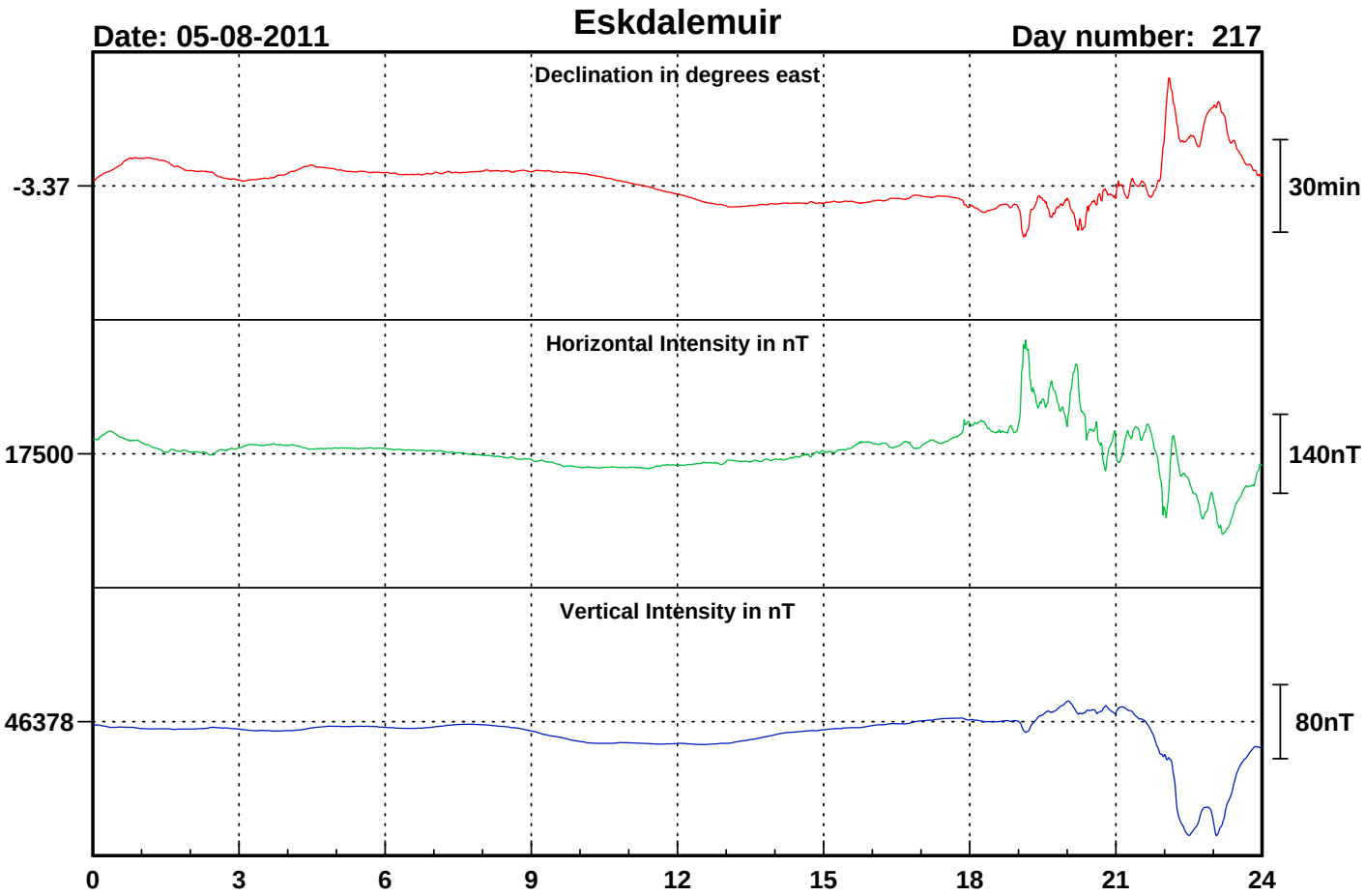
Hour (UT)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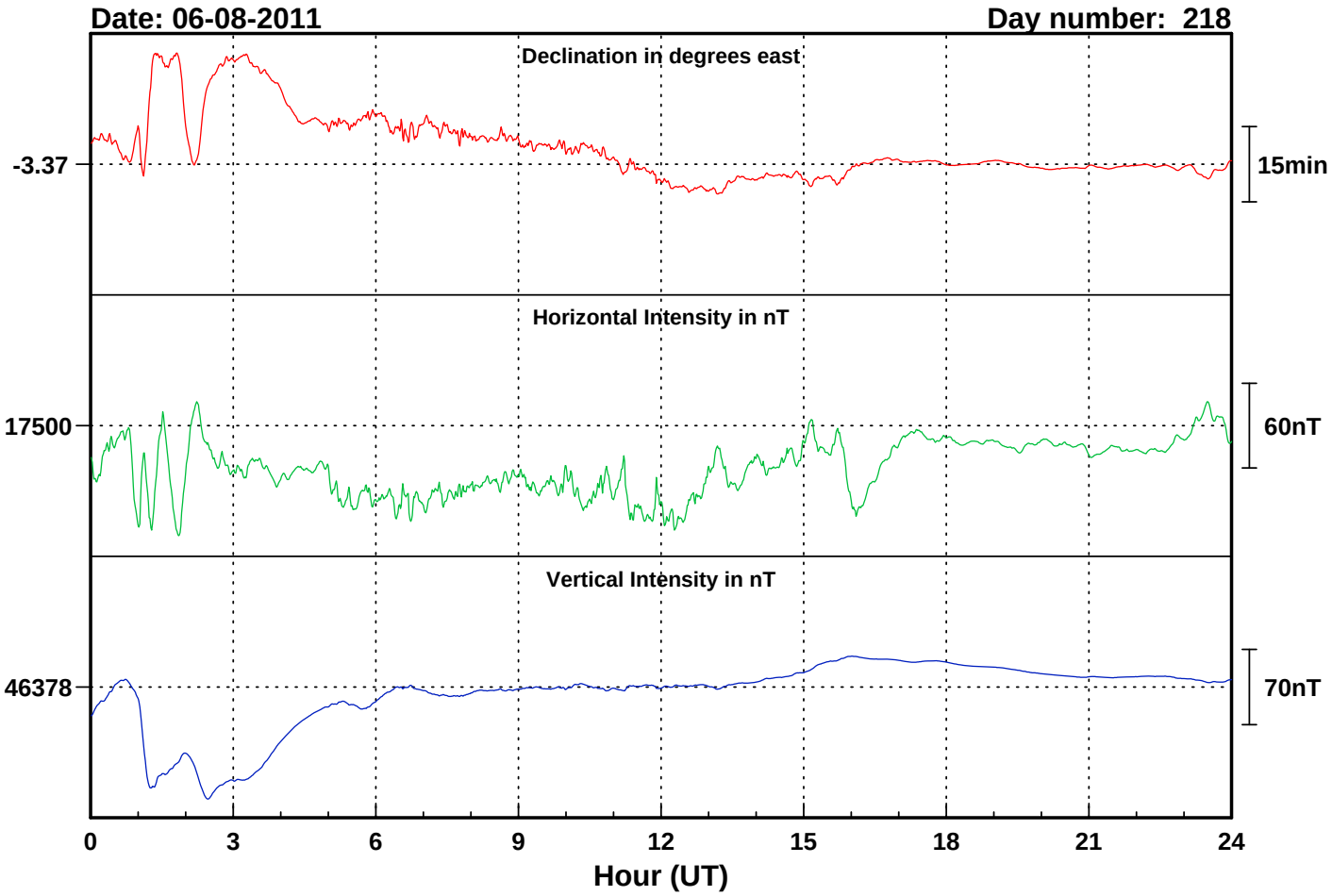
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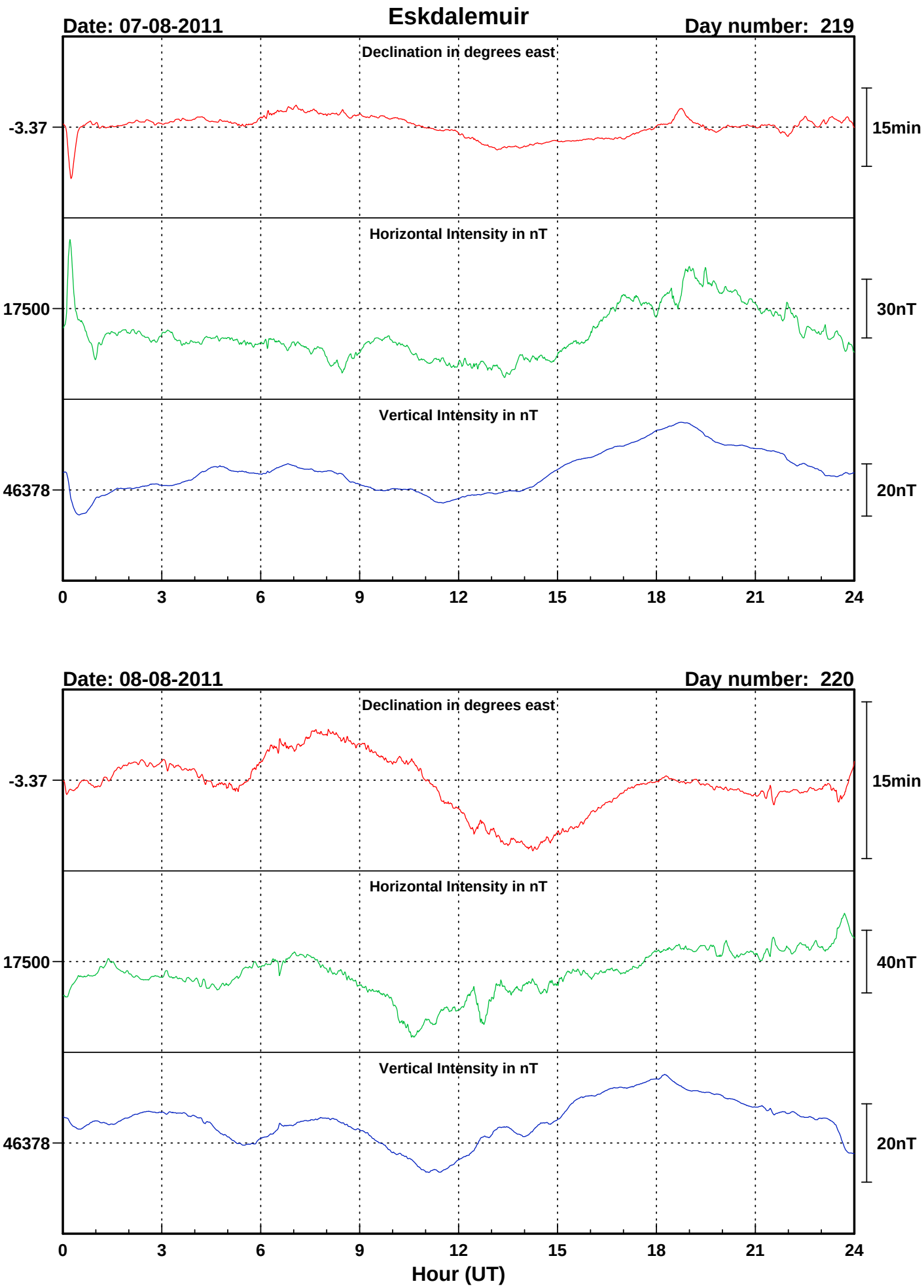
Hour (UT)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46378
20nT
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3
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Date: 08-08-2011
Day number: 220
Declination in degrees east
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15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
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Vertical Intensity in nT
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20nT
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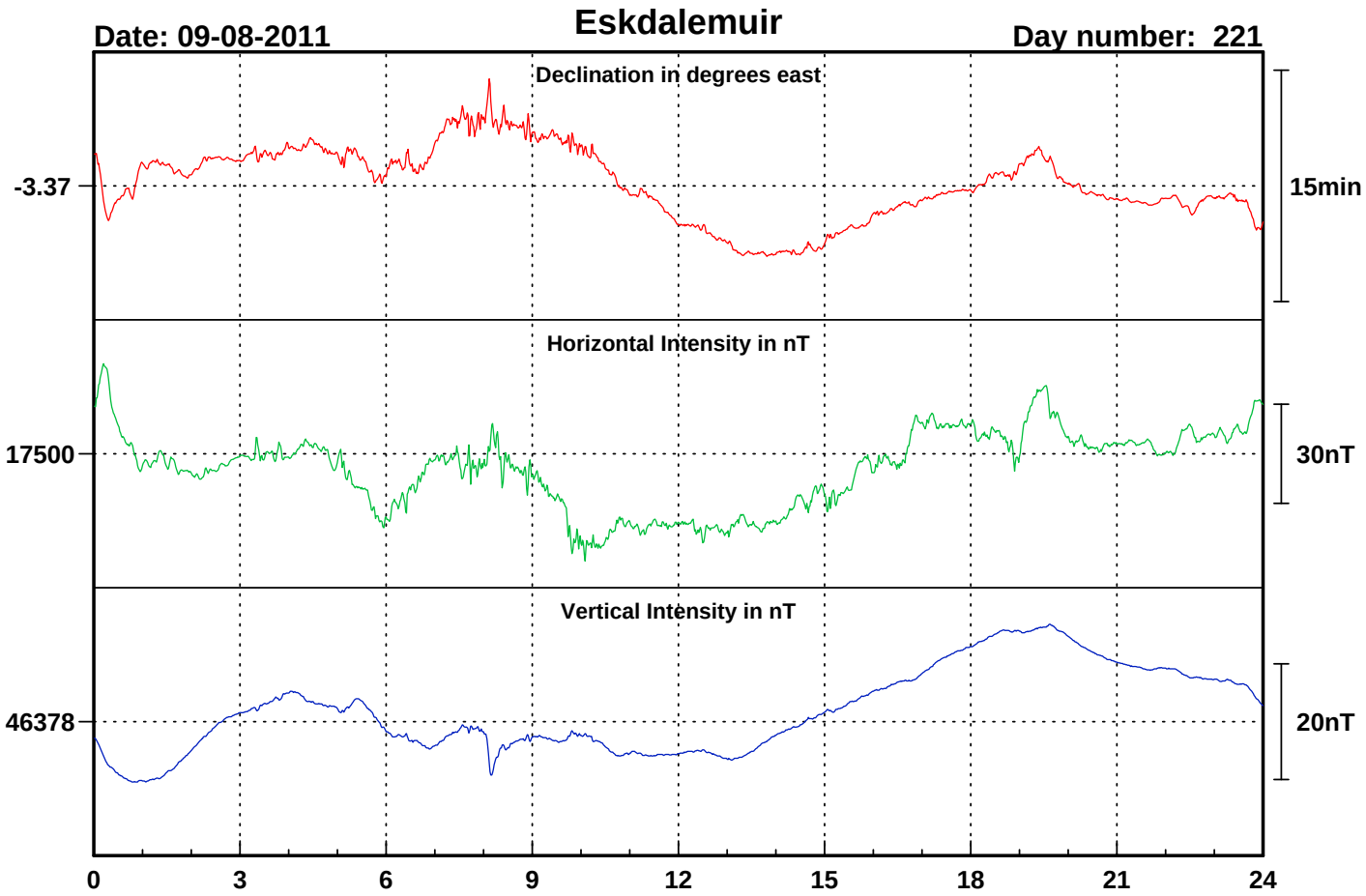
Hour (UT)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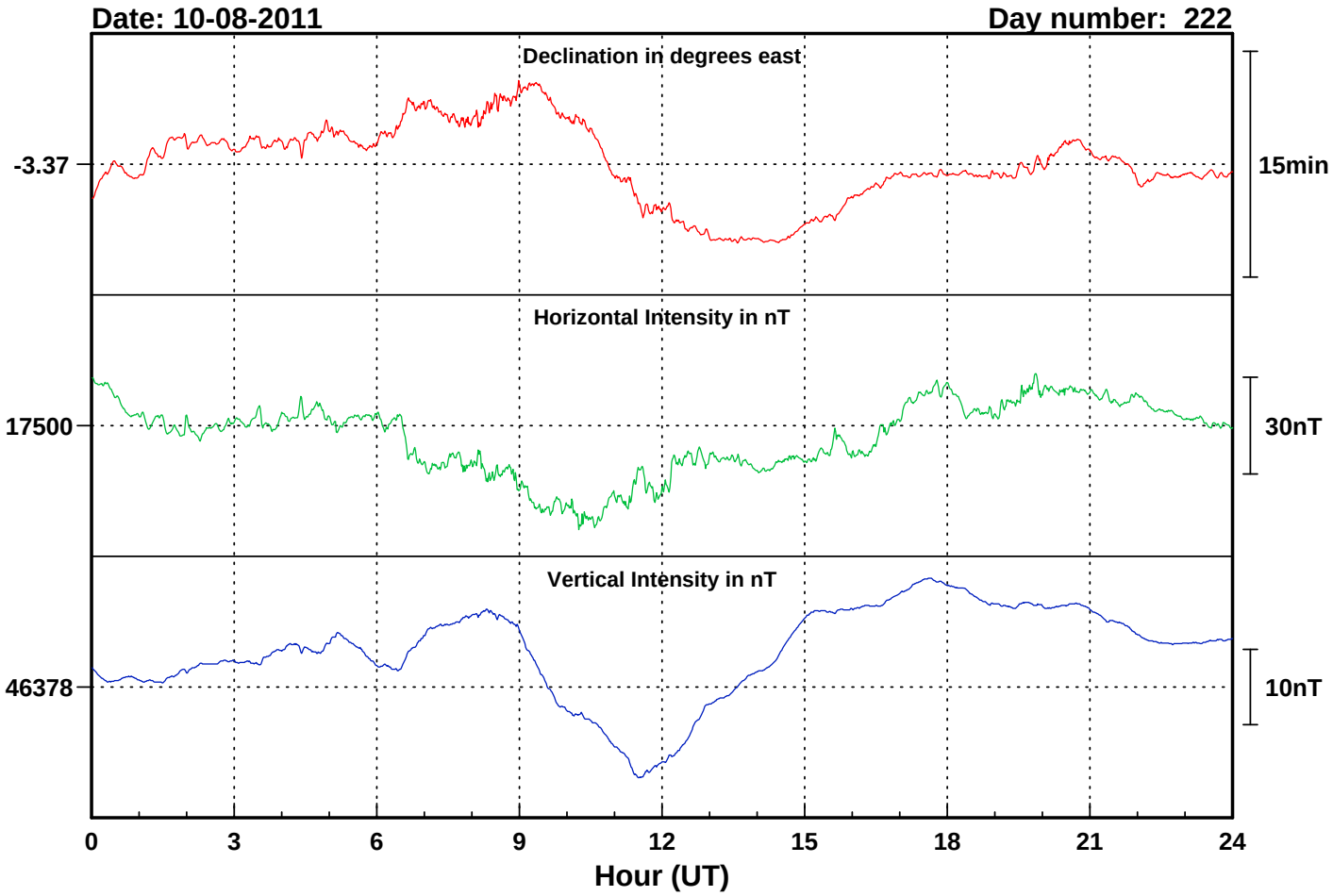
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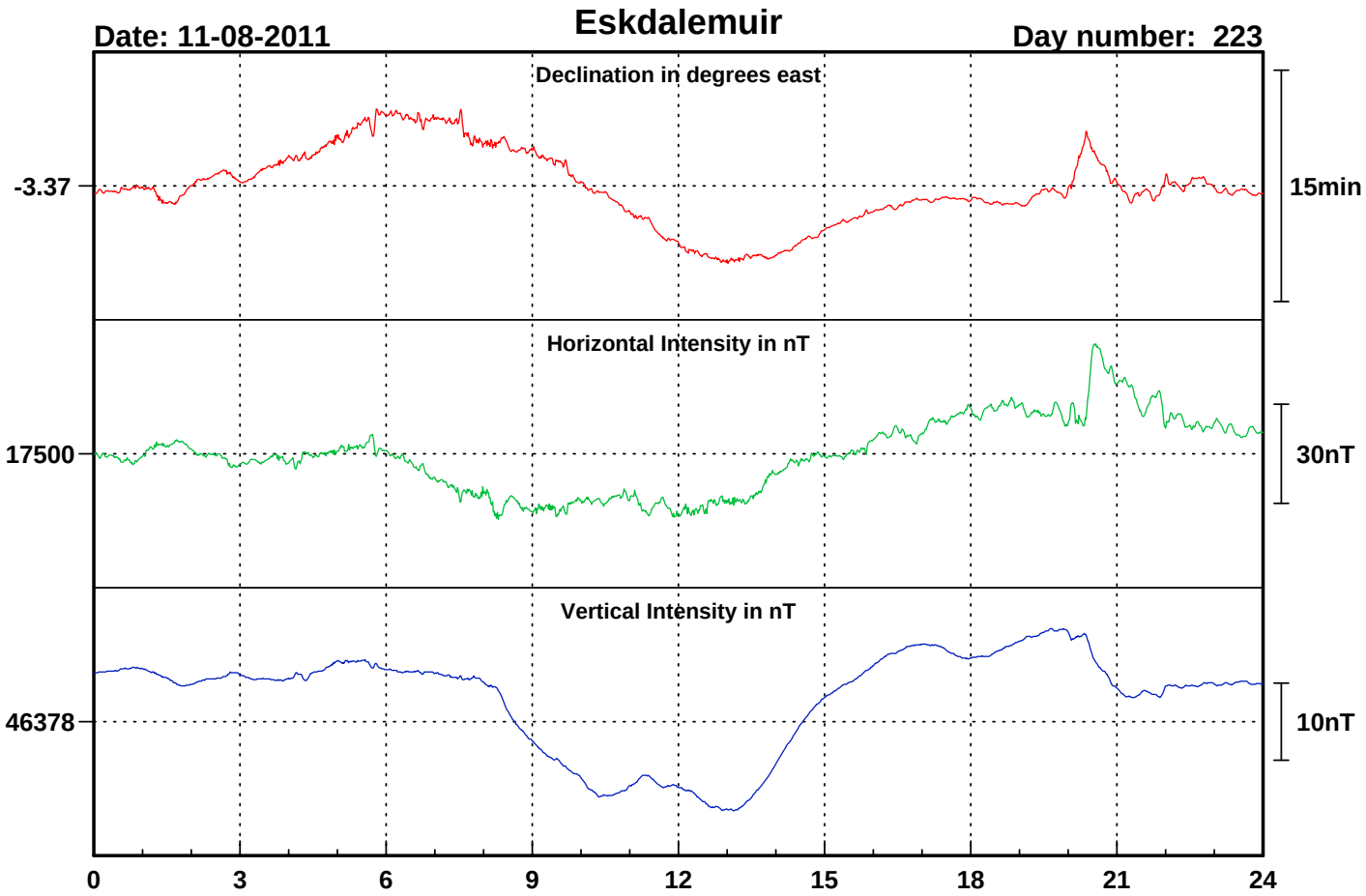
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30nT
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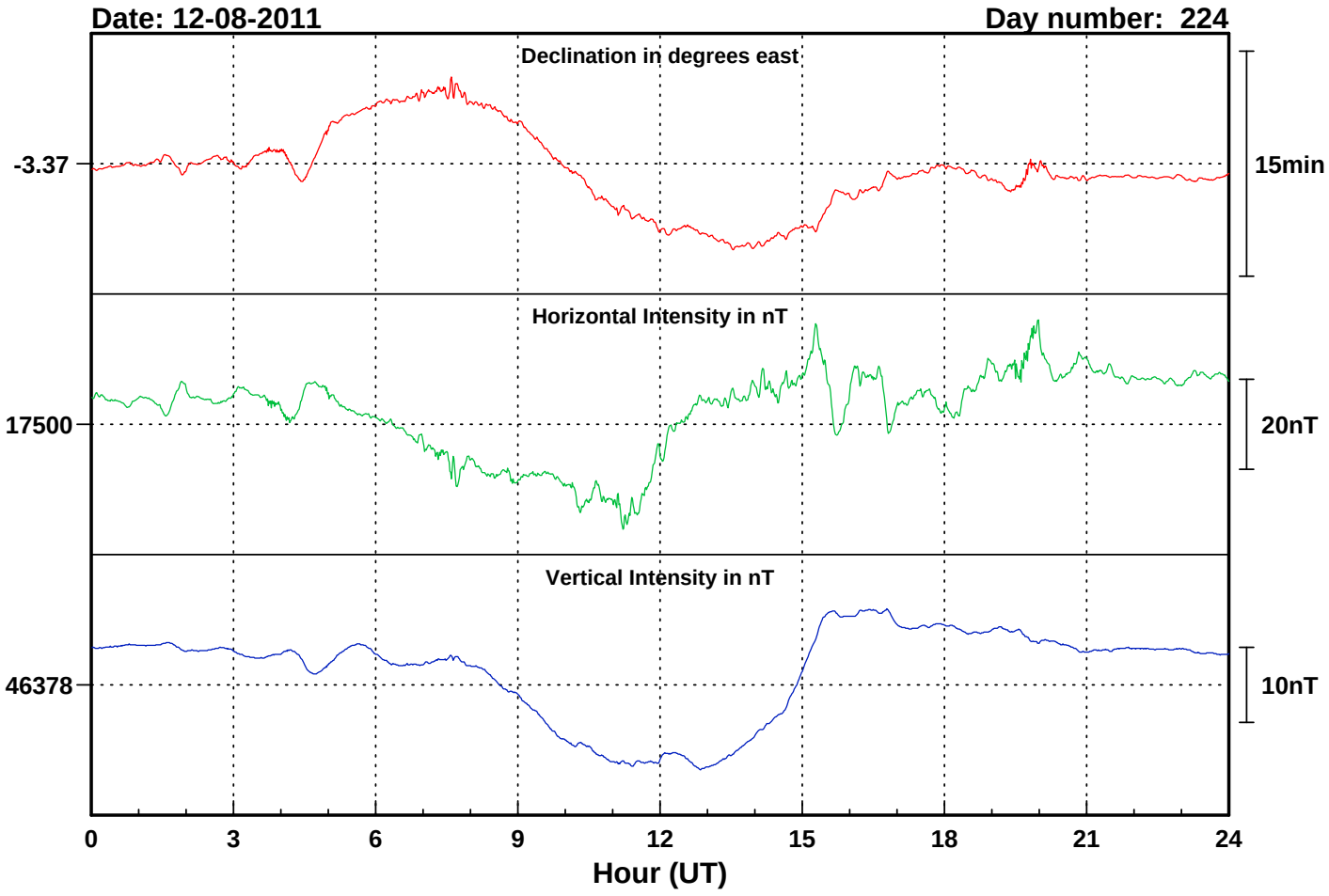
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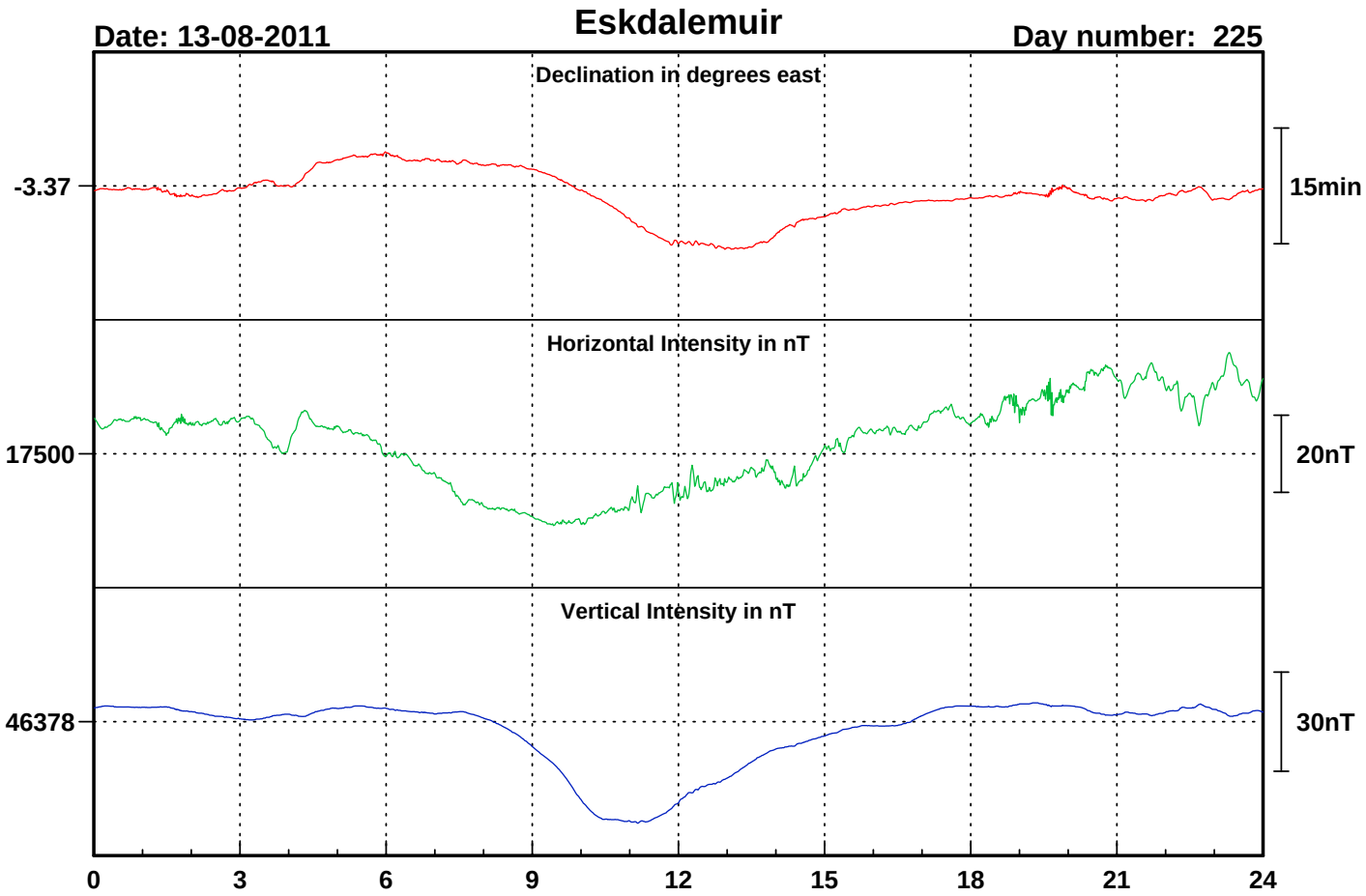
Eskdalemuir
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15min
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20nT
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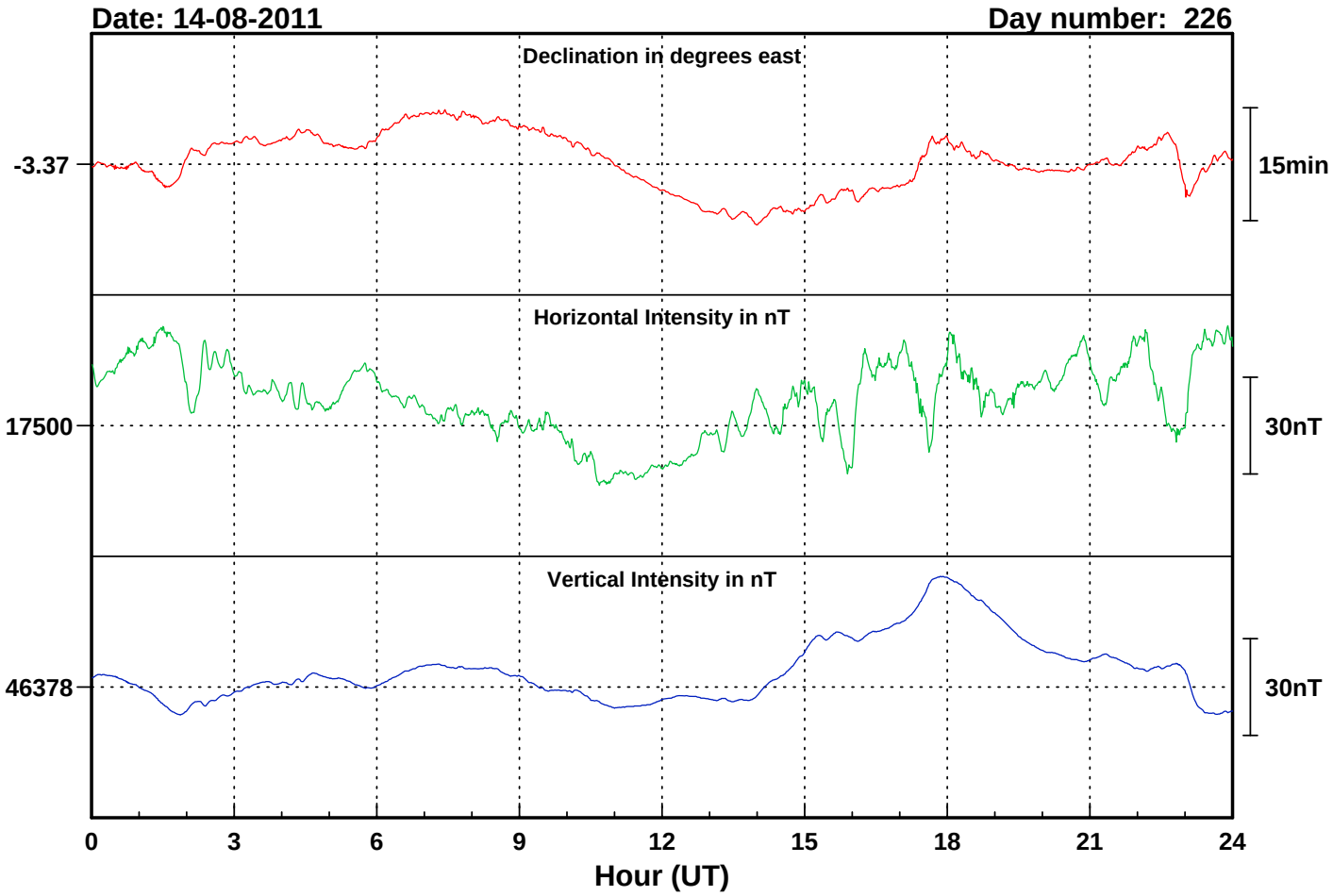
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Horizontal Intensity in nT
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30nT
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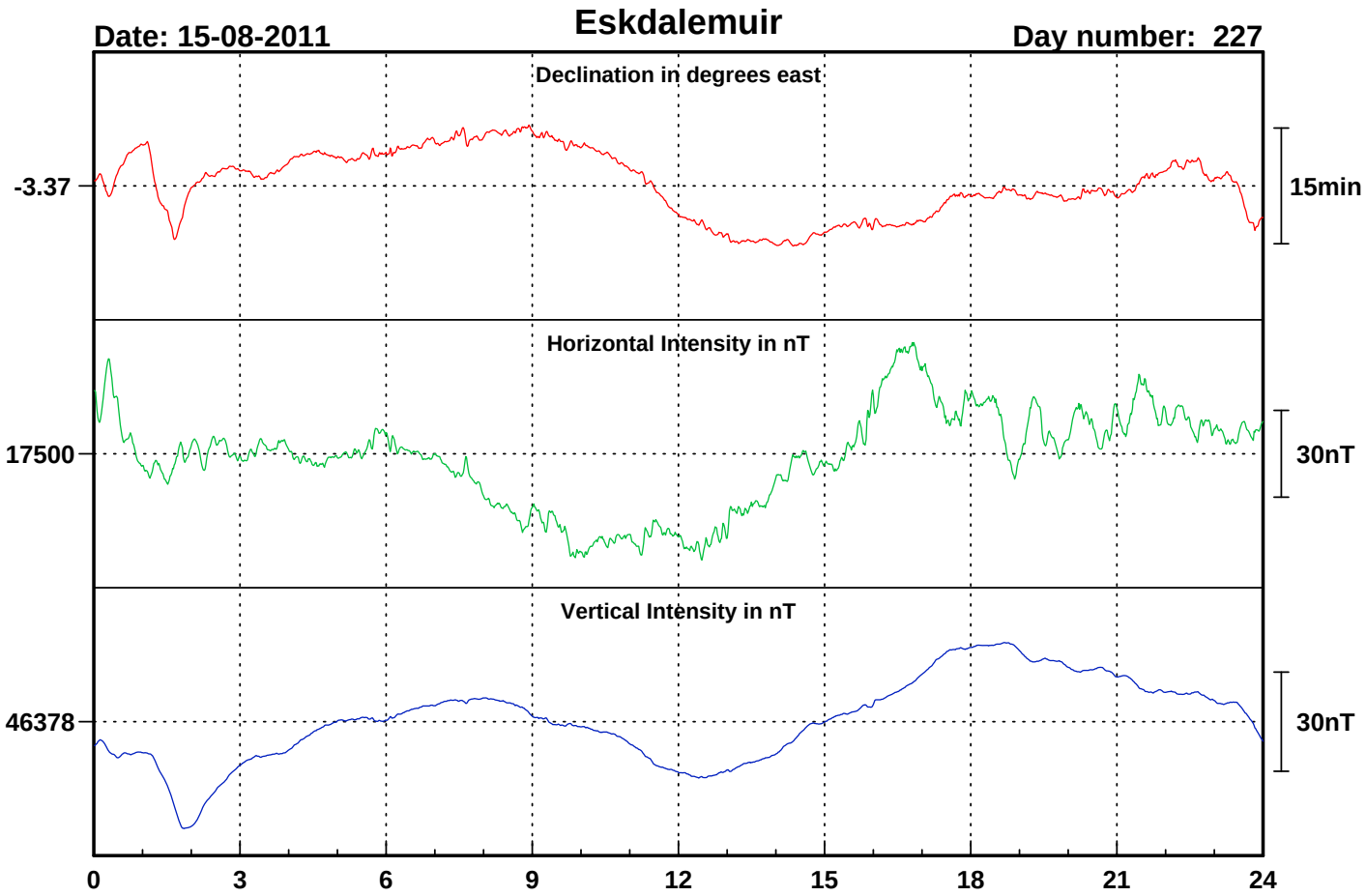
Hour (UT)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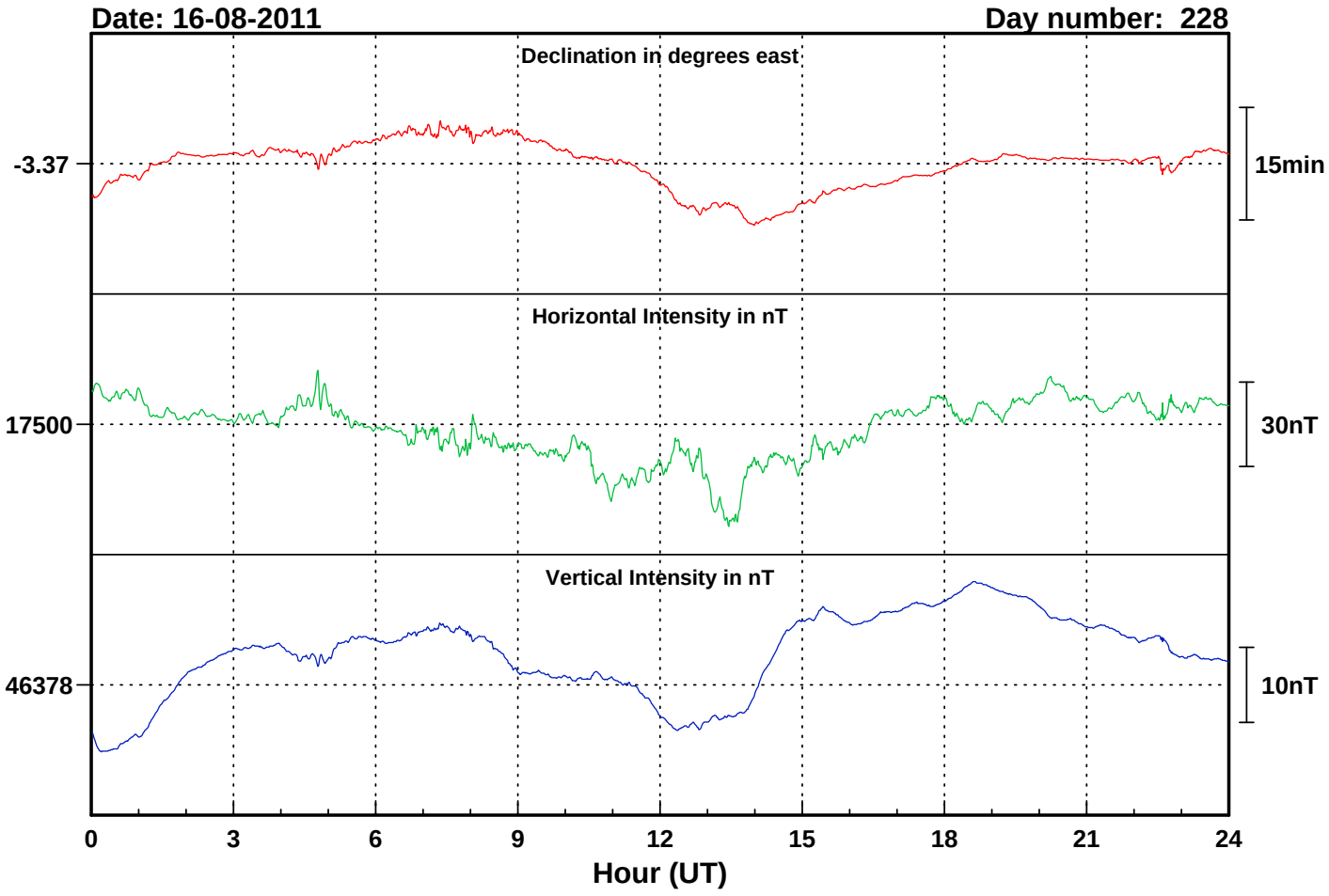
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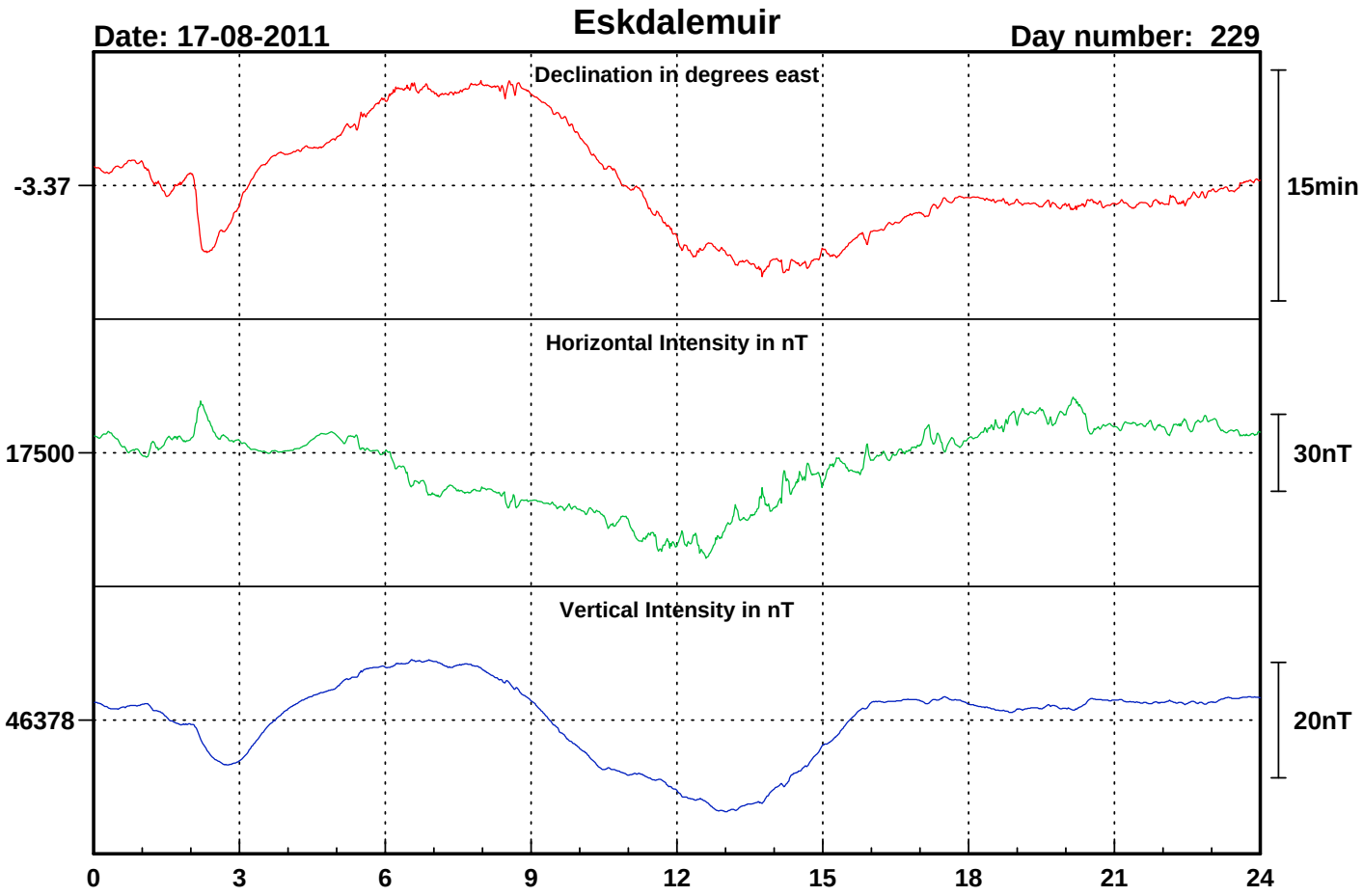
Hour (UT)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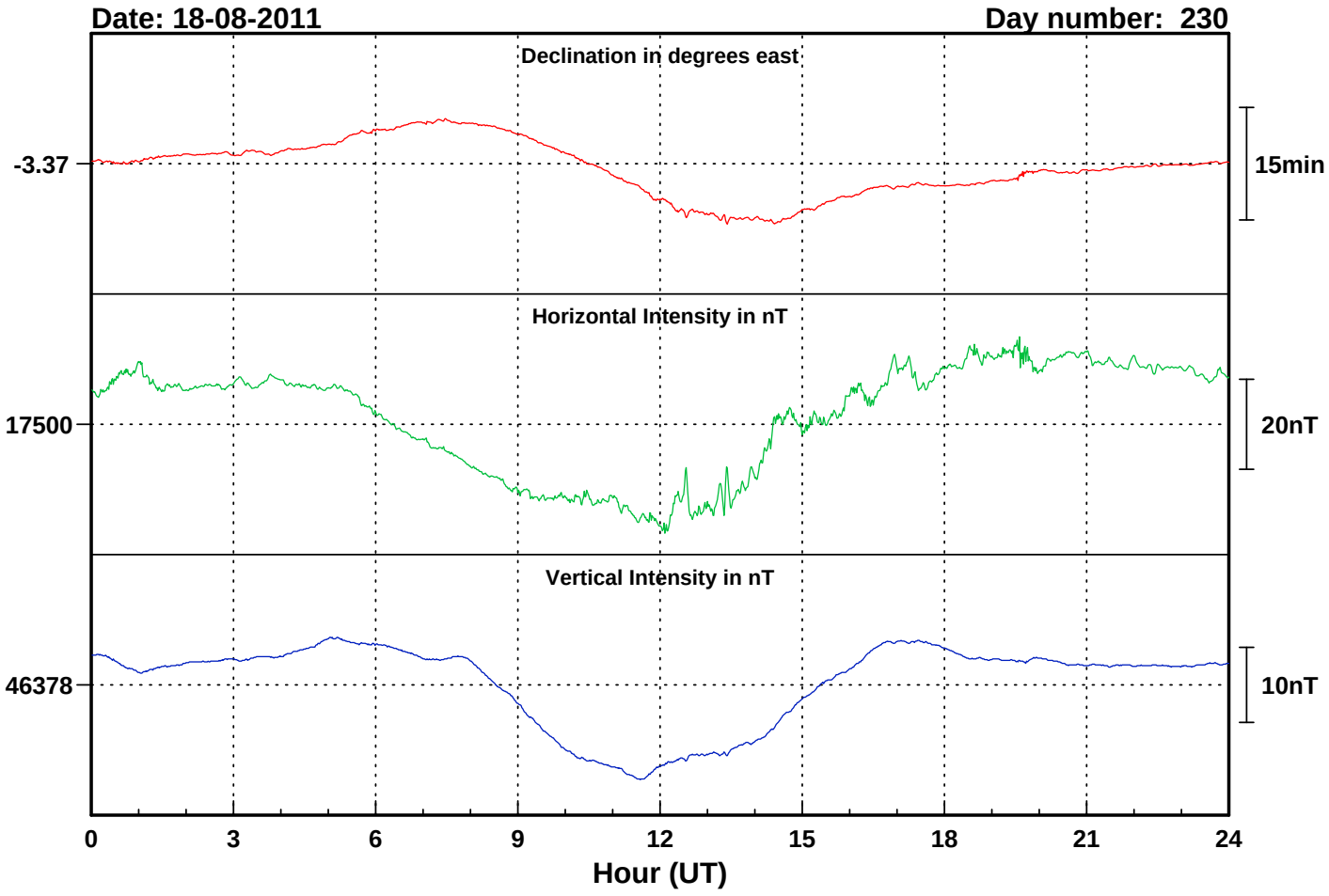
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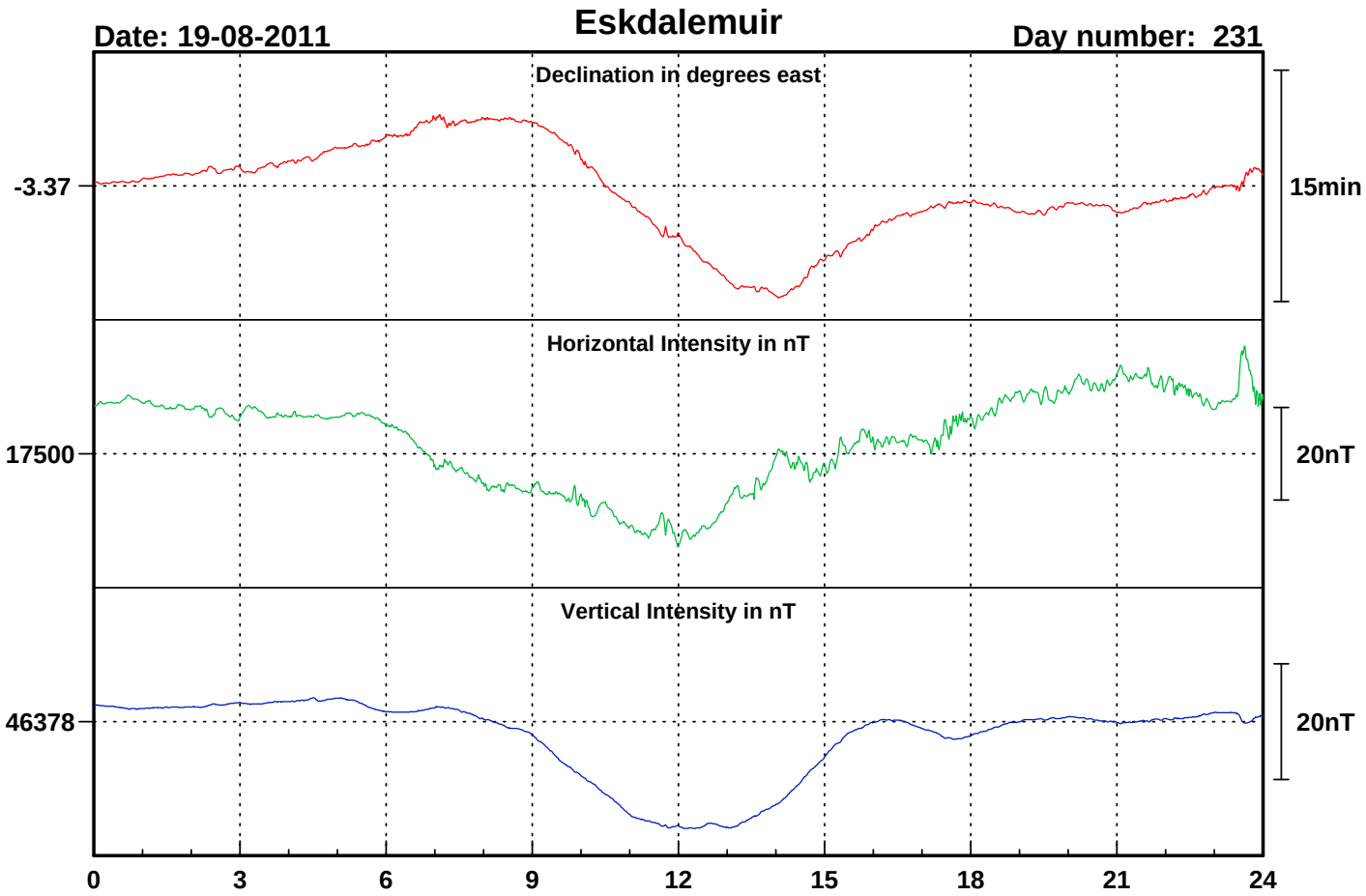
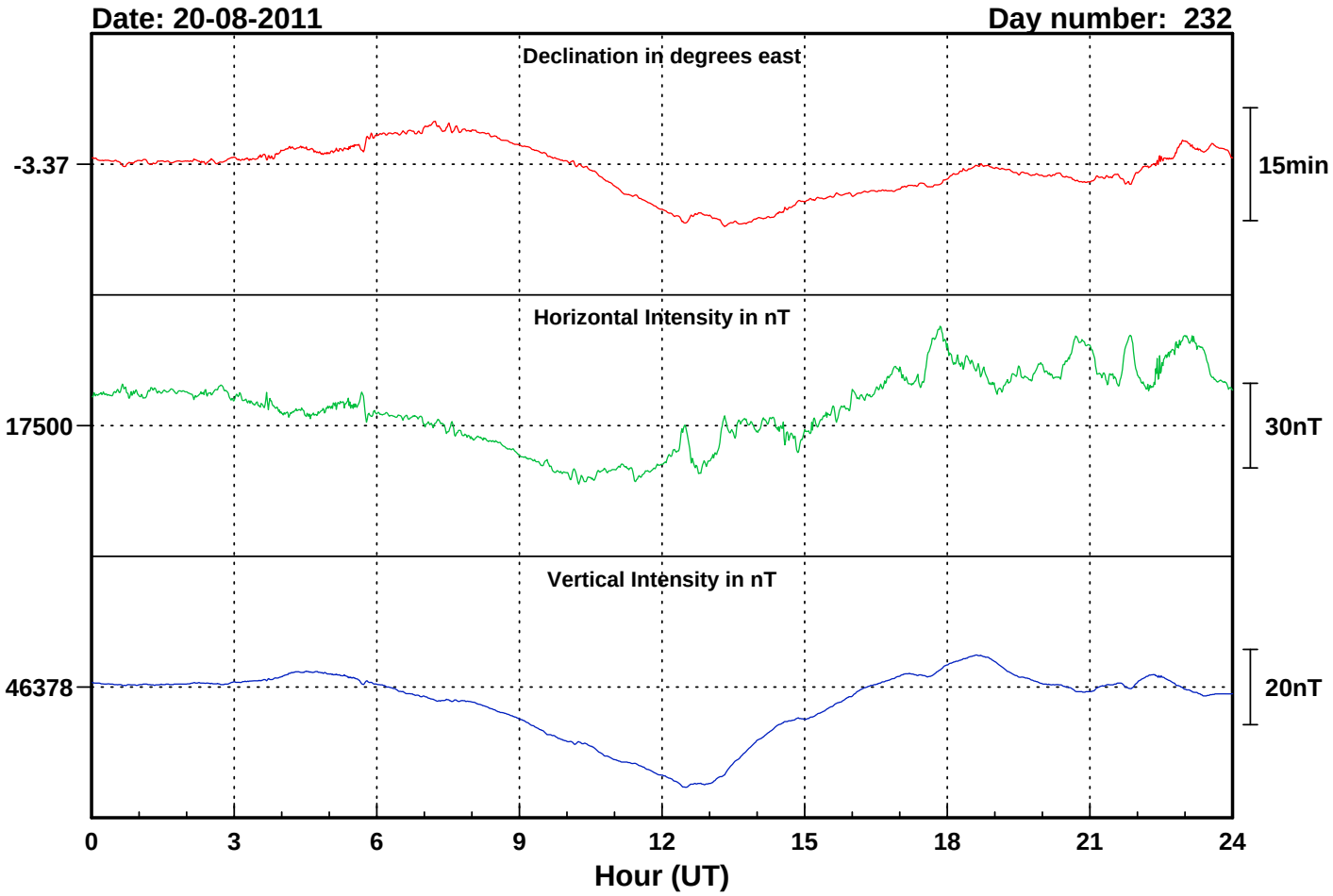
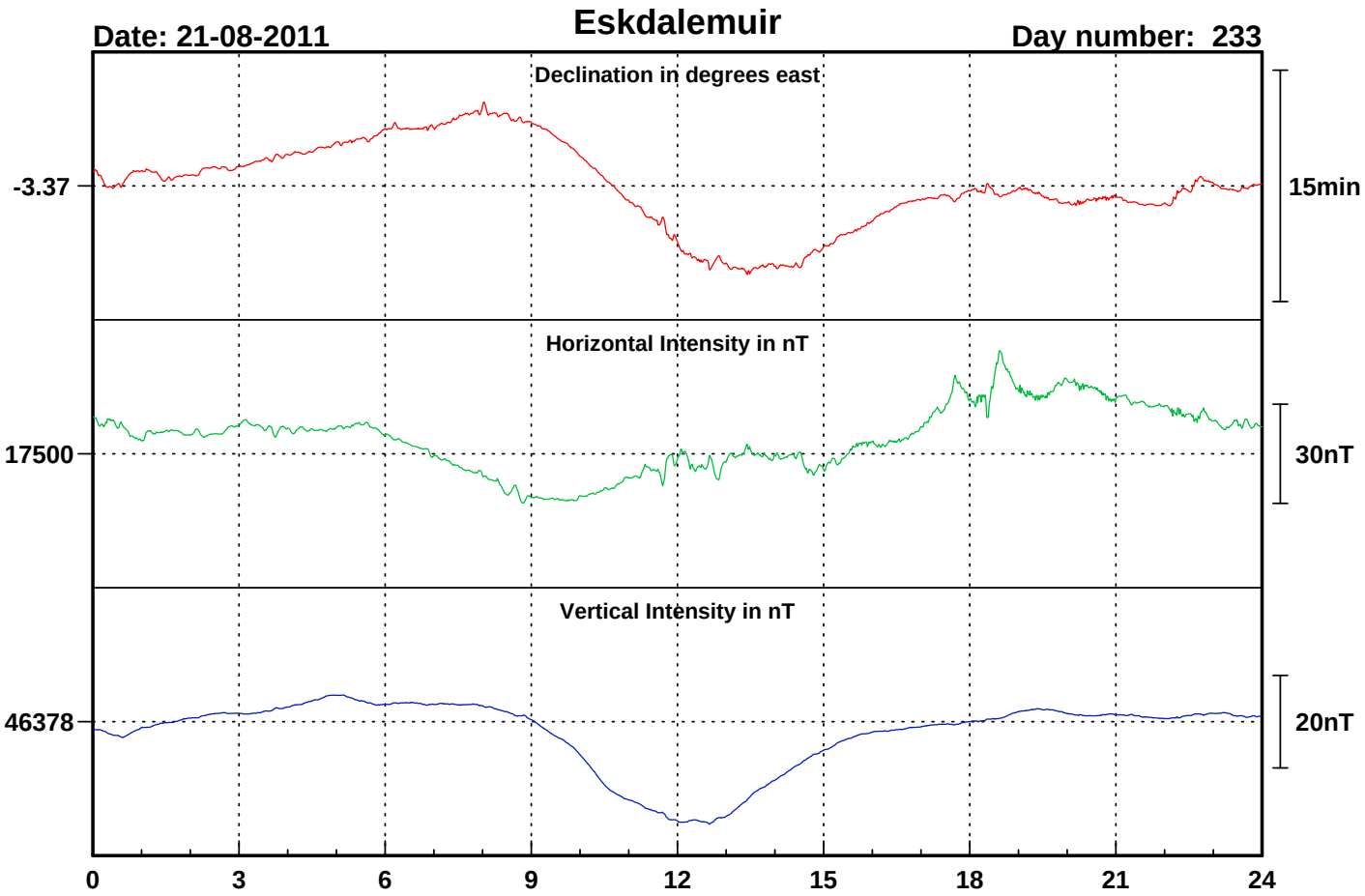
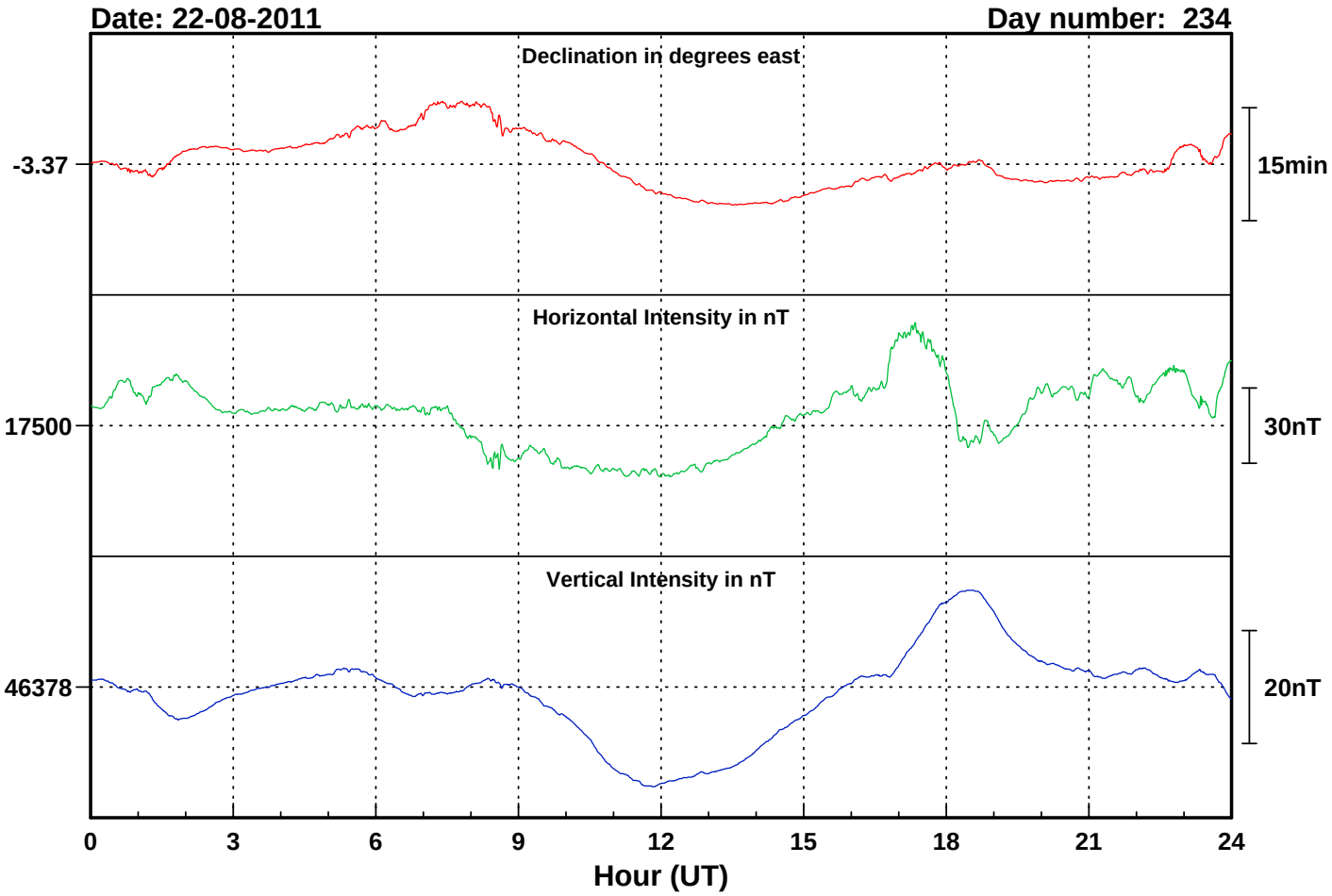
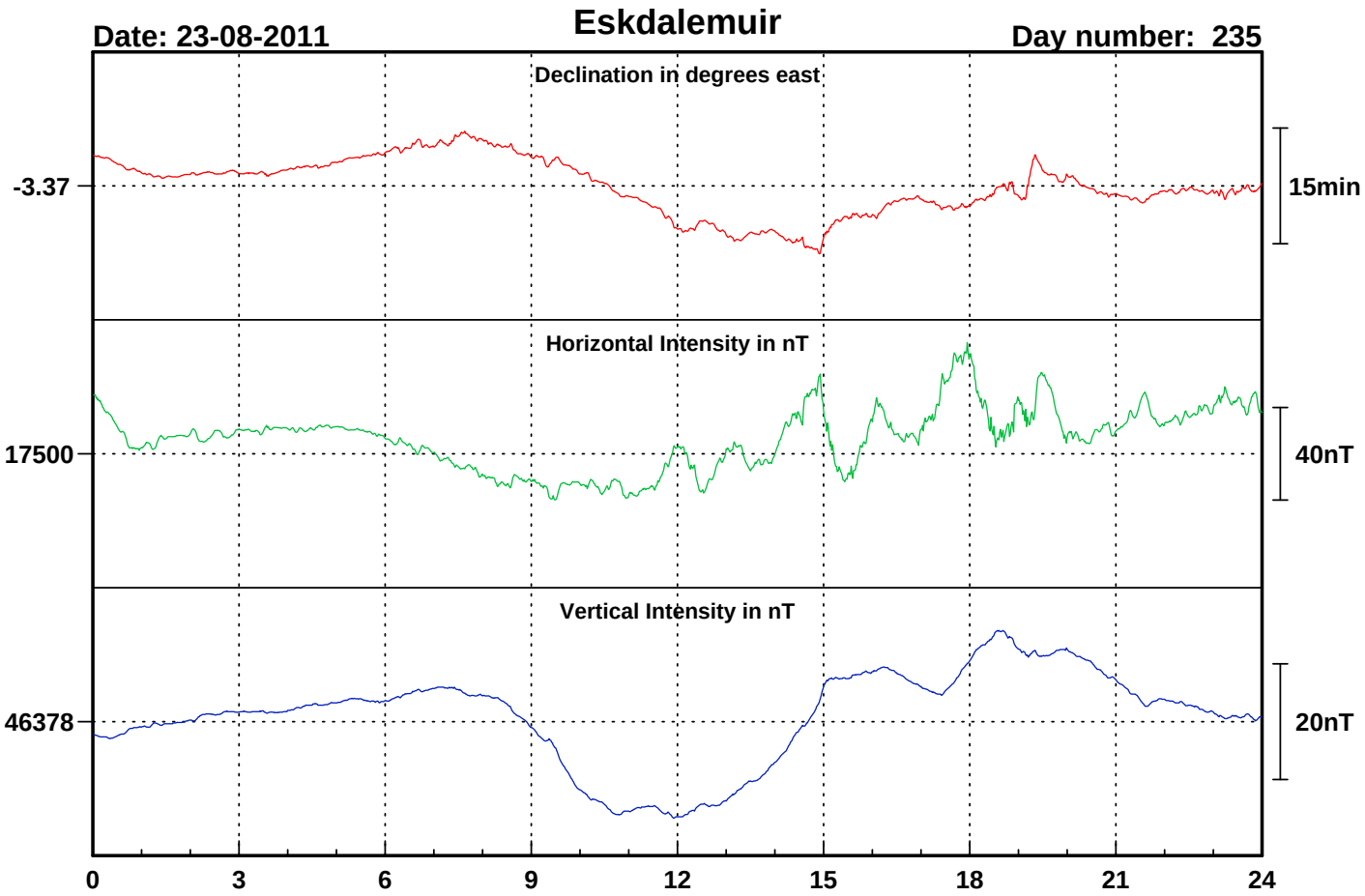
17500
20nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
10nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24
Hour (UT)

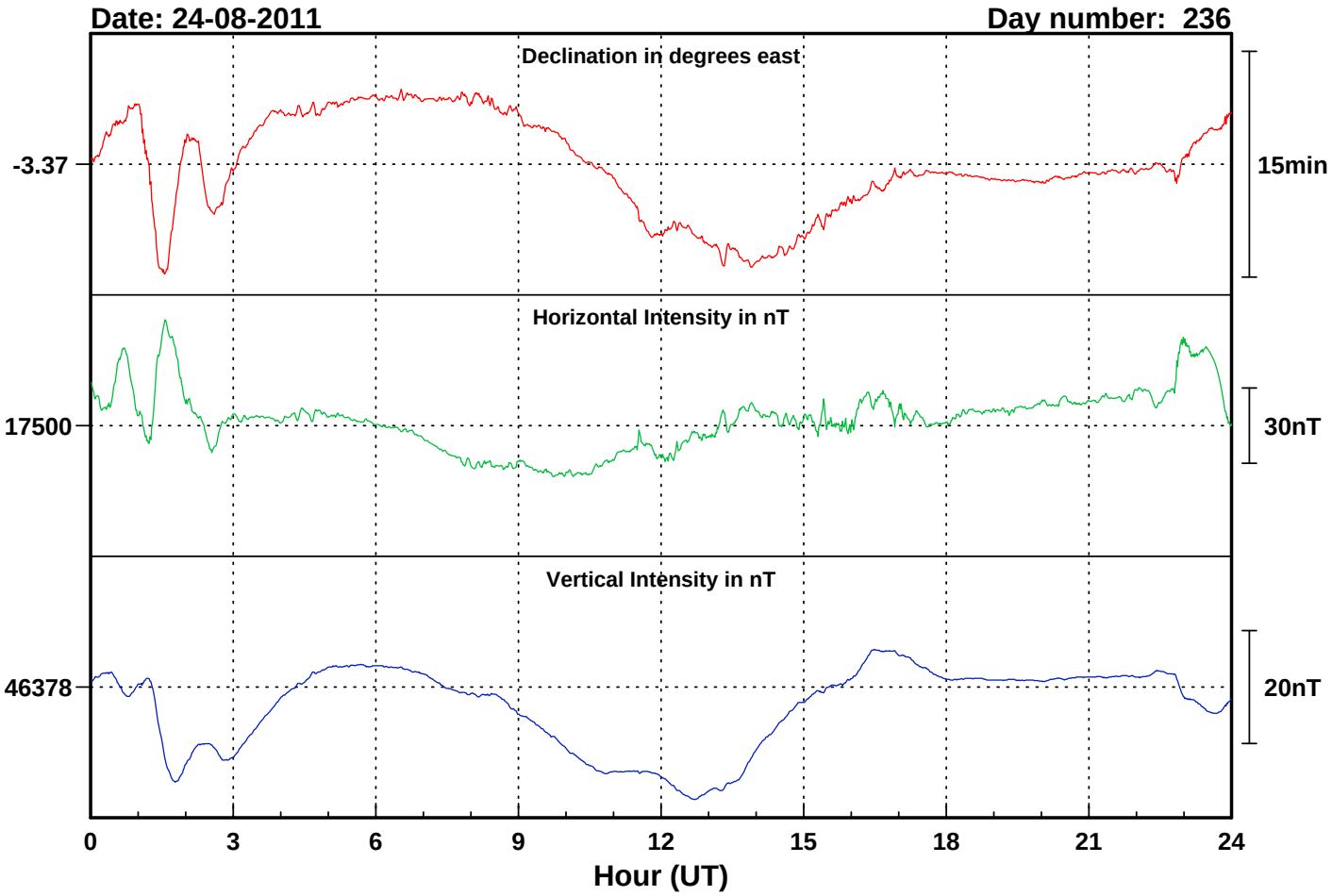

Eskdalemuir
Date: 19-08-2011
Day number: 231
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
20nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24

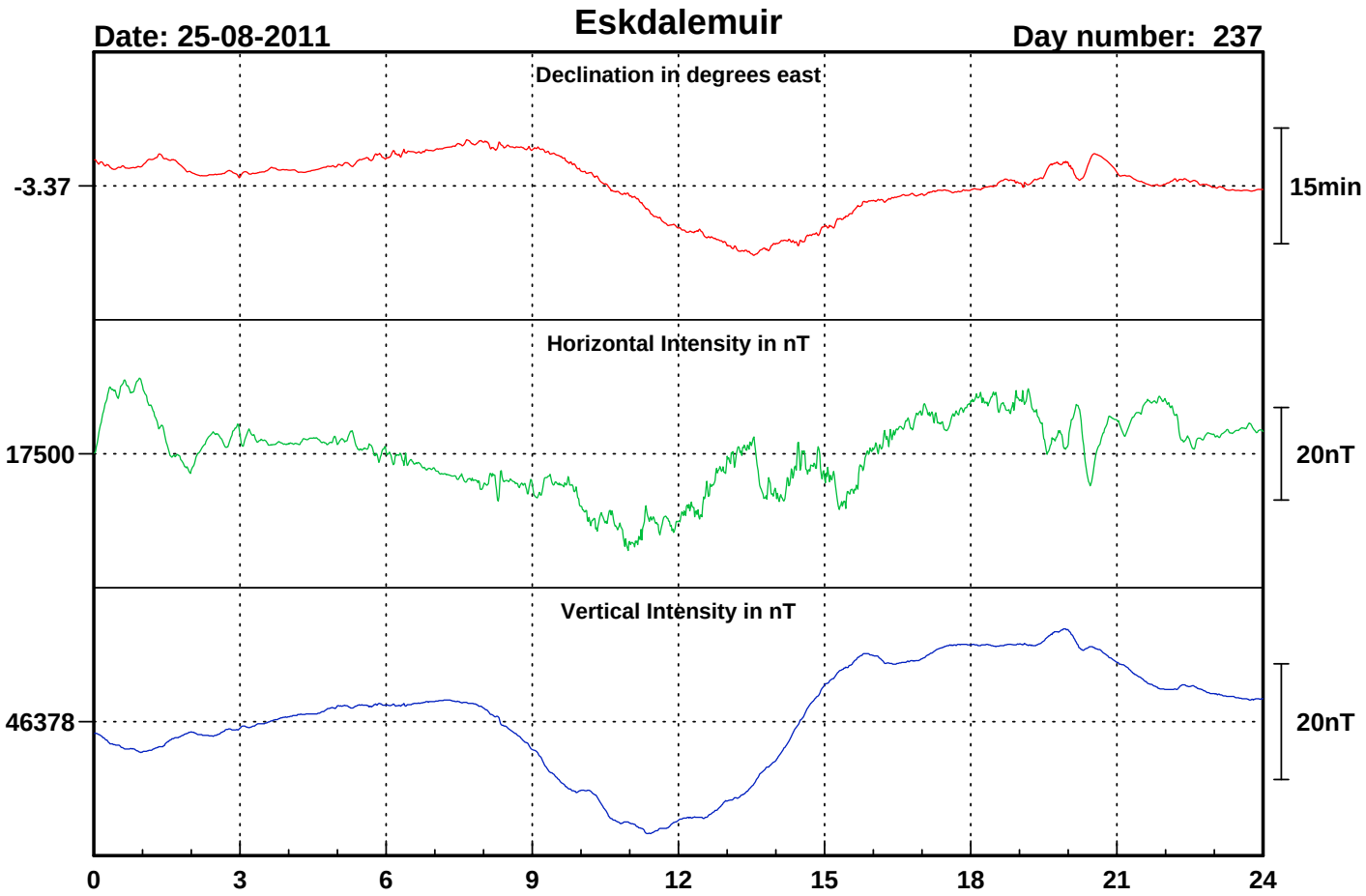

Date: 20-08-2011
Day number: 232
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
30nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24
Hour (UT)

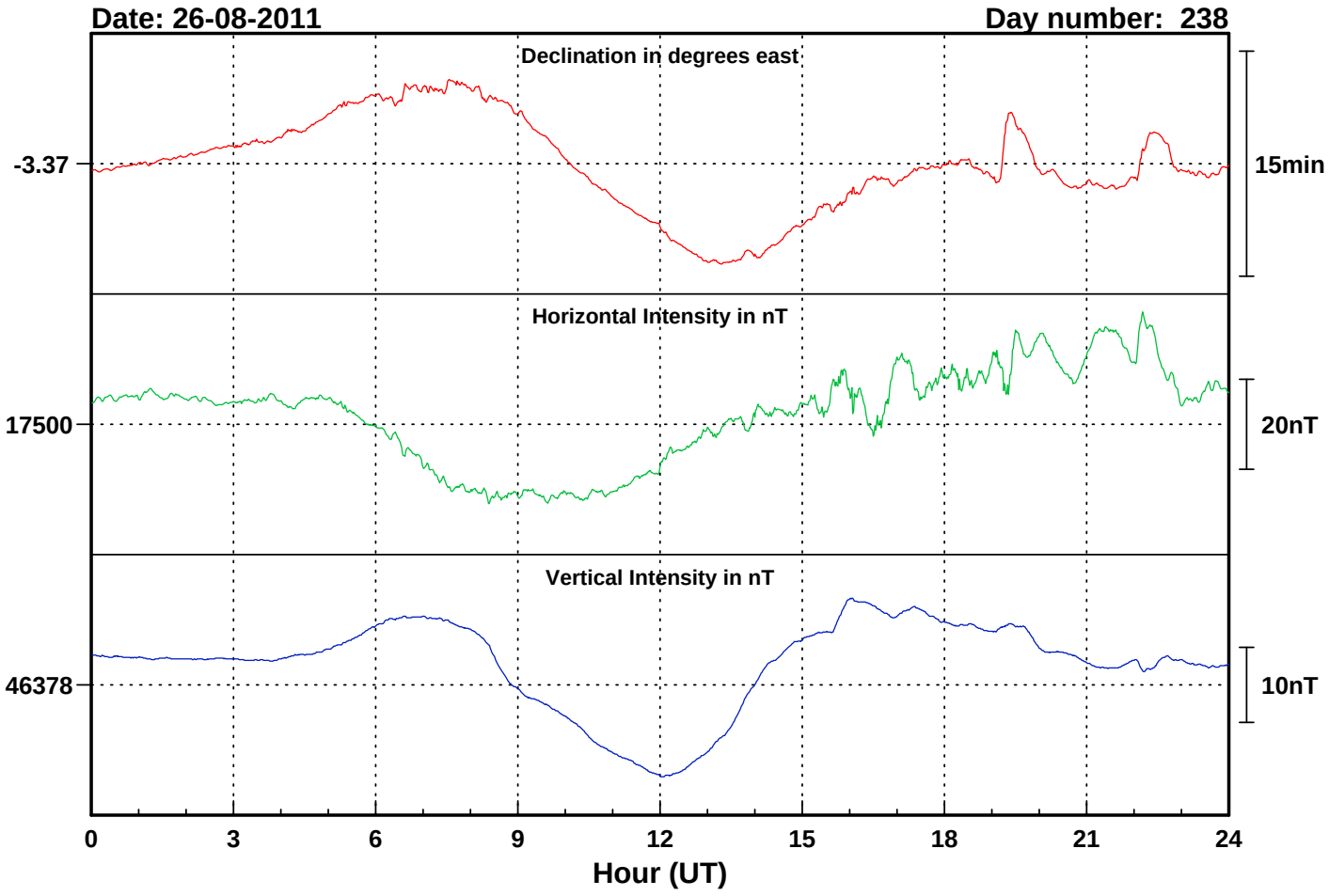

Eskdalemuir
Date: 21-08-2011
Day number: 233
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
30nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24

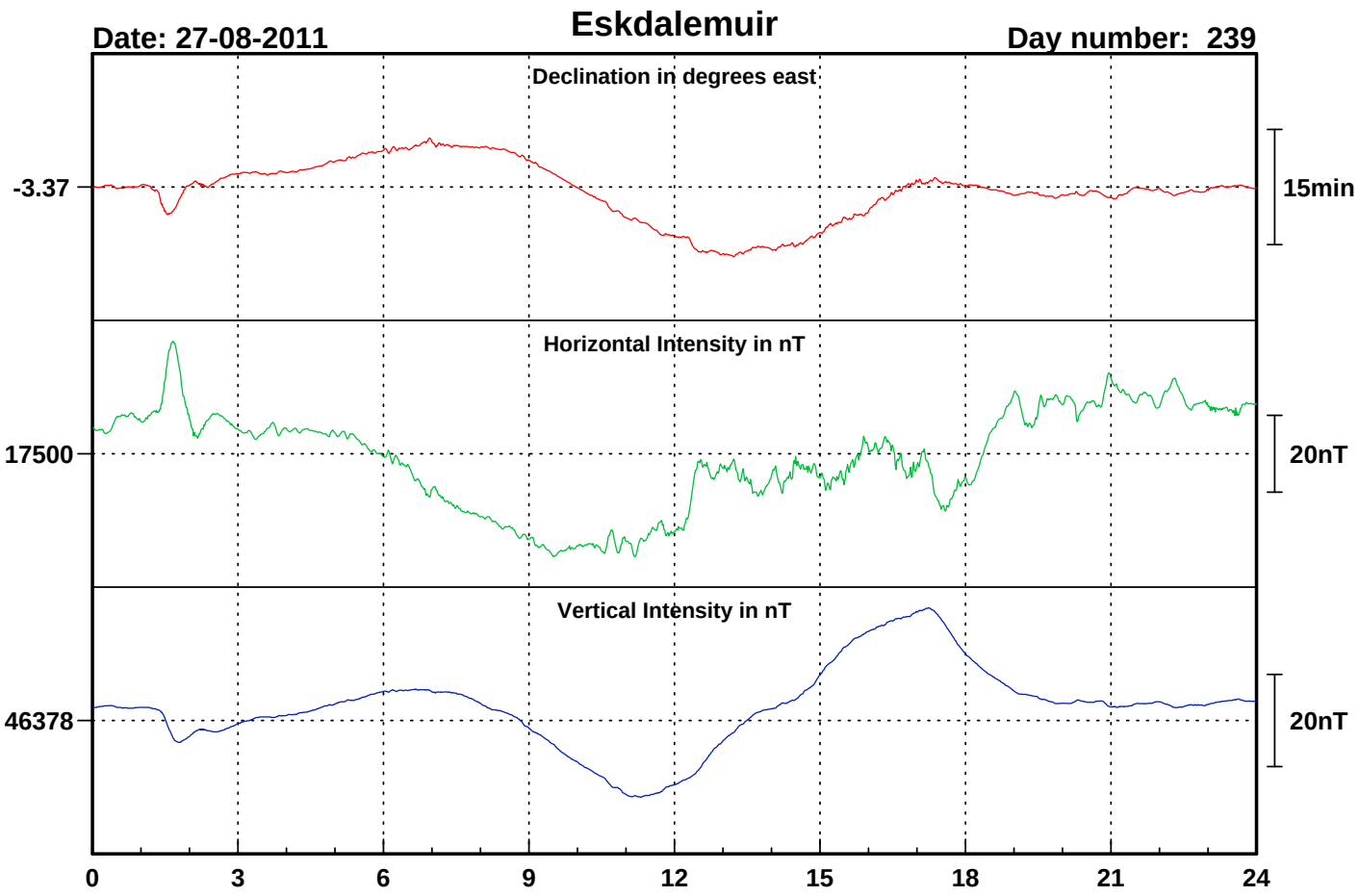

Date: 22-08-2011
Day number: 234
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
30nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24
Hour (UT)

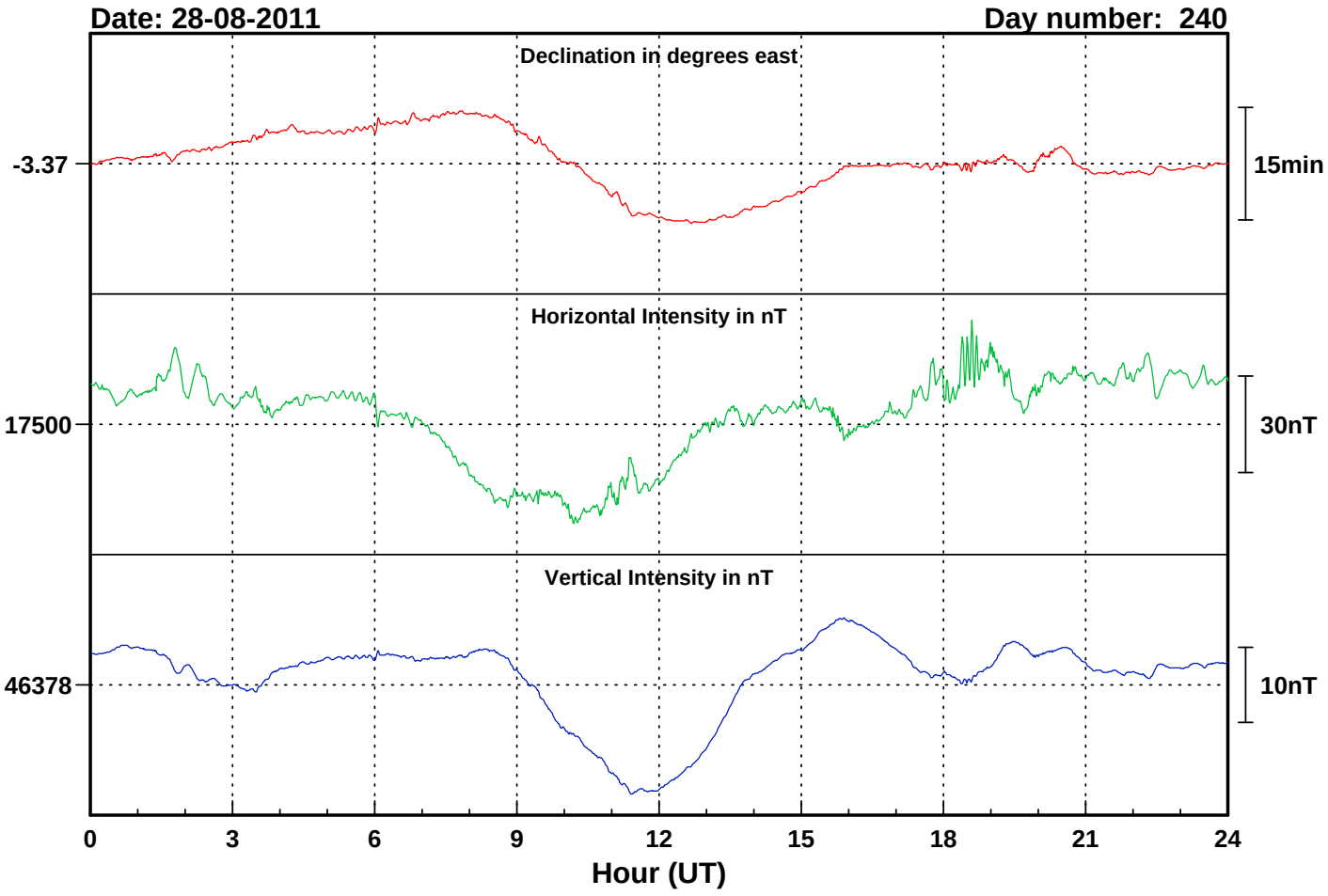

Eskdalemuir
Date: 23-08-2011
Day number: 235
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
40nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24

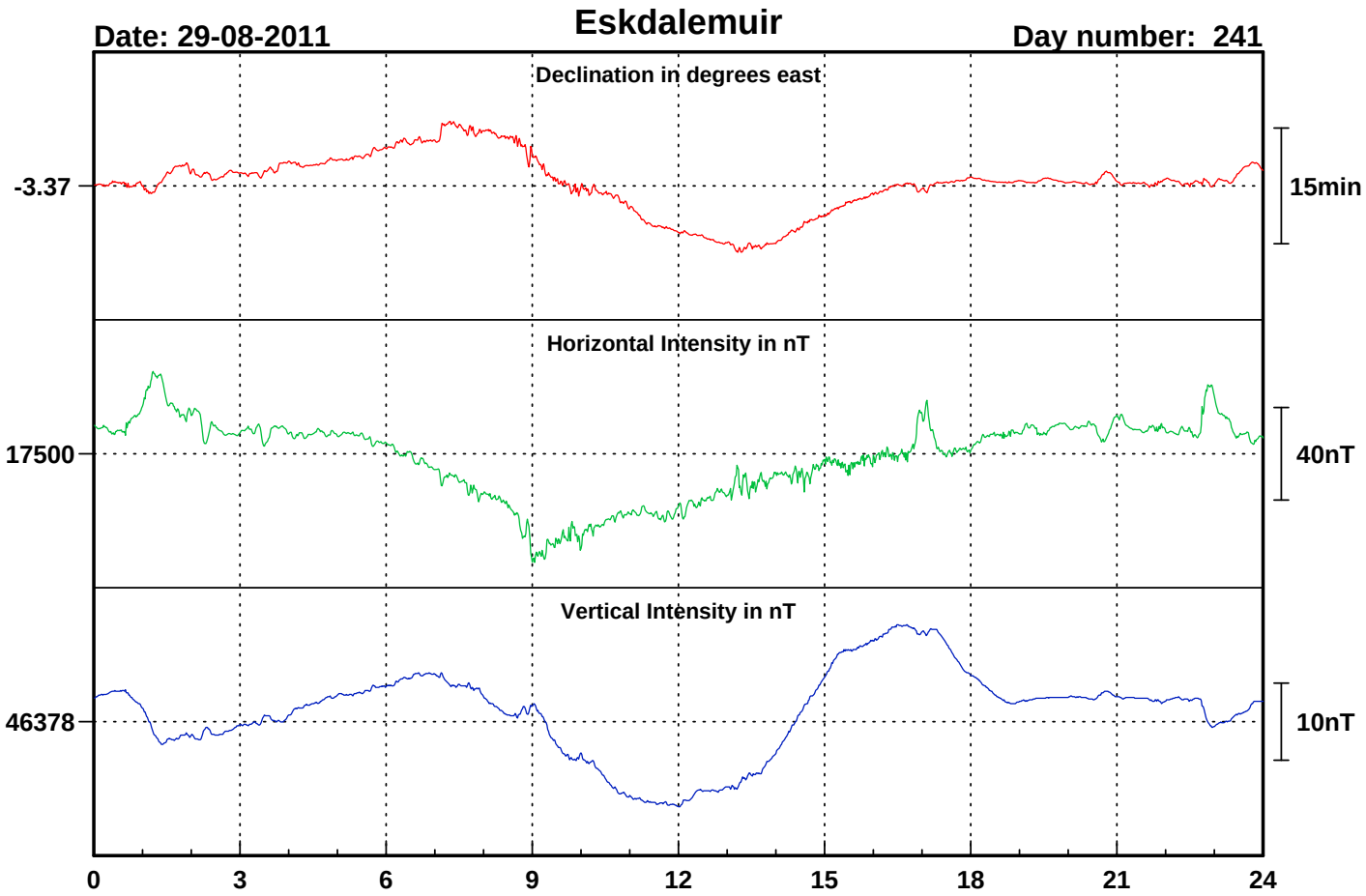

Date: 24-08-2011
Day number: 236
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
30nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24
Hour (UT)

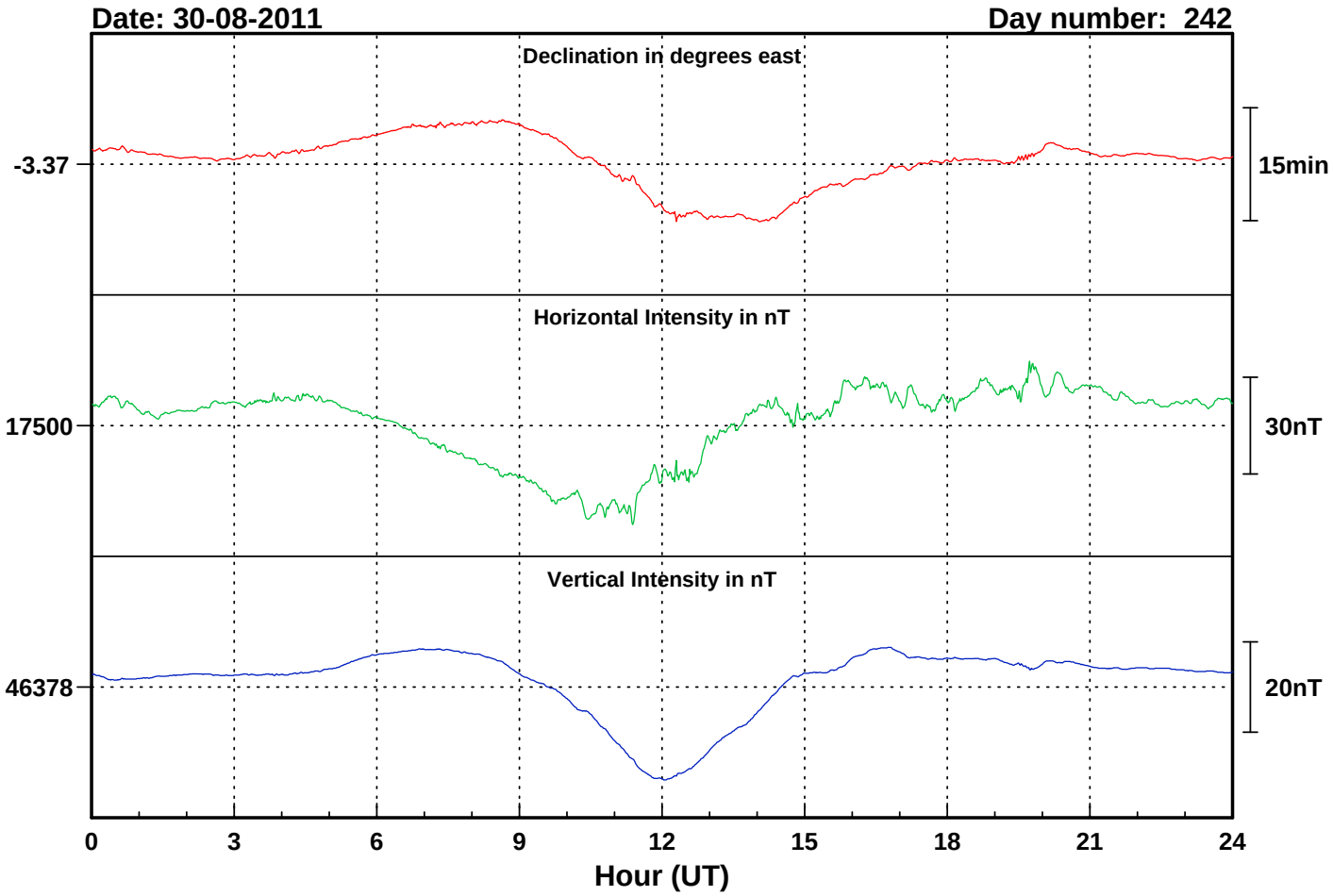

Eskdalemuir
Date: 25-08-2011
Day number: 237
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
20nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24

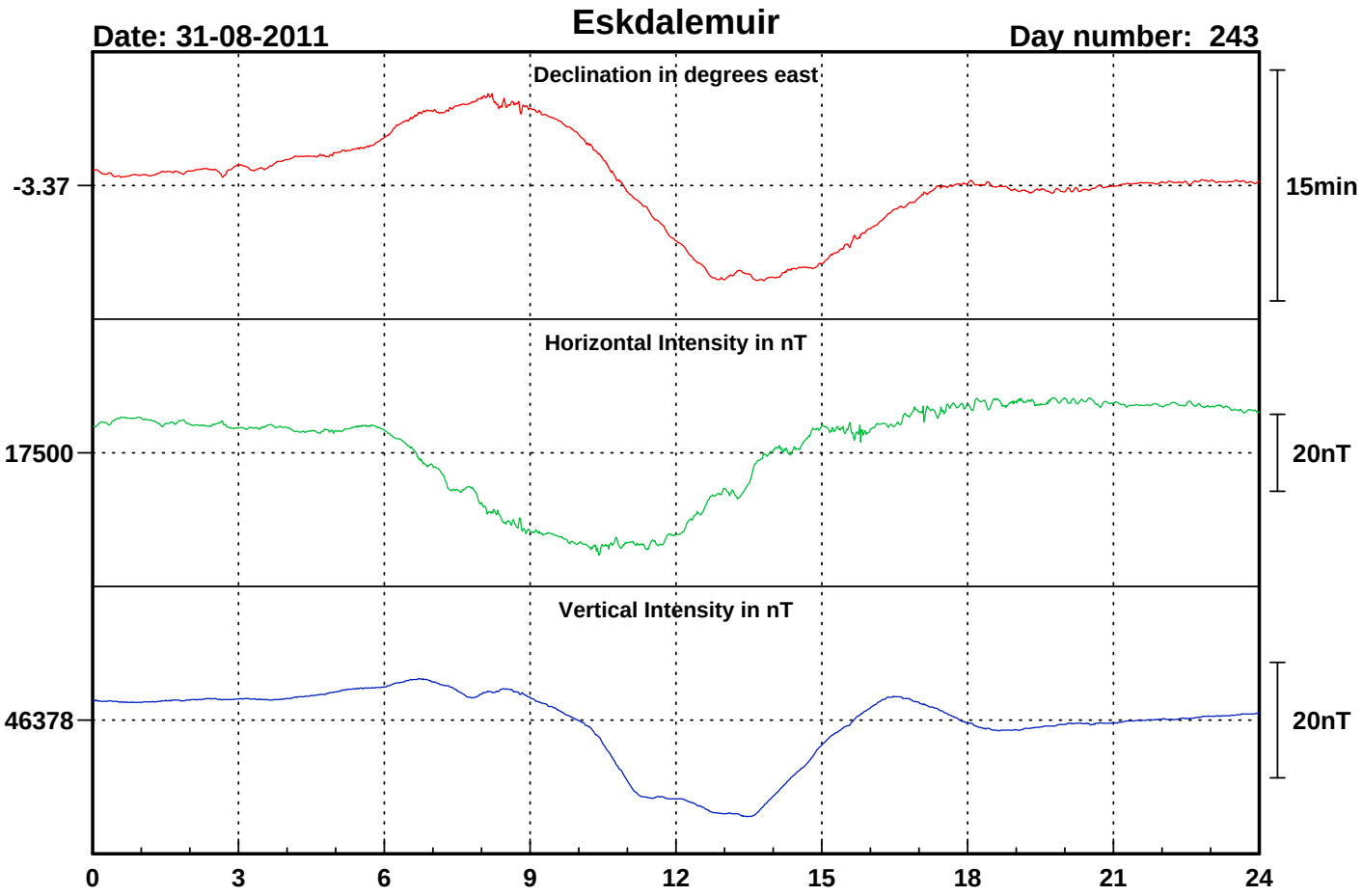

Date: 26-08-2011
Day number: 238
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
20nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
10nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24
Hour (UT)


Eskdalemuir
Date: 27-08-2011
Day number: 239
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
20nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24

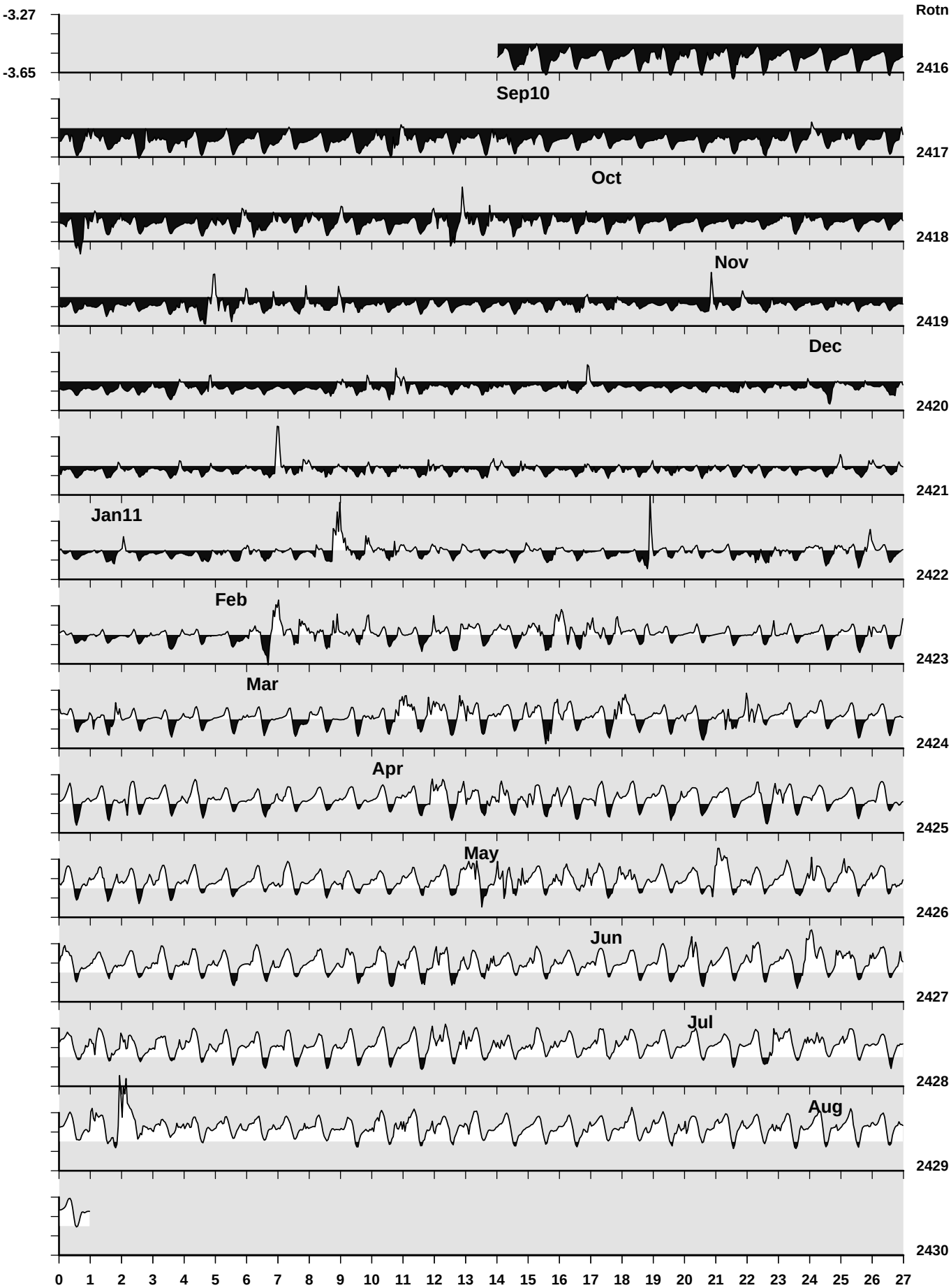

Date: 28-08-2011
Day number: 240
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
30nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
10nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24
Hour (UT)


Eskdalemuir
Date: 29-08-2011
Day number: 241
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
40nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
10nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24


Date: 30-08-2011
Day number: 242
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
30nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24
Hour (UT)

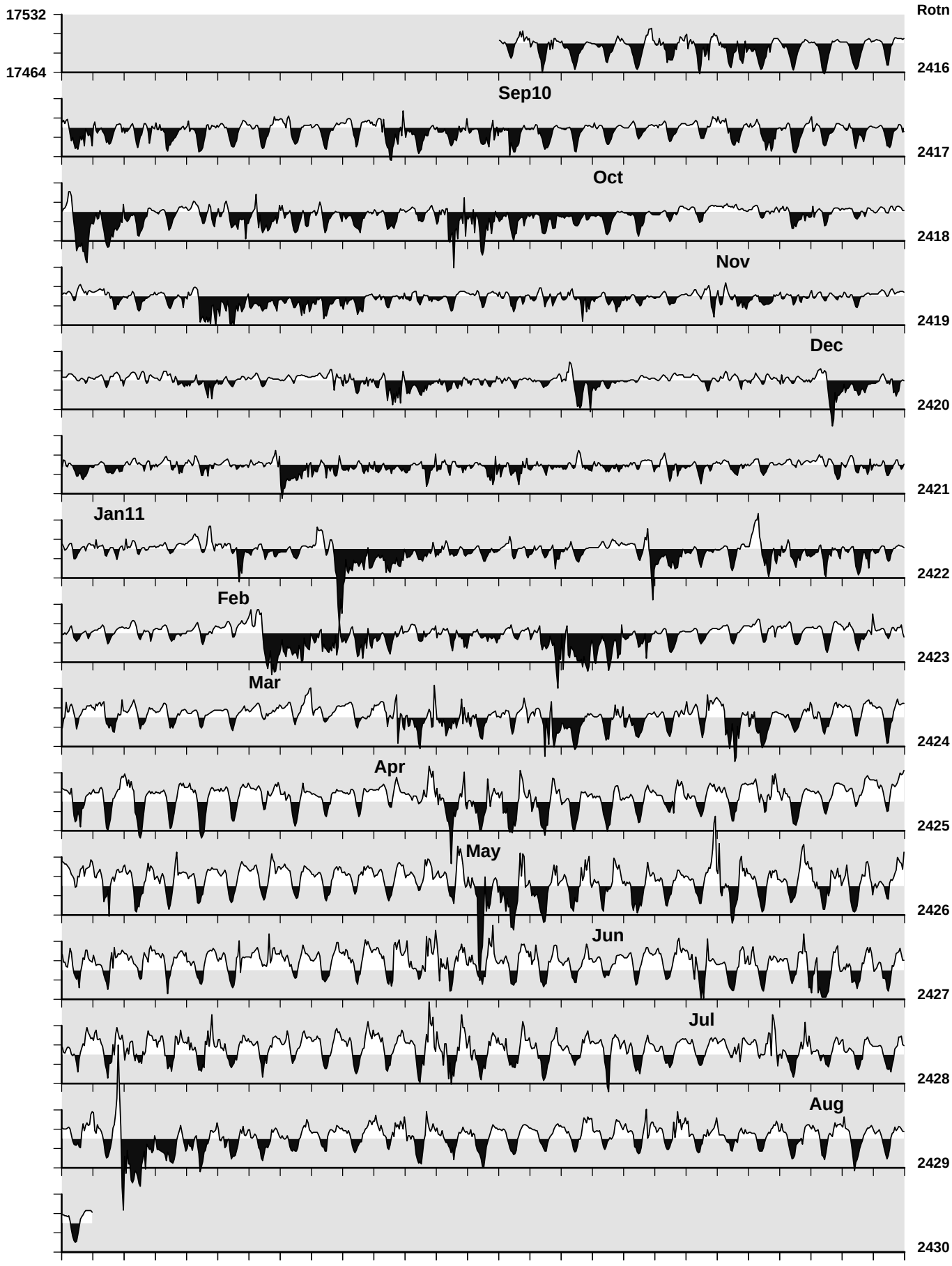

Eskdalemuir
Date: 31-08-2011
Day number: 243
Declination in degrees east
-3.37
15min
Horizontal Intensity in nT
17500
20nT
Vertical Intensity in nT
46378
20nT
0
3
6
9
12
15
18
21
24

Eskdalemuir Observatory: Declination (degrees)



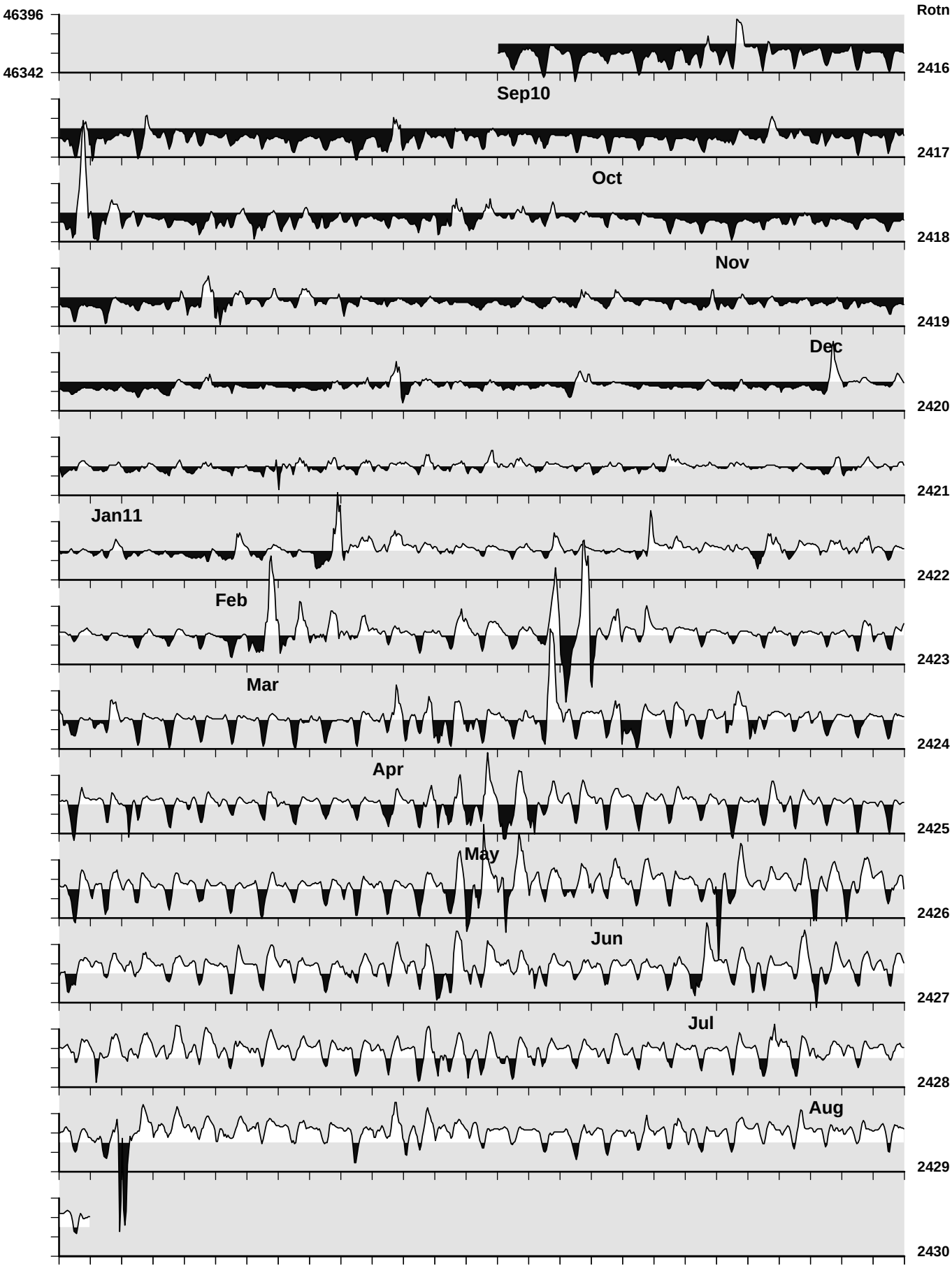
Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

Eskdalemuir Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT



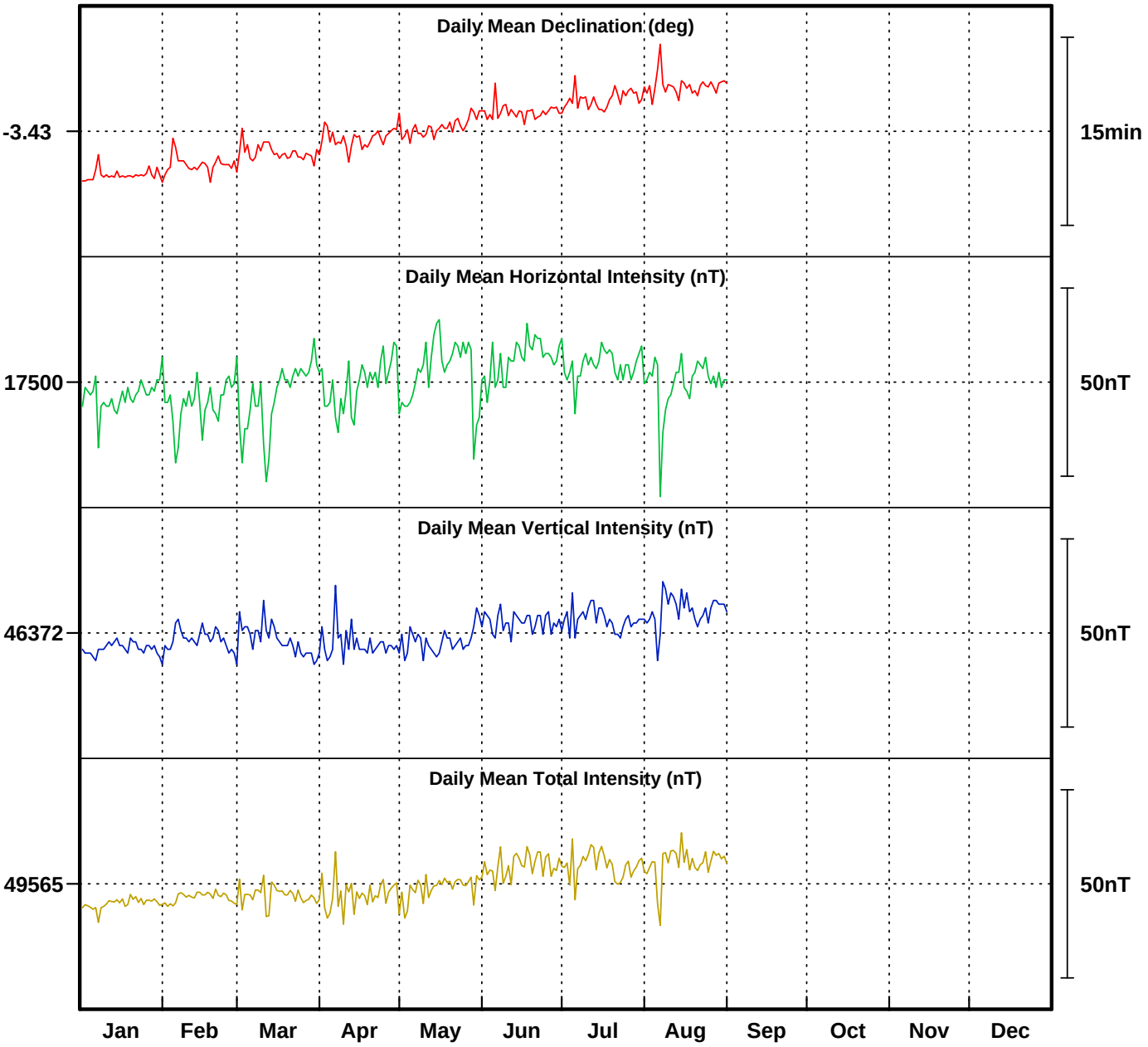
Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

Eskdalemuir Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)



Hourly Mean Values Plotted By Bartels Solar Rotation Number

Eskdalemuir Observatory 2011



Monthly Mean Values for Eskdalemuir Observatory 2011

Month	*D*	*H*	*I*	*X*	*Y*	*Z*	*F*
January	-3° 29.2′	17497 nT	69° 19.6′	17464 nT	-1064 nT	46368 nT	49560 nT
February	-3° 28.4′	17495 nT	69° 19.8′	17463 nT	-1060 nT	46371 nT	49561 nT
March	-3° 27.4′	17497 nT	69° 19.6′	17465 nT	-1055 nT	46370 nT	49562 nT
April	-3° 26.2′	17500 nT	69° 19.4′	17468 nT	-1049 nT	46370 nT	49562 nT
May	-3° 25.4′	17503 nT	69° 19.2′	17472 nT	-1045 nT	46370 nT	49564 nT
June	-3° 24.2′	17507 nT	69° 19.1′	17476 nT	-1039 nT	46375 nT	49570 nT
July	-3° 23.1′	17504 nT	69° 19.3′	17474 nT	-1034 nT	46376 nT	49570 nT
August	-3° 22.1′	17500 nT	69° 19.6′	17470 nT	-1028 nT	46378 nT	49570 nT

Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.

ESKDALEMUIR RAPID VARIATIONS

SIs and SSCs

Date	Time (UT)	Type	Quality	H (nT)	D (min)	Z (nT)
04-08-11	21 53	SSC	A	29.7	-17.2	-4.6
05-08-11	17 50	SSC	B	22.8	-1.56	-
05-08-11	19 00	SSC	A	134.3	-8.75	-11.4

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.

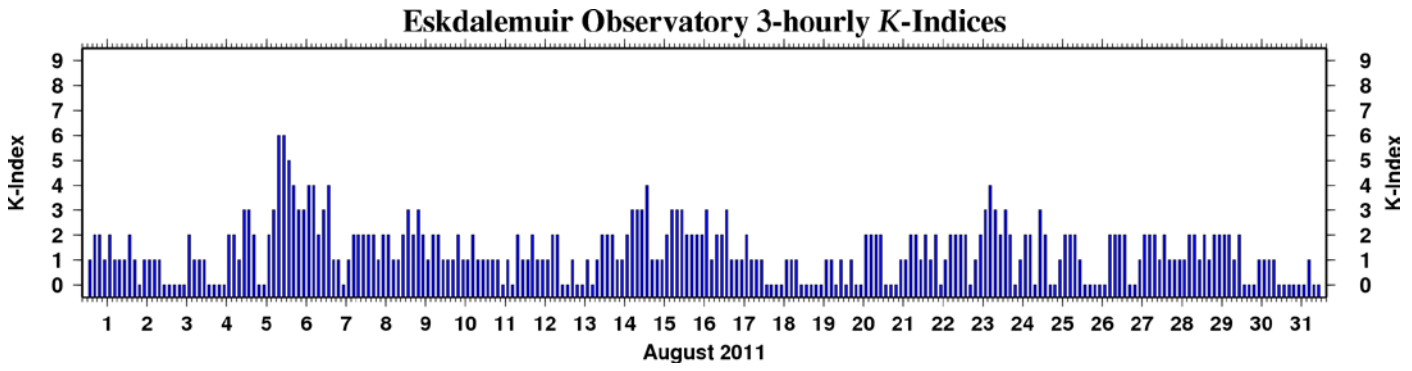
SFEs

Date	Universal Time			H (nT)	D (min)	Z (nT)
	Start	Maximum	End			
09-08-11	08 01	08 06	08 15	12.7	2.86	-7.1

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

INDICES OF GEOMAGNETIC ACTIVITY

Day	*K* - INDICES FOR THREE-HOUR INTERVAL							
	00-03	03-06	06-09	09-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	21-24
1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
2	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
3	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1
4	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	3
5	3	2	0	0	2	3	6	6
6	5	4	3	3	4	4	2	3
7	4	1	1	0	1	2	2	2
8	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
9	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	1
10	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
11	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	1
12	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	0
13	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
14	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	3
15	4	1	1	1	2	3	3	3
16	2	2	2	2	3	1	2	2
17	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
18	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
19	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
20	0	1	0	0	2	2	2	2
21	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1
22	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	2
23	2	0	1	2	3	4	3	2
24	3	2	0	1	2	2	0	3
25	2	0	0	1	2	2	2	1
26	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
27	2	0	0	1	2	2	2	1
28	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
29	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2
30	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
31	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0



The *aa* Index

Date	Day	3-hourly *aa*-indices								Aa_{am}	Aa_{pm}	*Aa*
01-08-11	213	12	24	24	8	8	5	5	8	17.0	6.5	11.7
02-08-11	214	12	8	8	8	5	5	5	2	8.8	4.5	6.6
03-08-11	215	2	5	2	2	17	5	5	5	3.1	8.1	5.6
04-08-11	216	2	9	5	2	8	9	5	24	4.8	11.5	8.2
05-08-11	217	24	12	2	5	5	37	115	171	10.9	82.1	46.5
06-08-11	218	102	59	32	46	59	45	8	24	59.6	34.0	46.8
07-08-11	219	37	8	8	2	8	12	16	9	13.8	11.2	12.5
08-08-11	220	9	16	8	24	38	8	8	12	14.3	16.3	15.3
09-08-11	221	24	24	32	12	8	5	12	8	23.1	8.2	15.6
10-08-11	222	8	8	24	12	12	12	8	5	13.0	9.2	11.1
11-08-11	223	5	8	8	5	5	5	9	8	6.5	6.8	6.7
12-08-11	224	5	12	8	12	5	12	16	2	9.2	8.9	9.0
13-08-11	225	5	8	2	2	8	2	5	12	4.5	6.8	5.6
14-08-11	226	24	12	8	12	12	32	24	24	13.9	23.0	18.5
15-08-11	227	45	16	8	12	12	32	32	24	20.3	25.1	22.7
16-08-11	228	8	24	16	24	32	8	8	12	18.1	14.9	16.5
17-08-11	229	24	8	12	12	24	5	5	5	14.0	9.9	11.9
18-08-11	230	5	2	2	2	8	12	5	2	3.1	6.8	5.0
19-08-11	231	2	2	2	5	5	2	2	8	3.1	4.5	3.8
20-08-11	232	5	12	5	5	12	9	12	16	6.8	12.3	9.6
21-08-11	233	2	2	2	5	8	5	9	5	3.1	6.8	5.0
22-08-11	234	16	8	24	9	2	12	32	16	14.4	15.6	15.0
23-08-11	235	12	5	12	16	12	45	32	16	11.3	26.4	18.8
24-08-11	236	24	12	5	8	12	12	2	24	12.2	12.6	12.4
25-08-11	237	12	5	5	8	16	20	16	5	7.5	14.3	10.9
26-08-11	238	5	5	2	2	2	12	12	16	3.8	10.6	7.2
27-08-11	239	24	5	5	2	12	16	12	8	9.2	11.9	10.6
28-08-11	240	12	8	8	12	8	12	16	12	9.9	11.9	10.9
29-08-11	241	20	8	24	16	8	12	5	12	17.0	9.2	13.1
30-08-11	242	5	5	2	12	8	5	5	2	6.2	5.1	5.7
31-08-11	243	5	2	5	2	2	5	2	2	3.8	3.1	3.5
											Monthly Mean Value	13.0

Notes

i. The units of the *aa* index are nT.

ii. The 3-hour *aa* values are rounded to the nearest integer. Where *aa* = *.5, *aa* is rounded down.

iii. Daily values (Aa_{am}, Aa_{pm} and *Aa*) are computed from *aa* values of original resolution.

iv. The monthly mean value is computed from the daily mean values, *Aa*.

v. Definitive *aa* indices are derived and published by the International Service for Geomagnetic Indices.