



Please send all reports and observations to jacook@jacook.plus.com

BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

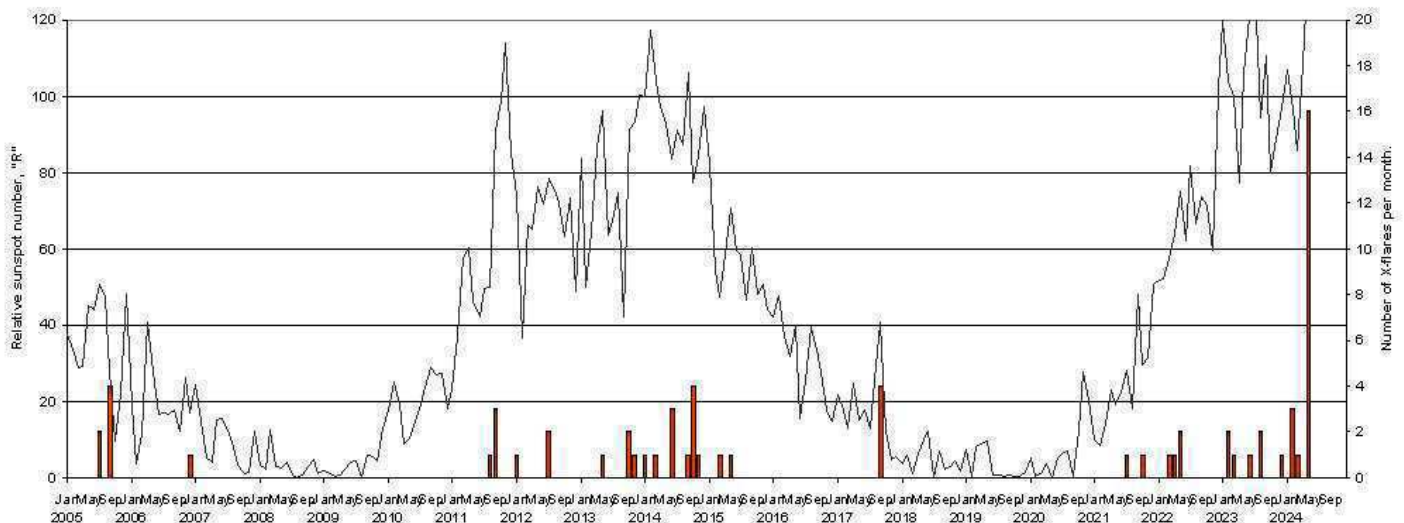
Director Paul Hearn.

RADIO SKY NEWS

2024 MAY.

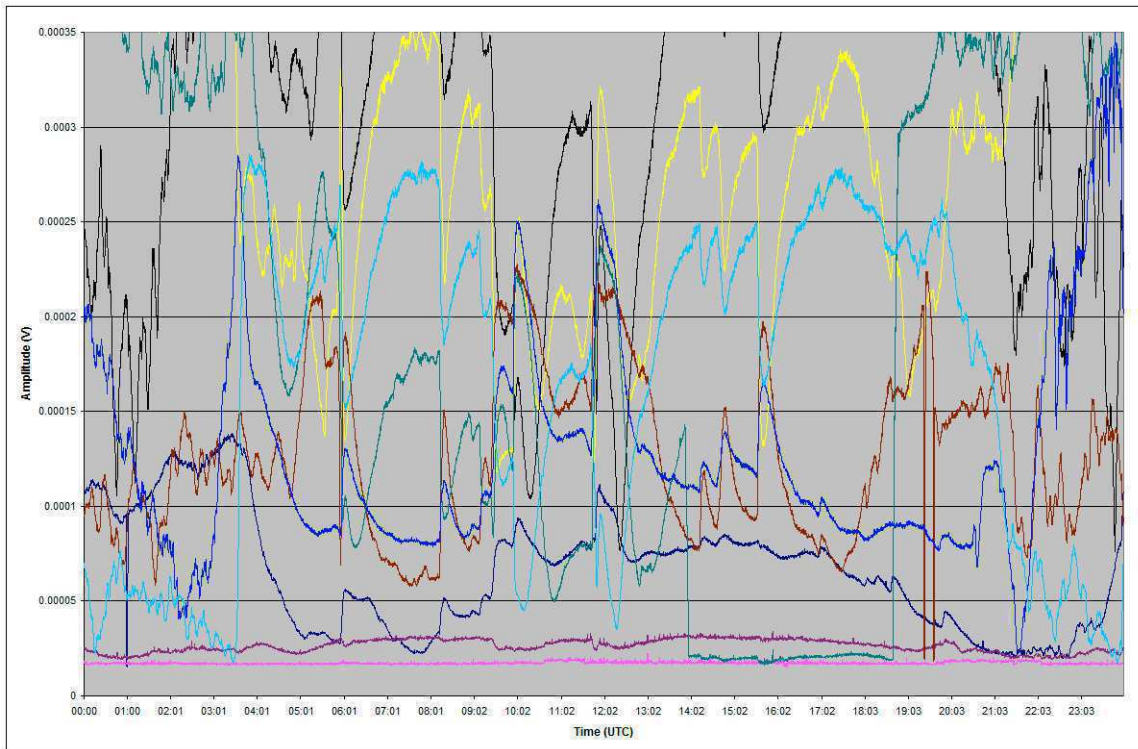
VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

X-class flares 2005-24.

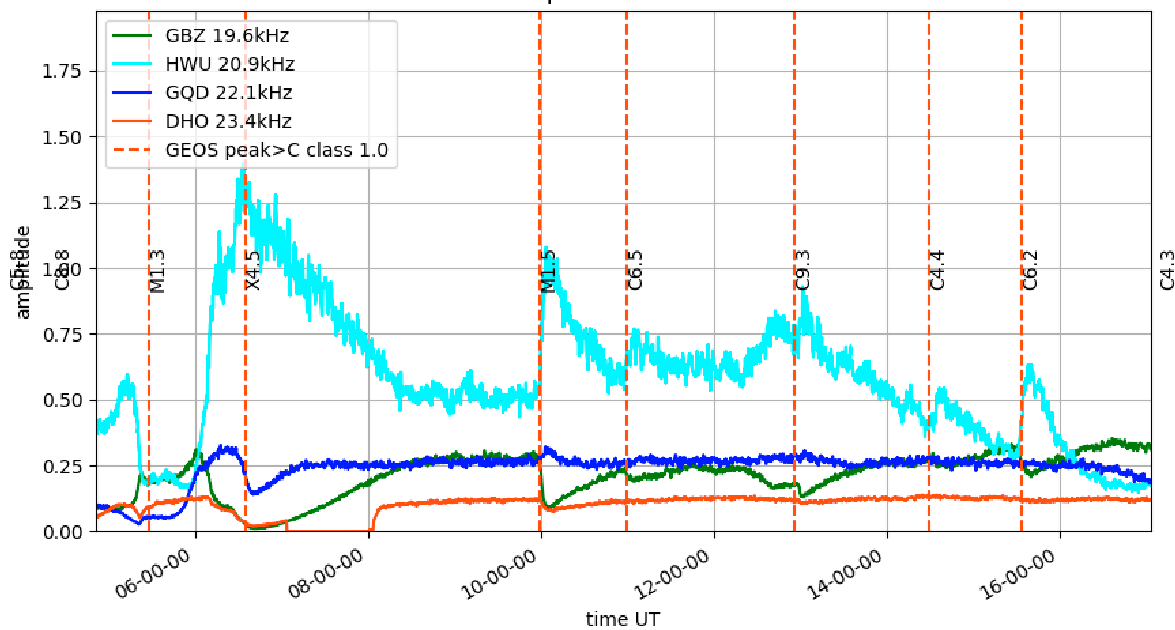


This chart shows the number of X-class flares that we have recorded since 2005 May, with the solar section's relative sunspot number added to highlight the solar cycles. The 16 X-flares recorded in 2024 May dominates the chart. The activity chart on page 12 also shows a new peak in the total number of flares recorded. The most energetic flare that we have recorded so far was the giant X17 in 2005 September. The designation is correct, as it exceeded X9.9, the top of the official classification system. We also had an X9.3 flare in 2017 September. Cycle 25 seems to be far stronger than the original predictions made about five years ago. Since then new methods of predicting activity have emerged that have suggested a stronger cycle. We are roughly at the mid-point in the cycle, with a peak predicted later this year or early 2025.

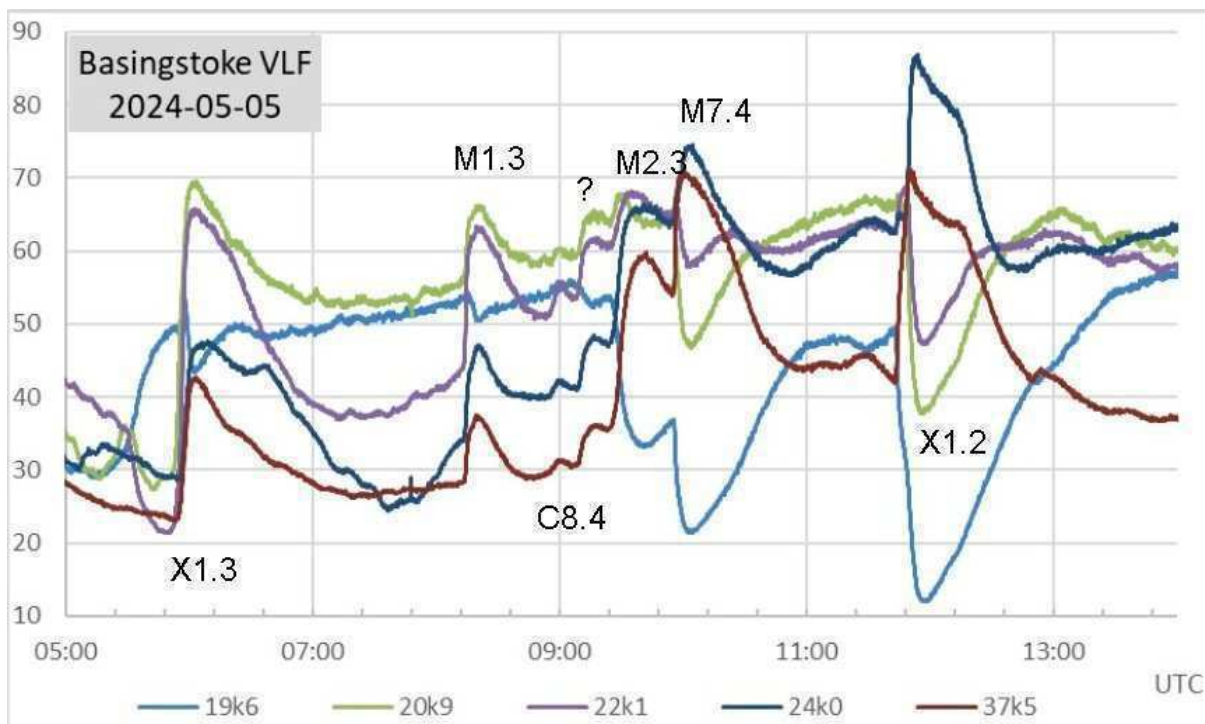
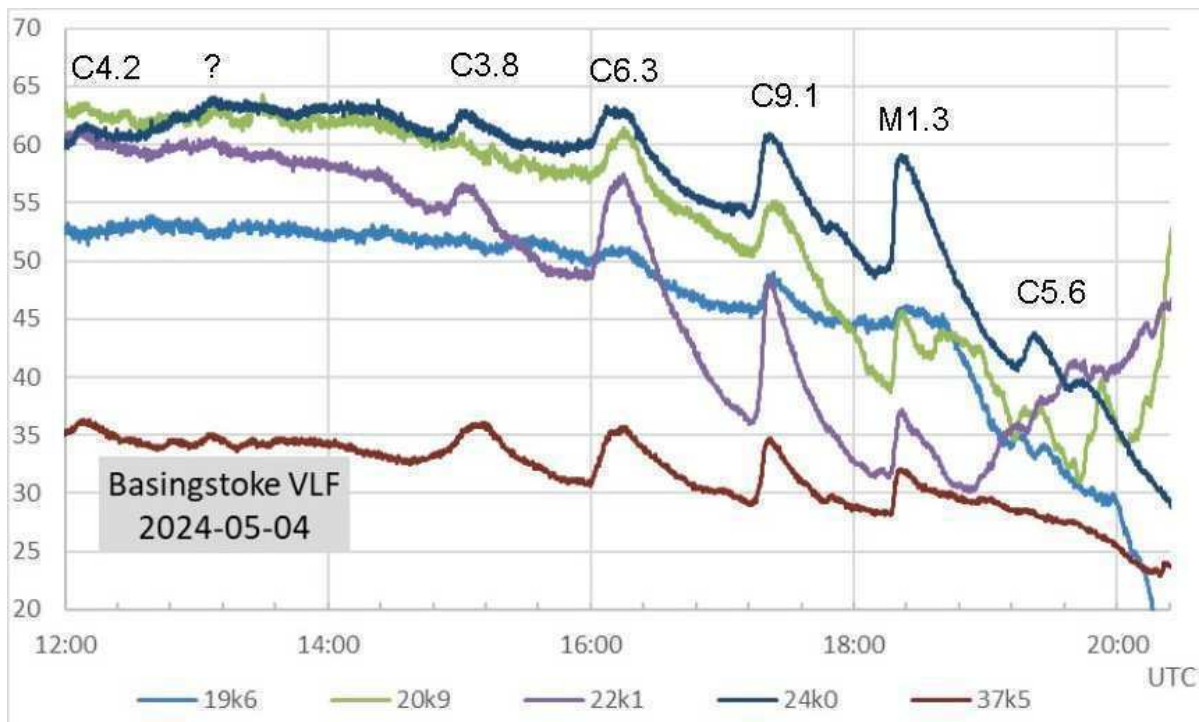
It has been very difficult to identify individual flares in our recordings as they have occurred so fast that even some of the stronger M-class flares have been hidden by adjacent events. To add further to the confusion, the high level of magnetic activity has produced some SIDs even on the European signals. A great auroral display to go with that of course! Mark Edwards has provided a recording from the 6th that shows just how complex the analysis has been. Having several signals to compare usually helps, but here it just makes it harder:



SIDs vlf profile for 2024-05-06

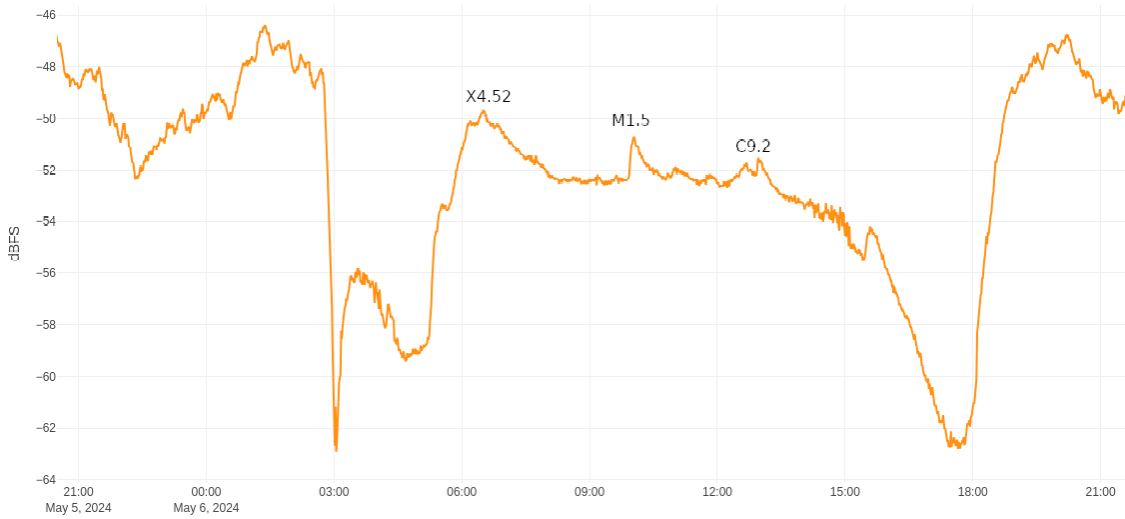


Mark Prescott's recording is rather easier to follow, clearly showing the X4.5 flare at about 06:40UT. The French 20.9kHz signal also shows the rest of the SIDs merging into each other, the end timings more difficult to determine. The C4.4 and C6.2 flares are particularly interesting, as the satellite data lists them as both being from the same active region (AR13663), with nearly simultaneous peaks. The C4.4 starts much earlier, with a rise time of over an hour, while the C6.2 has a more normal rise time of about 12 minutes. The C4.4 peak is listed at 15:28, the C6.2 at 15:34.

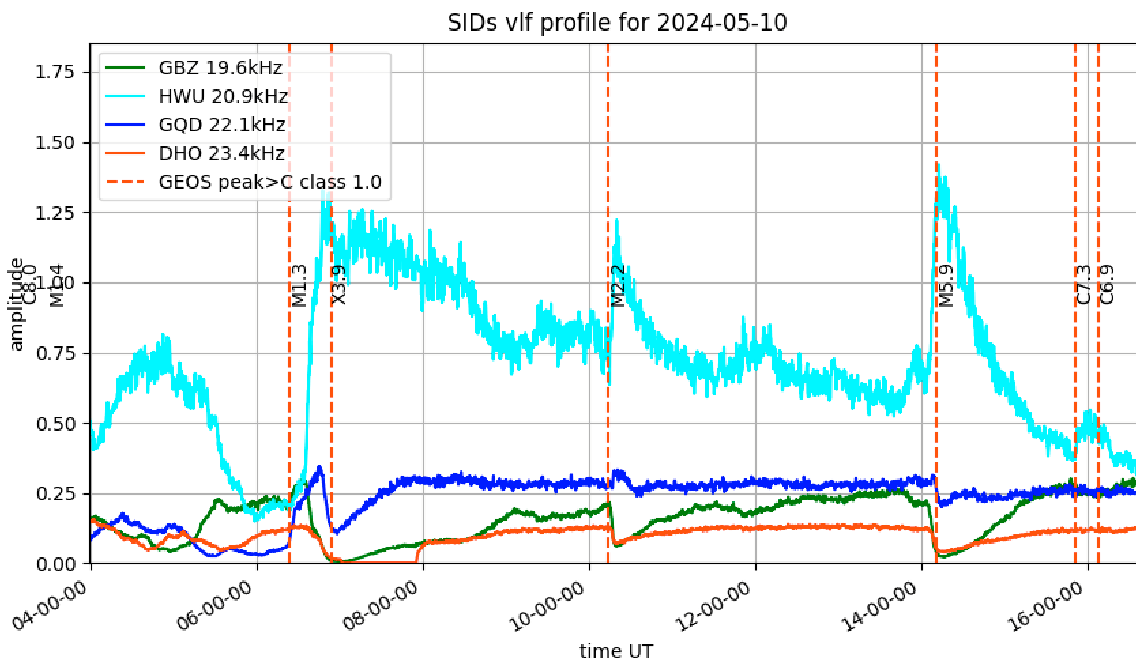


These two recordings by Paul Hyde show activity on the 4th and 5th. The afternoon SIDs on the 4th are again merging into each other, running into the sunset. The longer day length in May has helped us to catch this activity, and does of course influence the number of events recorded compared with the shorter winter days. The morning of the 5th starts with a clean SID on all frequencies from an X1.3 flare, 19.6kHz showing an inverted SID. After the M1.3 flare there is a rapid succession of smaller peaks, including from the M2.3 flare, merging together. The M7.4 and X1.2 flares have produced more complex SIDs, some signals showing a spike and wave response. The afternoon continued with plenty more M and larger C-class flares.

Strong flaring continued over the next few days, Thomas Mazzi recording activity on the 6th at 26.7kHz. This signal is from Turkey, providing Thomas in Italy with a good path:

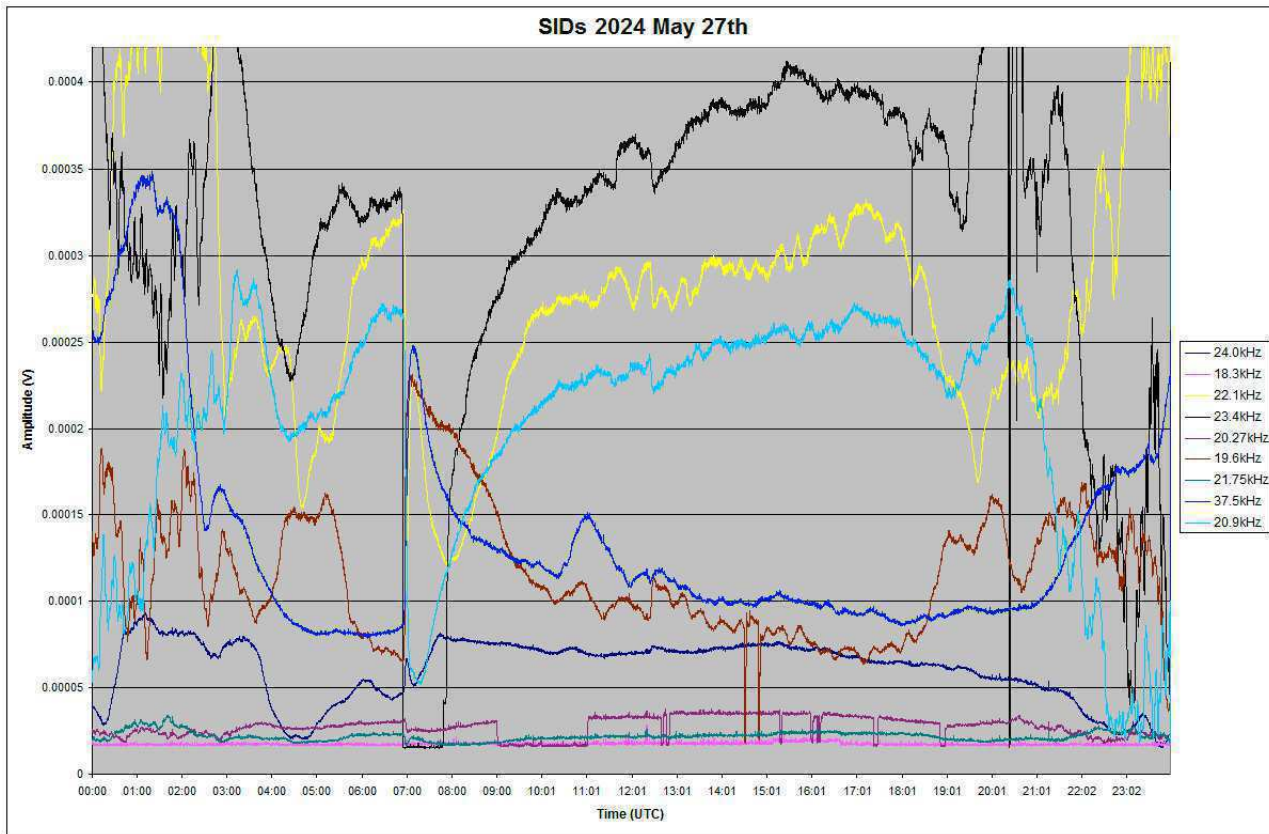


All of this strong activity produced plenty of CMEs, culminating in a magnificent auroral display seen throughout Europe on the night of the 10th/11th May. Flaring on the 10th remained strong, shown here by Mark Prescott:

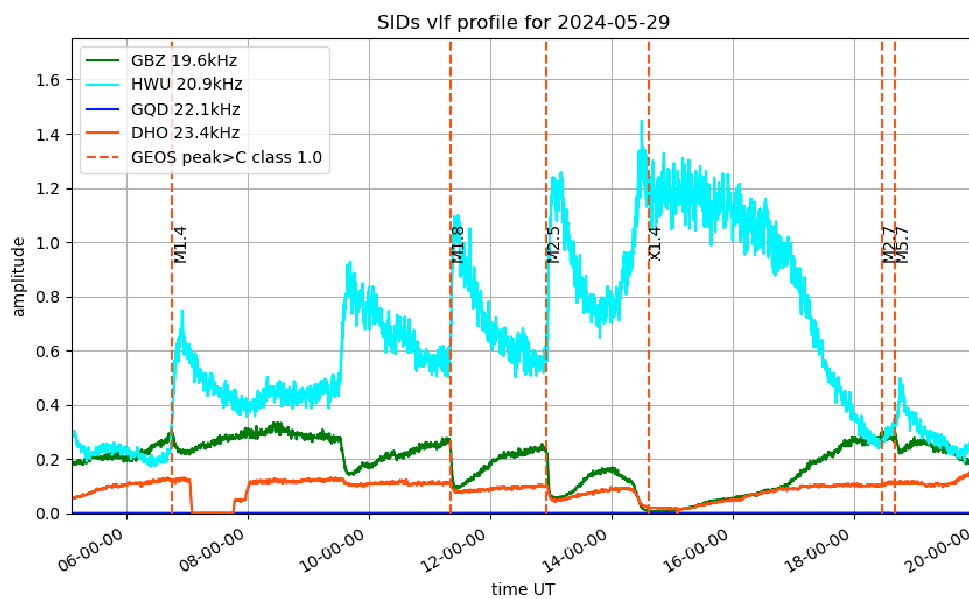


20.9kHz has again produced clean SIDs for the major flares, the X3.9 early in the morning showing a very long fade through the day. There is also evidence of the unlisted flare at 12UT on 20.9kHz and 19.6kHz.

The frequency of very strong flares did reduce a little in the second half of May, although there were still some strong X-flares recorded. Mark Edwards' recording from the 27th shows some interesting activity:

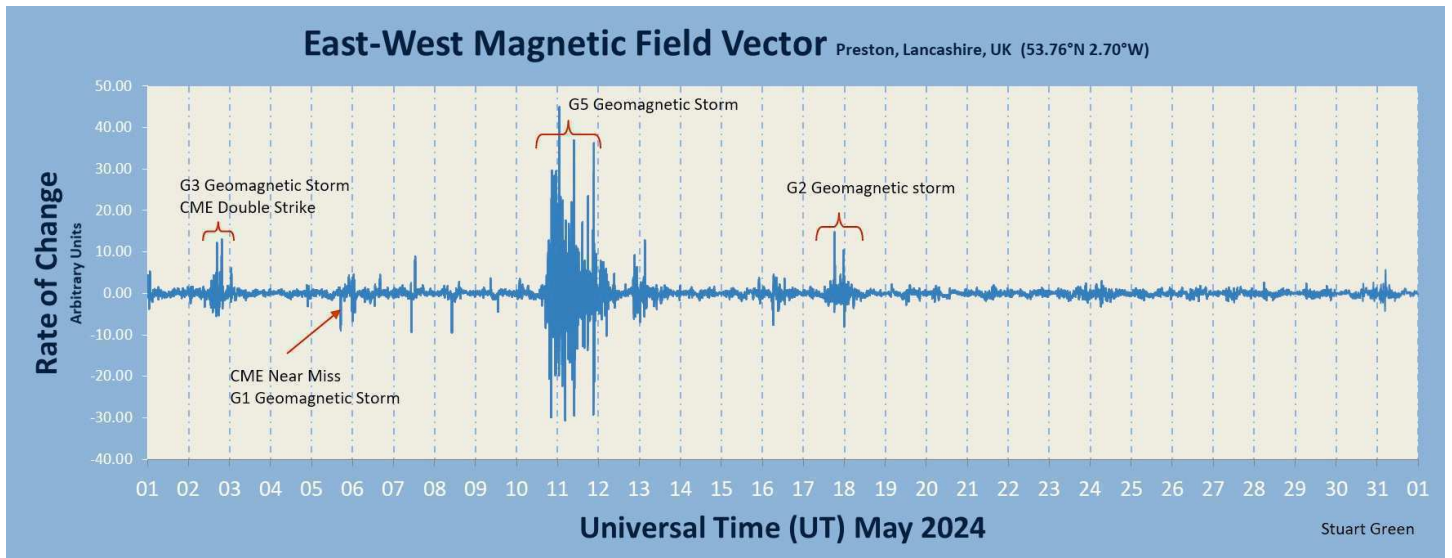


The early morning break in the 23.4kHz signal looks like a giant SID, particularly as it exactly matches the X2.8 flare starting just before 07UT. 22.1kHz shows a good spike and wave SID, most of the other signals showing a simple shark's fin SID. The recovery time varies between the various signals, several of which then show some strong oscillations. 22.1kHz and 19.6kHz show the clearest effect, while it is much weaker at 24kHz and 37.5kHz.

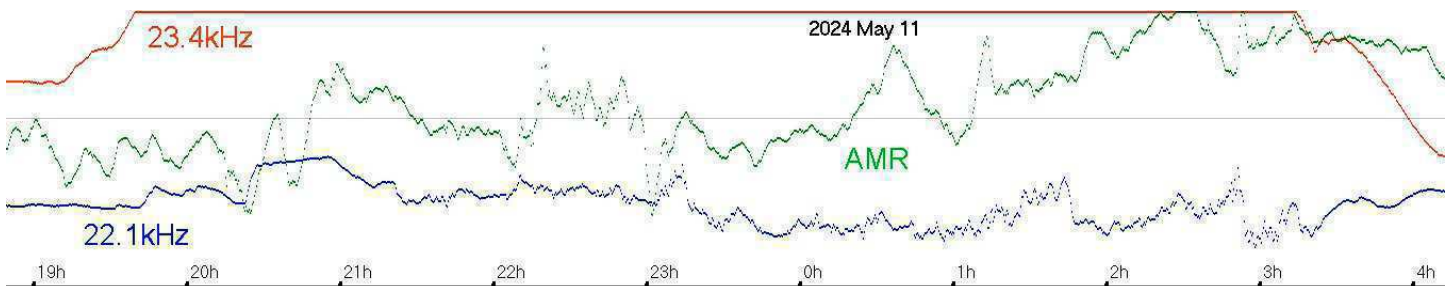


Mark Prescott's recording from the 29th shows the last of the X-flares, along with some of the M-flares. The unmarked SID around 09:30 is from the C8.2 flare. This selection of charts hardly does justice to the array of flares recorded, but I hope that it shows some of the variety and analysis problems.

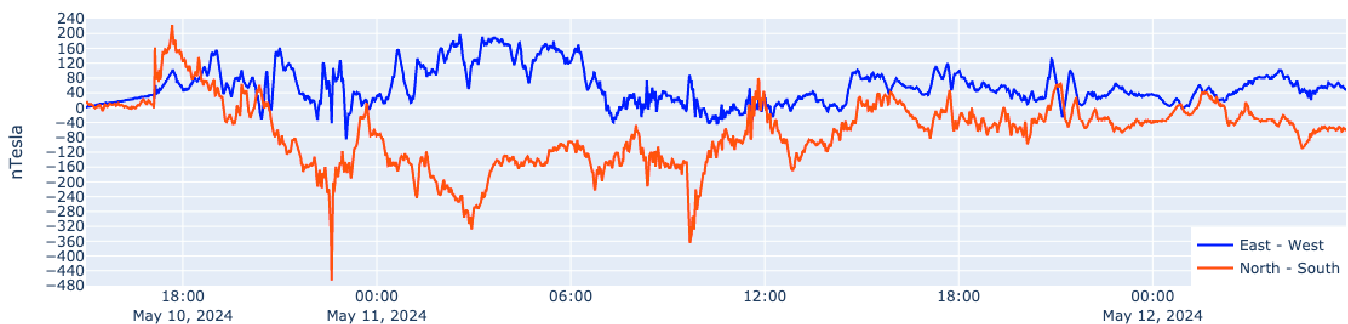
MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.



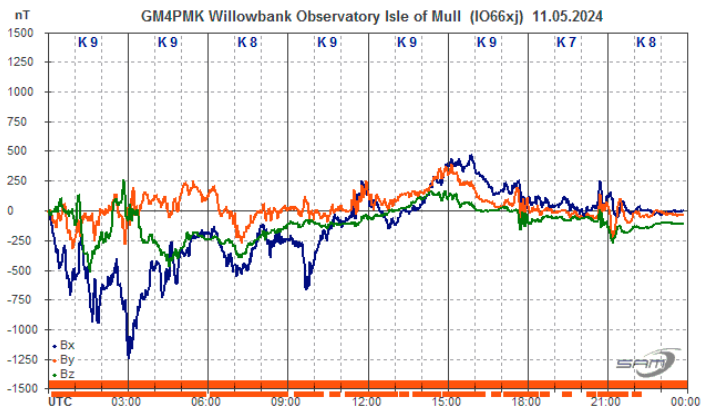
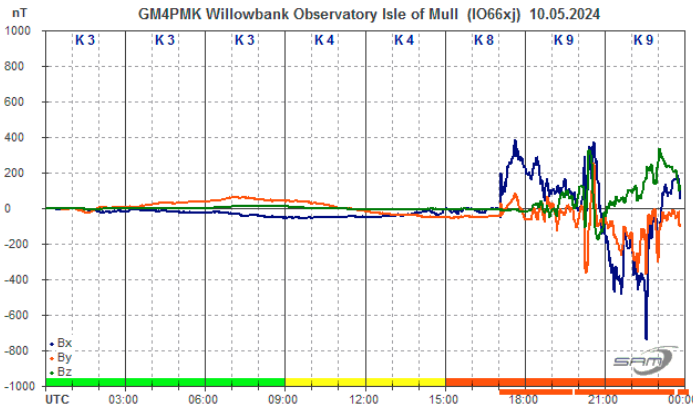
Stuart Green's chart of magnetic activity looks fairly quiet for most of the month, the magnetic storm of the 10th - 12th standing out as the only significant activity. The vertical axis has however been re-scaled compared to previous months, with a scale of +/- 50 compared to +/- 30. These are arbitrary units, as the chart shows rate of change rather than magnetic strength. The increased range does however show that the big storm had some of the most rapid fluctuations in magnetic field strength that we have seen. My own recording shows just how intense the turbulence was from 19UT on the 10th to 04UT on the 11th. The green trace is the magnetometer, red and blue are the VLF signals. The magnetic turbulence can be seen reflected in the 22.1kHz signal after midnight, while 23.4kHz has saturated the receiver.



Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)

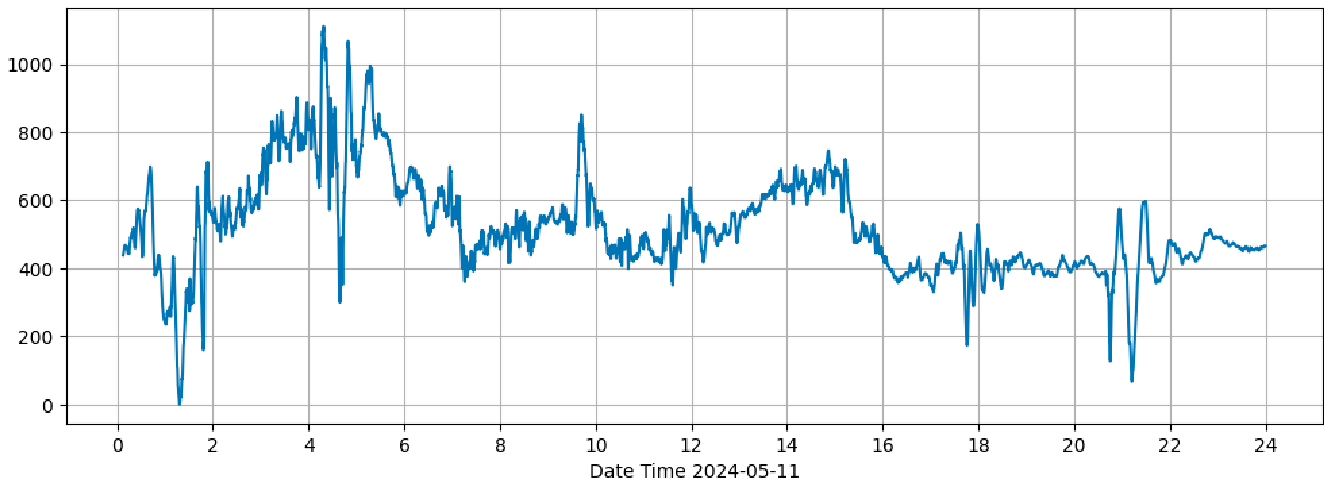


Nick Quinn's recording covers more of the activity, including the sudden start at 17:00UT. The amplitude range is +240/-480nT, recorded from near the south coast.



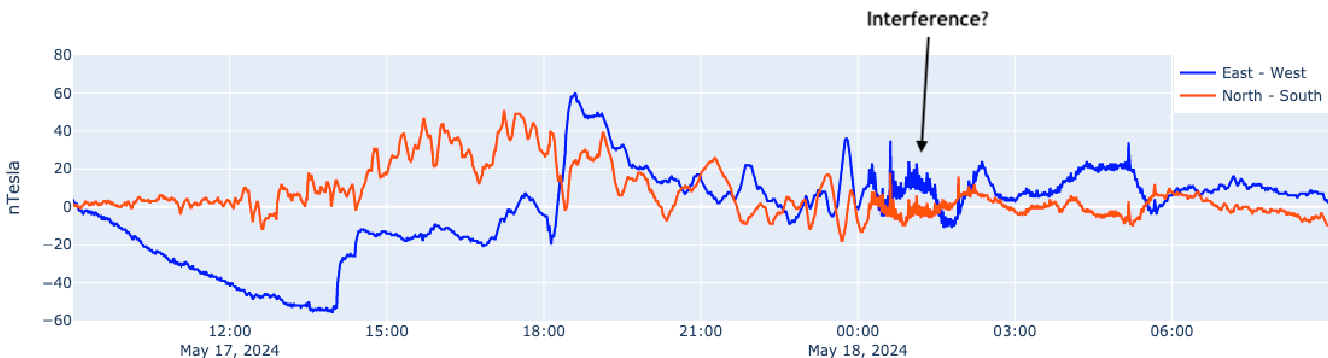
Roger Blackwell's Mull recordings of the storm also have increased the vertical axis magnetic strength, $\pm 1000\text{nT}$ on the 10th and $\pm 1500\text{nT}$ on the 11th. The sudden start at 17:00 appears to be from a barrage of CMEs related to the multiple strong flares recorded over the previous days. There may also have been SFEs associated with these flares, but the strong activity has hidden them.

Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N,3.06W)

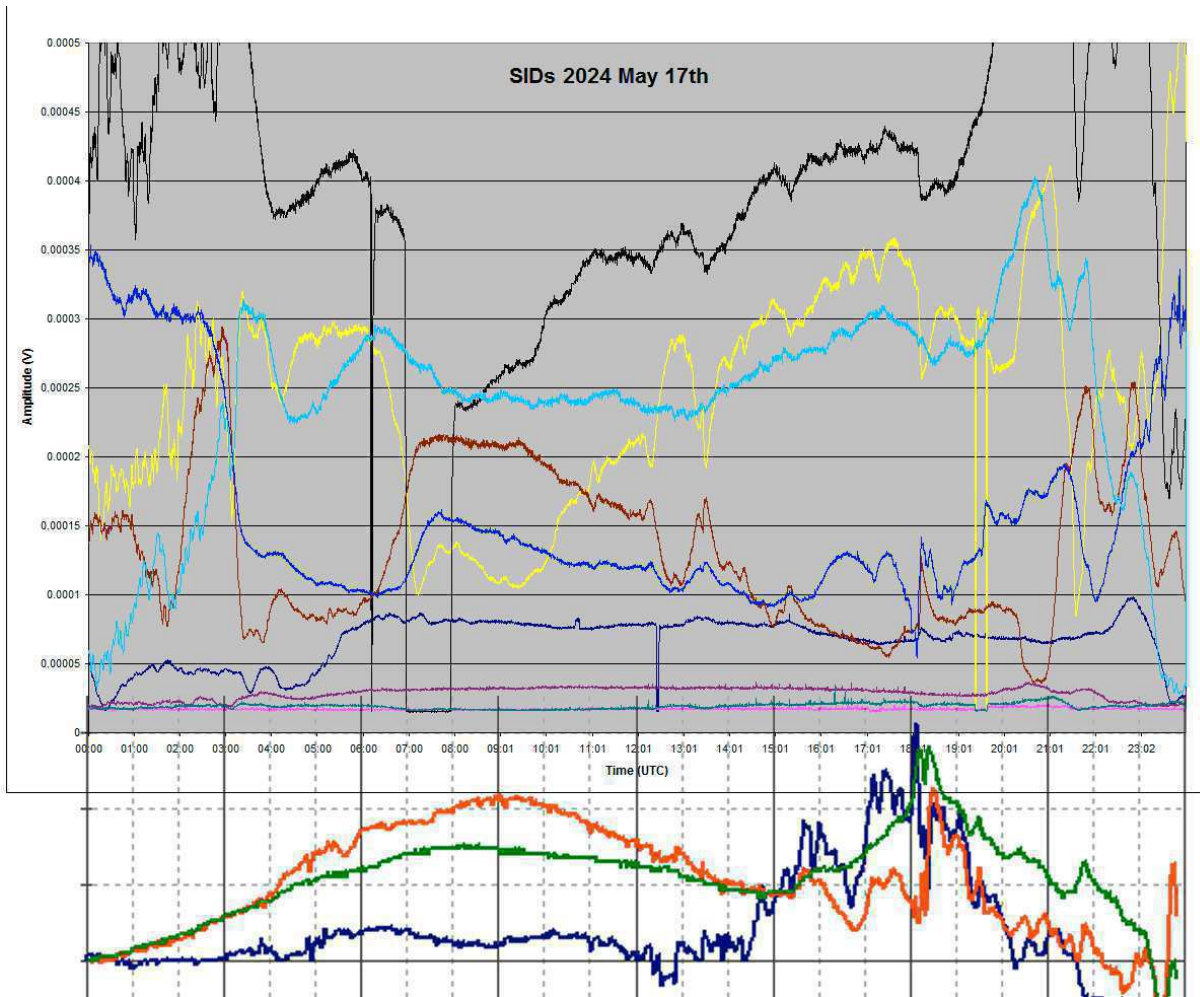


Callum Potter in Orkney has also re-scaled his recordings, this one showing the 11th. The sensors used in these recordings all have slightly different orientations and sensitivities, but they do show the severity of the storm, the background to the best auroral display seen here in the UK for a long time. Reports seen online show that it was also visible across most of the world, light pollution permitting.

Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



Nick Quinn's recording from the 17th shows further complex magnetic activity from midday through to around 06UT on the 18th.



Mark Edwards' has added Roger Blackwell's magnetic chart to his VLF recording of the 17th, showing how the afternoon VLF signals have been influenced by the magnetic turbulence. The space weather web site also shows a proton event early in the morning of the 18th, possibly a source of the activity that Nick Quinn has indicated as interference on his recording. It is quite possible that some of the other SIDs recorded during this very stormy month also have magnetic or precipitation links.

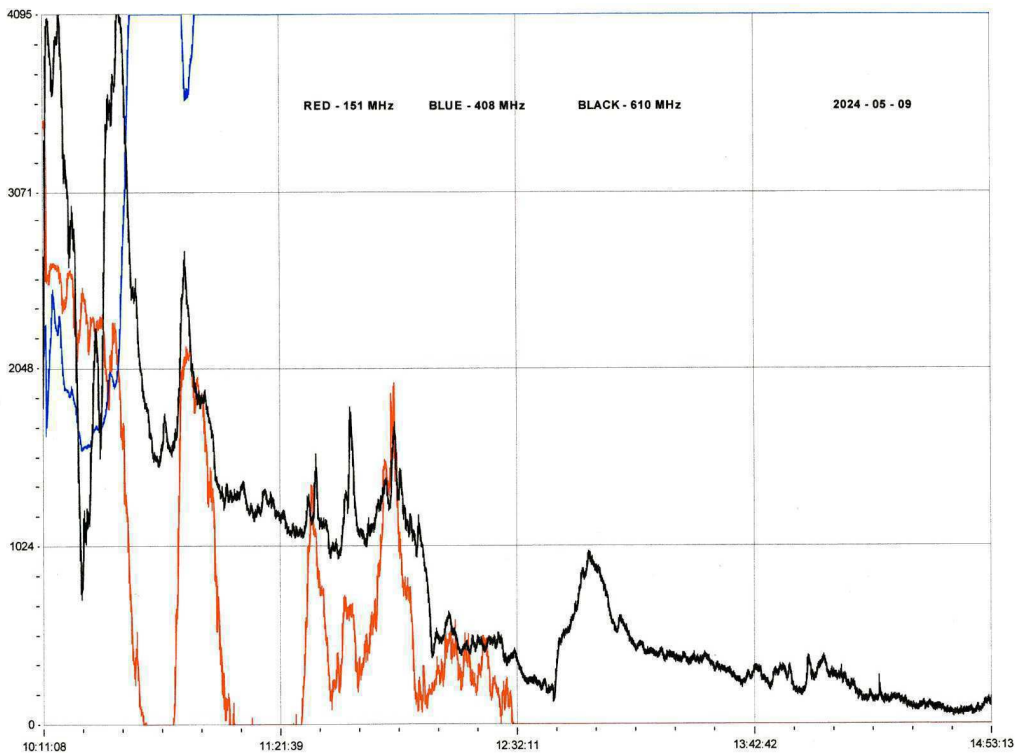
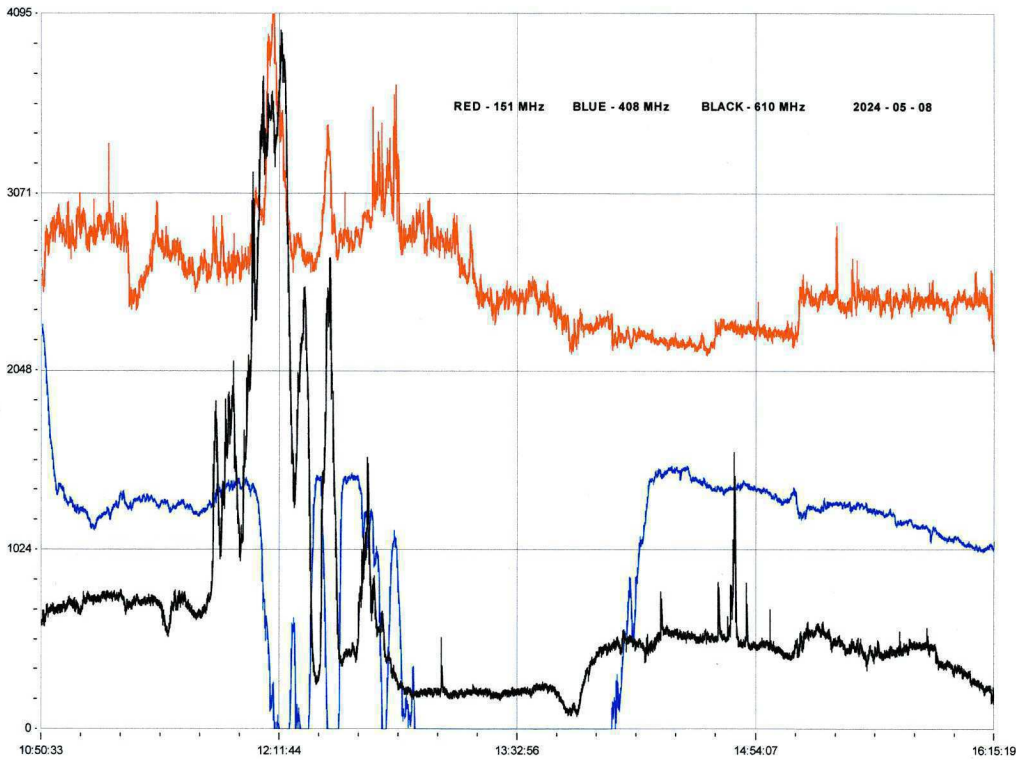


Thomas Mazzi recorded the magnetic storm on the 2nd. This had a sudden start at 14UT, probably from another CME impact. The STCE suggest that a flare on April 29th could be the source. The Mull magnetometer shows +/- 150nT, Callum Potter in Orkney recorded a 200nT swing. Most days in May showed some activity, but very mild compared to these storms.

Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Andrew Thomas, Thomas Mazzi, Callum Potter, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

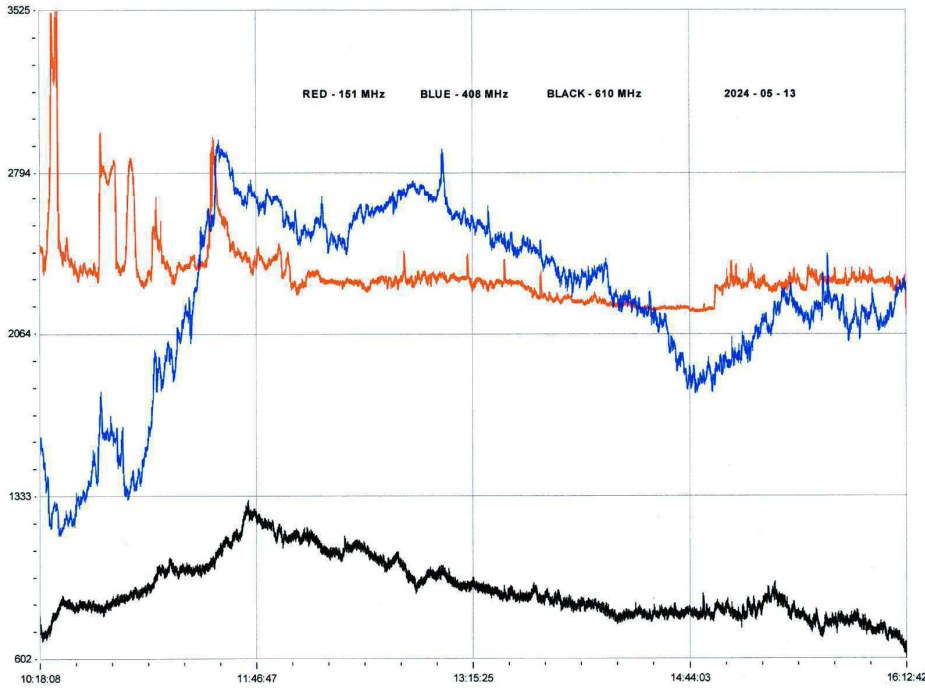
SOLAR EMISSIONS

Colin Clements recorded some strong solar emissions on the 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th and 13th, following the intense flaring activity. Recordings from the 8th and 9th show activity leading up to the storm on the 10th.



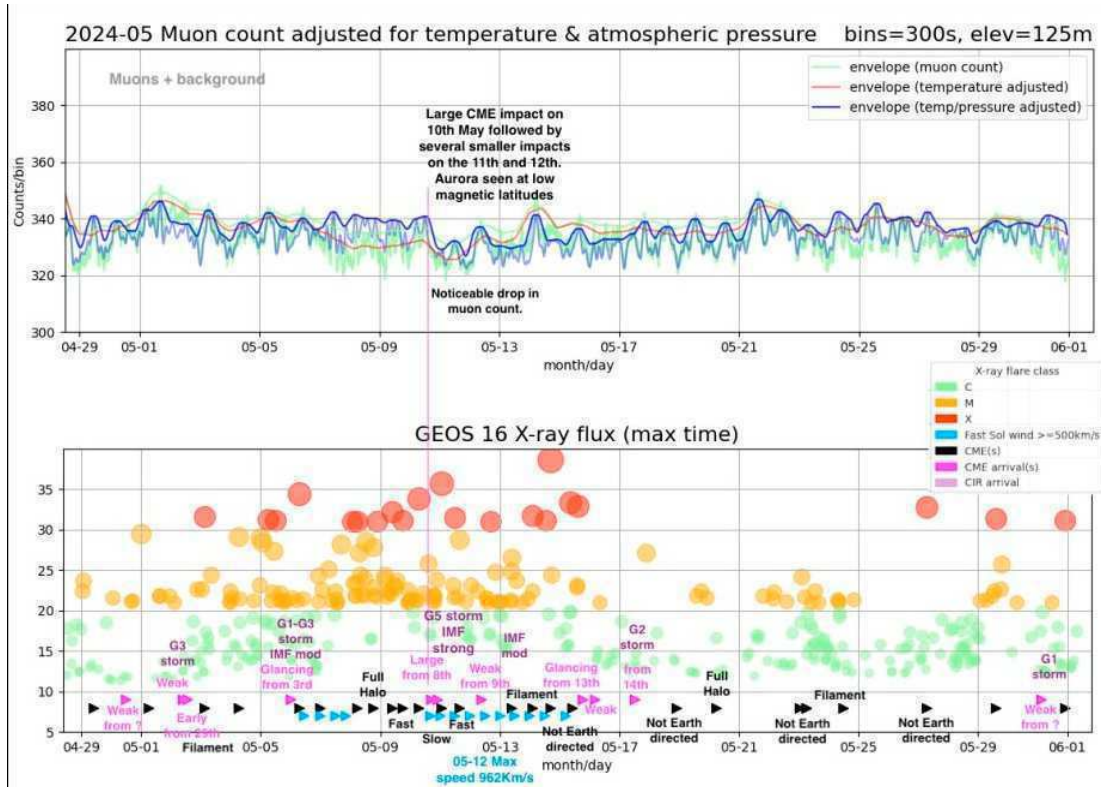
The M4.1 flare at 12UT on the 8th has produced a very strong noise burst at 610MHz (black) and a less intense burst at 151MHz (red). The 408MHz (blue) behaviour is very strange, with reduced activity following the flare. This may perhaps be due to a stronger response to the earlier flares not shown on this chart. On the

9th both 151 and 610MHz can be seen falling in activity, while 408MHz rises and remains off scale for the rest of the recording. The X2.2 flare at 09:15 and subsequent M-flares appear to be responsible.



The sequence of M-flares on the 13th seem to have produced several hours of 408MHz activity, as well as a shorter peak at 610MHz. 151MHz is probably showing activity from the earlier M6.6 flare that is less evident at 408MHz. There were also some strong noise bursts on the 5th, 6th and 12th.

MUONS

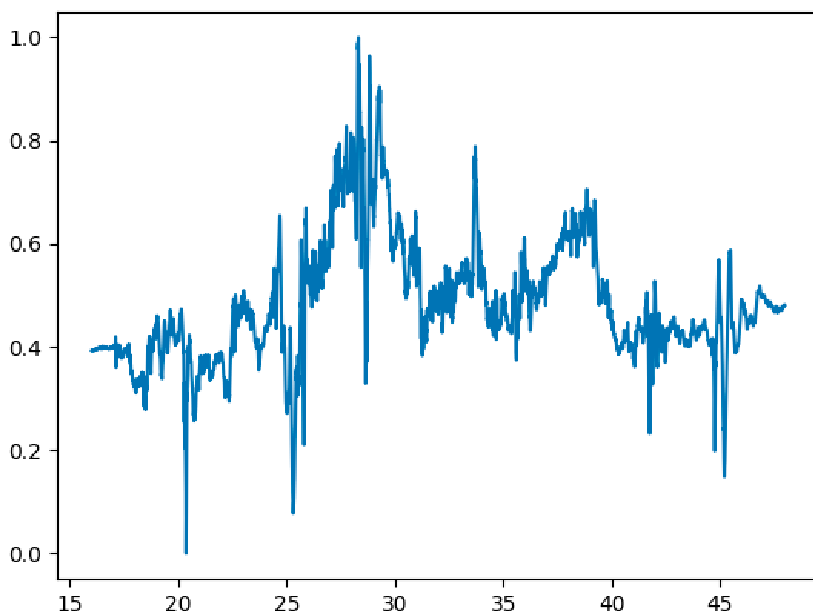


05-12 Max speed 962Km/s

Mark Prescott's chart of Muon activity shows a distinct Forbush decrease in the temperature / pressure corrected count matching the storm on the 10th and 11th. The strong magnetic activity has prevented cosmic rays from entering the atmosphere to produce the Muons. The top portion of Mark's chart shows a gentle recovery over the next week. The lower portion of the chart is a very good summary of the flare and magnetic activity in the days leading up to the storm.

AR13664 was the main culprit in this activity, although several nearby groups also produced some of the flares. It was a very large and complex sunspot group, the 12th largest recorded in 150 years of Greenwich observatory recording. It has been compared in size to the famous 1859 group recorded by Carrington, although there does not appear to have been a 'white light' flare from this one. It could well survive its time as it rotates out of view, making a return visit after a couple of weeks.

The recent Greenock BAA meeting included a talk on the sonification of recorded data to produce sound files. This prompted Callum Potter to try out the technique with his magnetic data from the big storm over night on the 10th and 11th. The result is both very strange and very interesting. I am including his mp3 file for you to have a listen. The data section used in the recording is shown below. Feedback most welcome!



BARTELS DIAGRAM

ROTATION	KEY:	DISTURBED.	ACTIVE	SFE	B, C, M, X = FLARE MAGNITUDE.	Synodic rotation start (carrington's).
2570	6 7 8 9 10 11	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2253			
2571	2022 February 2 3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	2254			
2572	2022 March 1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	2255			
2573	2022 April 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	2256			
2574	2022 May 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	2257			
2575	2022 June 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	2258			
2576	2022 July 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	2259			
2577	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2260			
2578	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2261			
2579	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2262			
2580	2022 October 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	2263			
2581	2022 November 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	2264			
2582	2022 December 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	2265			
2583	2023 January 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	2266			
2584	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	2267			
2585	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	2268			
2586	14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2269			
2587	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2270			
2588	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2271			
2589	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	2272			
2590	2023 July 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	2273			
2591	2023 August 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	2274			
2592	2023 September 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	2275			
2593	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	2276			
2594	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	2277			
2595	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	2278			
2596	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5	2279			
2597	2024 February 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1	2280			
2598	2024 March 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	2281			
2599	2024 April 29 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	2282			
2600	2024 May 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	2283			
2601	2024 June 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	2284			
2602	20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	2285			

BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

2024 MAY.

Table with columns for time slots (8-15), radio astronomy codes (e.g., M1.7, M2.3, X1.0), and observation times for various frequencies (12:30, 12:35, 12:46, etc.). Includes a large block of question marks in the first column for many rows.

