



# The British Astronomical Association

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BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

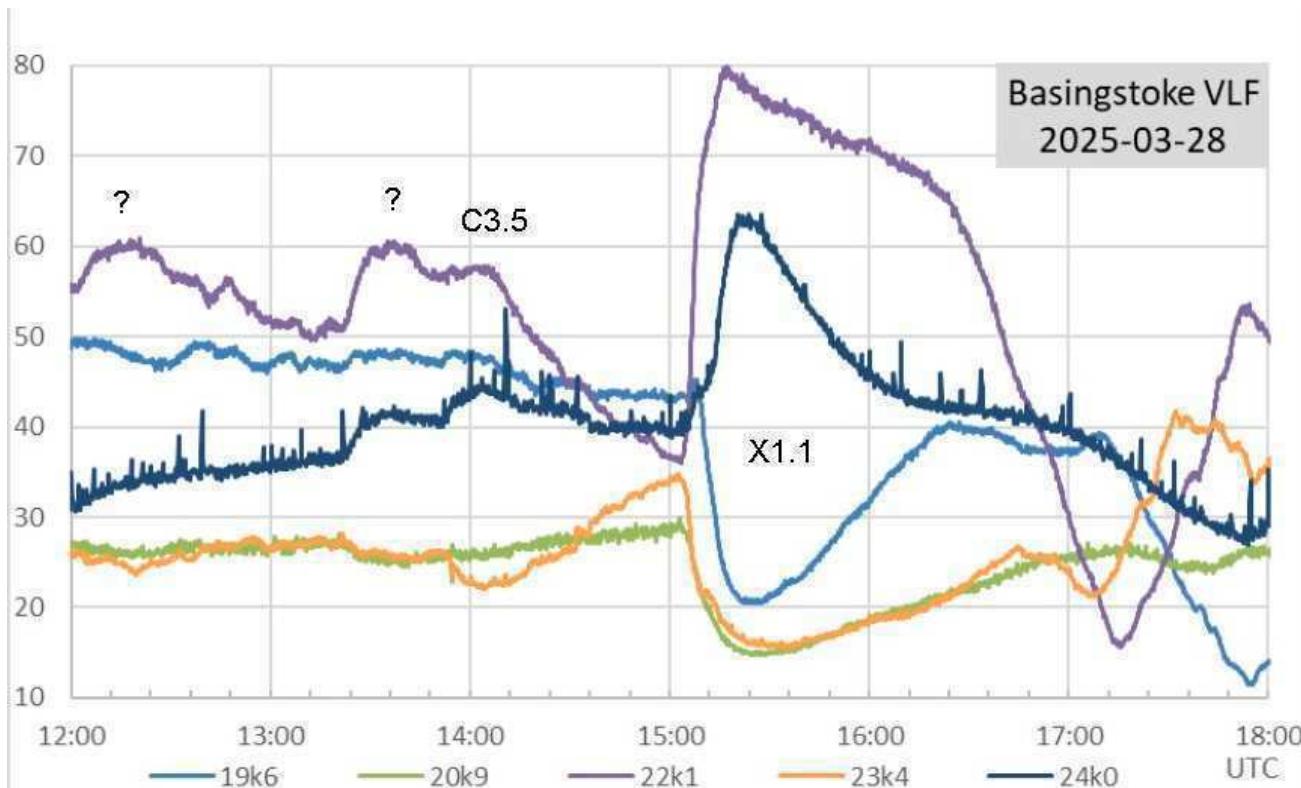
Director Paul Hearn.

## RADIO SKY NEWS

## 2025 MARCH.

### VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

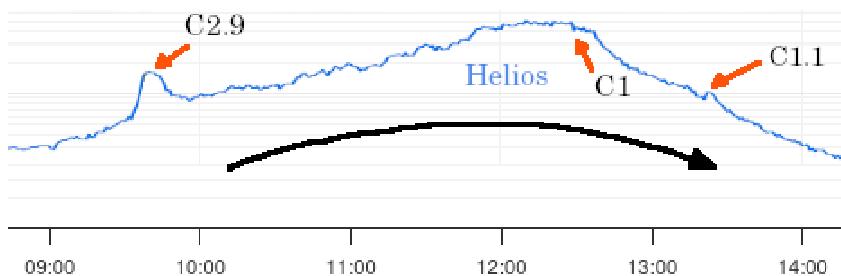
Solar flaring activity in March has been generally weaker than in February. We recorded a total of 83 SIDs compared with 80 in February, although only 9 were of M-class. In February there were 23 M-class SIDs recorded. There was a single X-flare shown in the satellite X-ray data, well timed at 15:30UT on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Most of the SIDs recorded between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> were from C-class flares, flaring strength increasing after that. Paul Hyde's recording from the 28<sup>th</sup> shows the X-flare:



The 24kHz and 19.6kHz signals show a nice pair of mirror-SIDs, while the other signals seem to show much longer decay times, influenced perhaps by the sunset. The C3.5 flare has produced quite a weak SID, while the unlisted events both show stronger SIDs. The one at 13:40UT was widely recorded, although the earlier one just had a single observation.

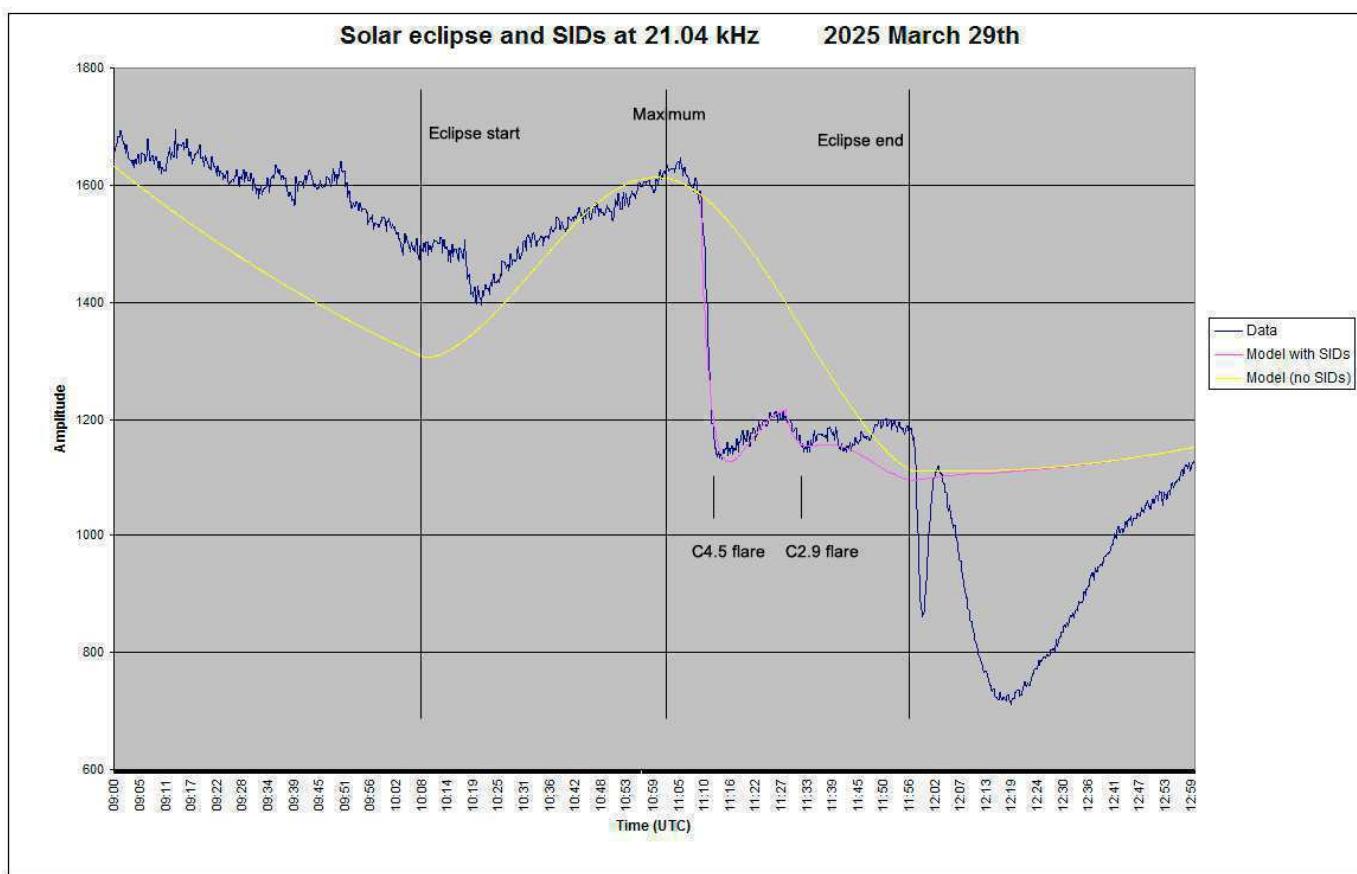
2 Mar 2025

Freq 45.9 kHz

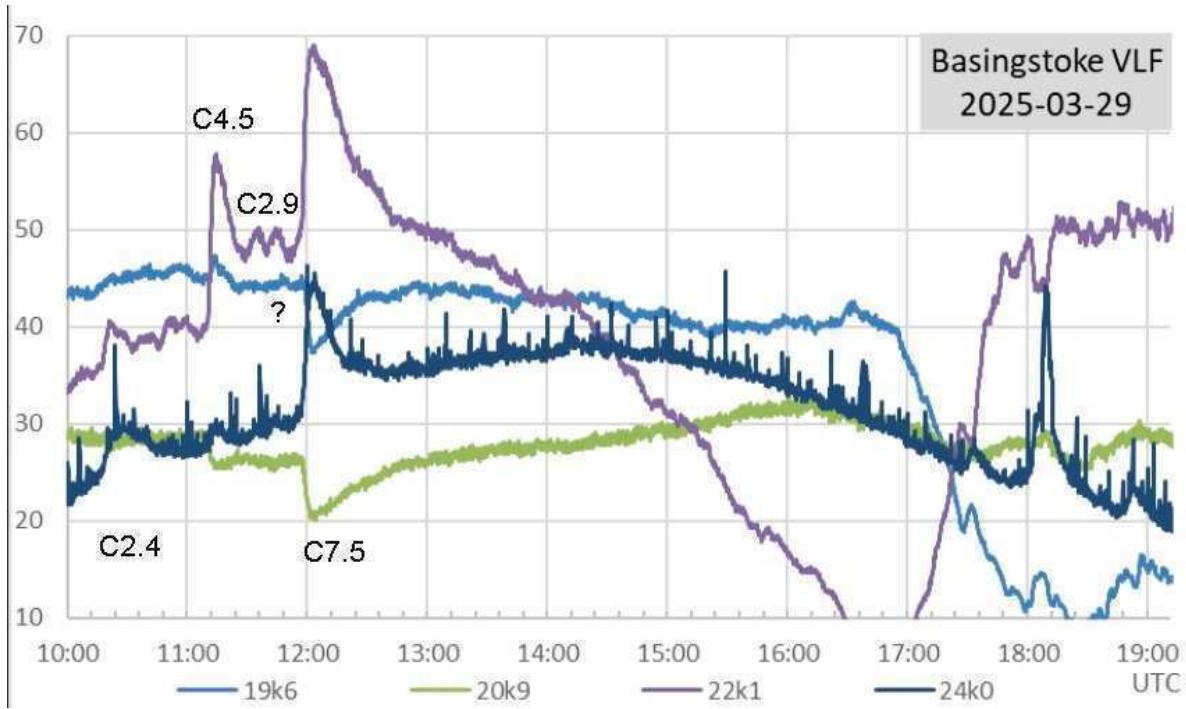


Thomas Mazzi in Italy recorded some of the weakest flares seen for a long time. The one marked C1 is not listed in the satellite data, but the other two are listed. We had two other observations of the C2.9 flare, while the C1.1 was missed.

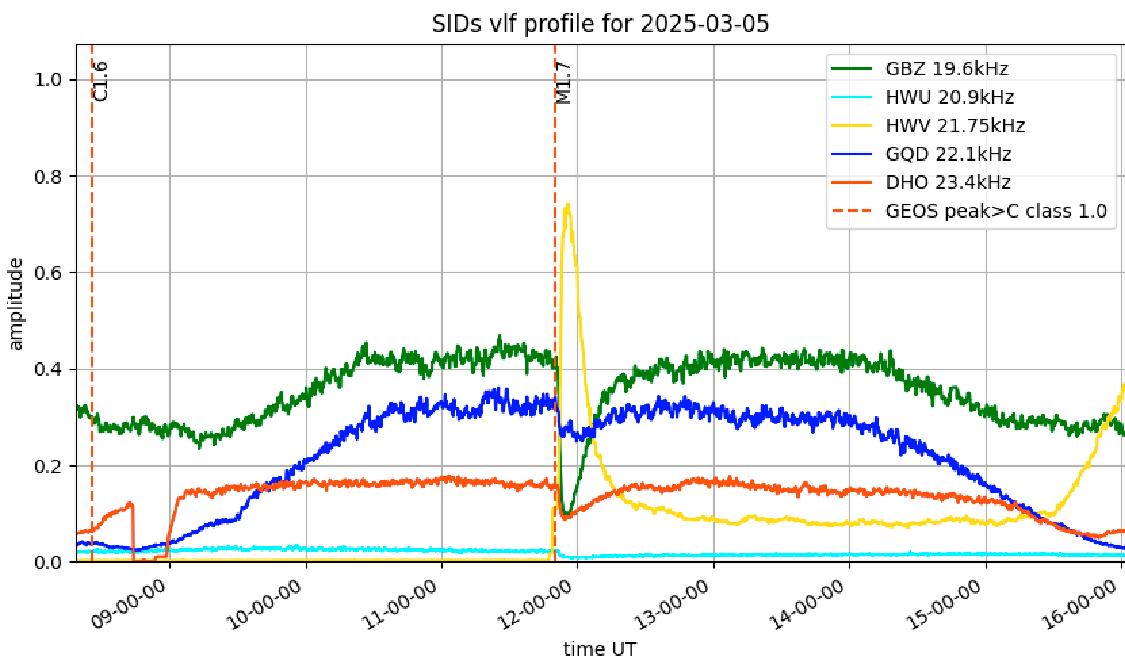
On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March we had some mixed weather here in the UK for observing the partial solar eclipse. It was about 40% maximum, and well seen visually. Looking at the radio data however showed that there were flares going off at the same time, rather confusing our VLF recordings. Mark Edwards has used his modelling method to show the effect both with and without the SIDs present. It required a few modifications to the model used for the last partial eclipse in order to get it to work. The C7.5 flare started after the eclipse had ended, but is included in the chart.



Our recordings of the 2015 March partial eclipse showed an increase in some signals, with a drop in others. Most showed a double peak, but that partial eclipse had a much larger phase compared to this one. There were no SIDs present!

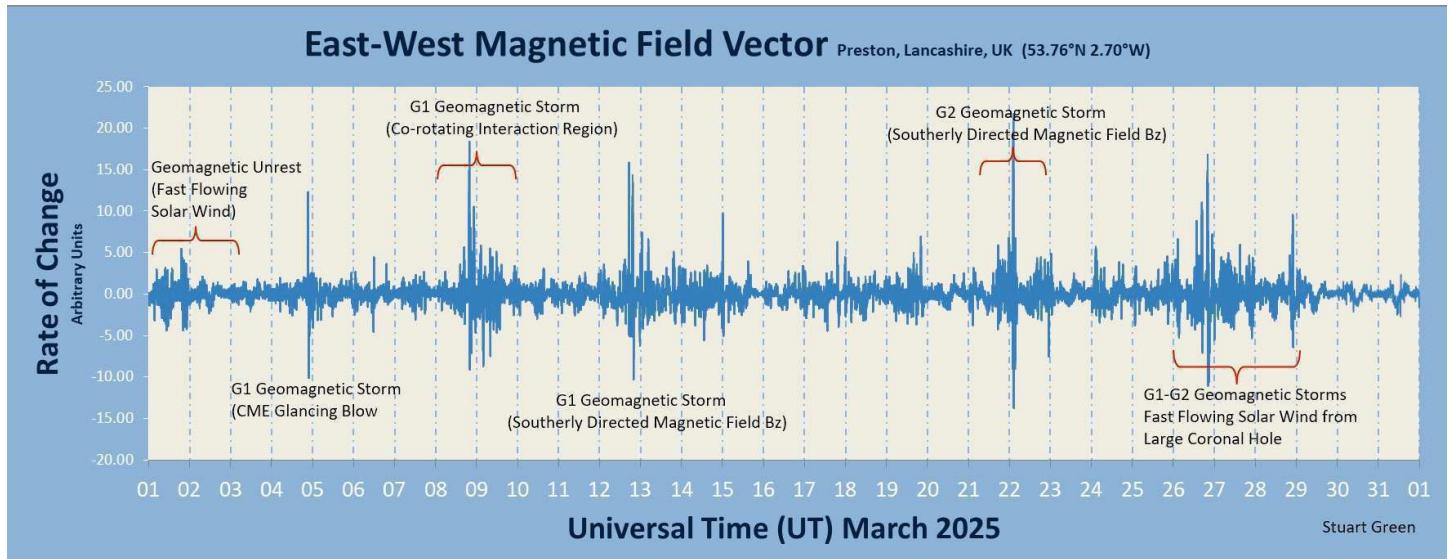


This recording from Paul Hyde shows very little effect from the eclipse, the SIDs dominating the picture on all four signals. 22.1kHz shows the C2.9 and unlisted flares best.

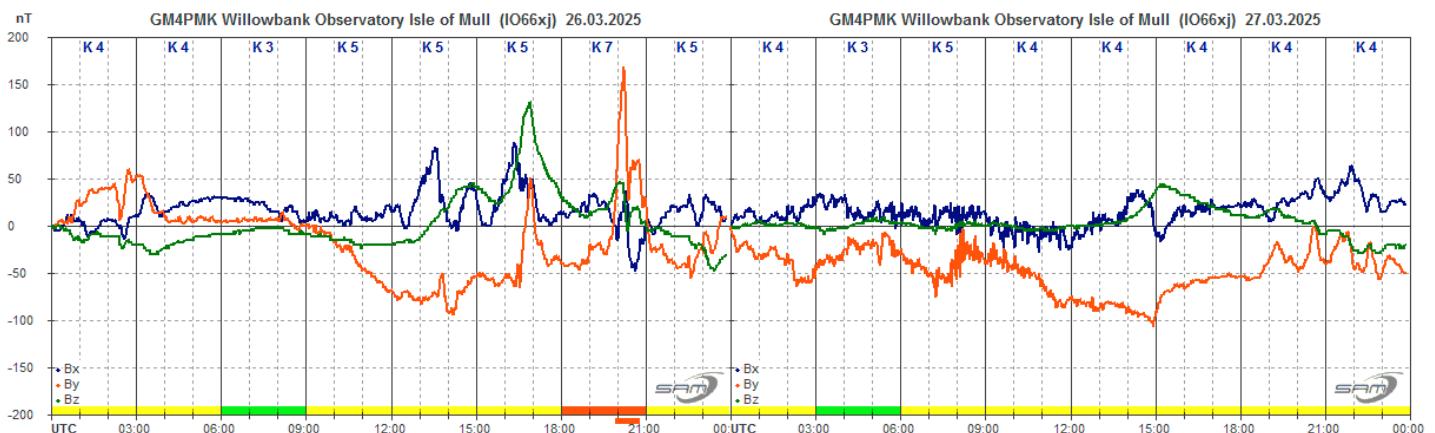


Activity at the start of March was much lower, and generally weaker. We did however catch the M1.7 flare peaking just before midday on the 5<sup>th</sup>, shown in Mark Prescott's recording. 20.9kHz appears to be off all day, although there is a tiny drop in signal level matching the start of the flare. All of the other signals show clear SIDs, 21.75kHz being particularly strong, although it also appears to have been off before the flare. 19.6kHz, 22.1kHz and 23.4kHz all show an excellent diurnal curve between sunrise and sunset, not often seen during the periods of higher solar activity.

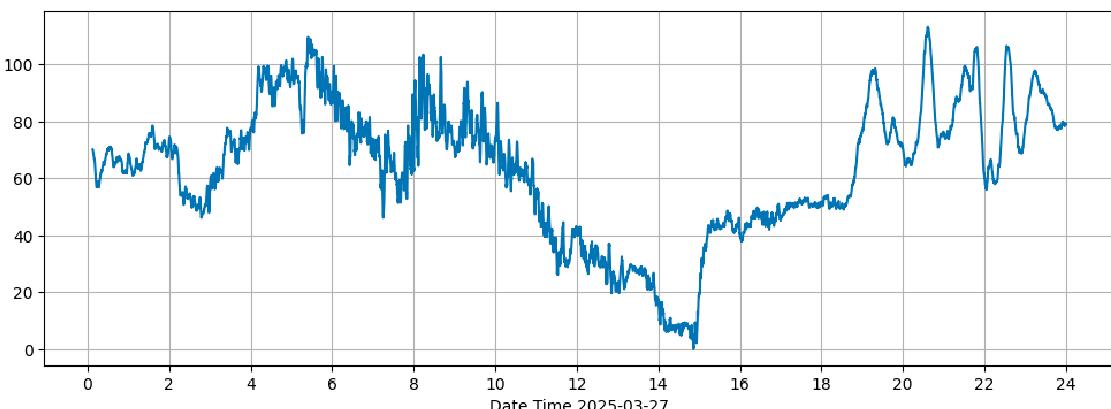
## MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.



Stuart Green's chart of magnetic activity in March shows plenty of disturbances, mostly from fast solar winds. Coronal holes are starting to become more common with the lower level of flaring, Roger Blackwell's recording from the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> showing a very turbulent period:

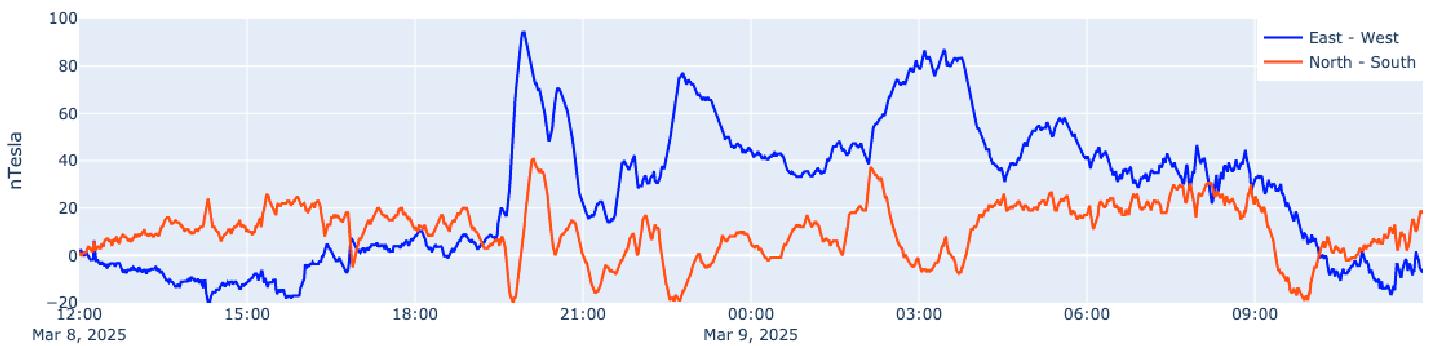


Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N, 3.06W)

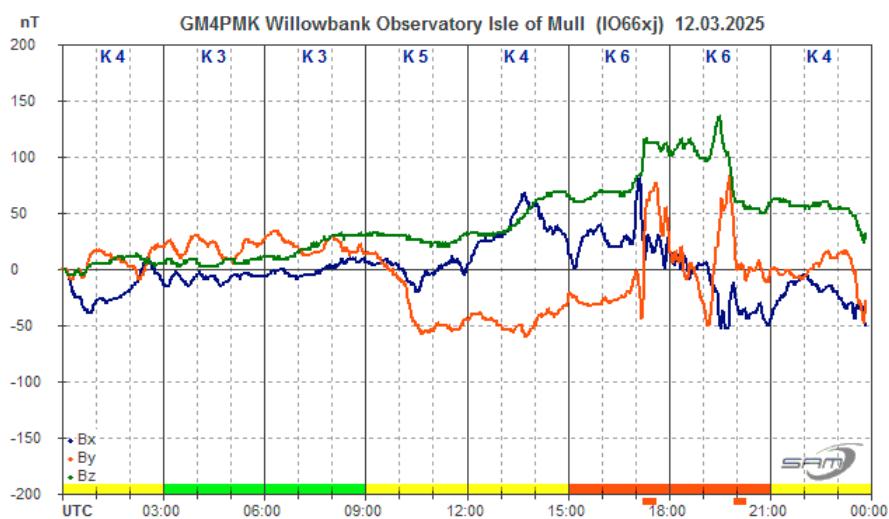


Callum Potter's recording on the 27<sup>th</sup> shows the very rapid variations in field strength during the morning.

### Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)

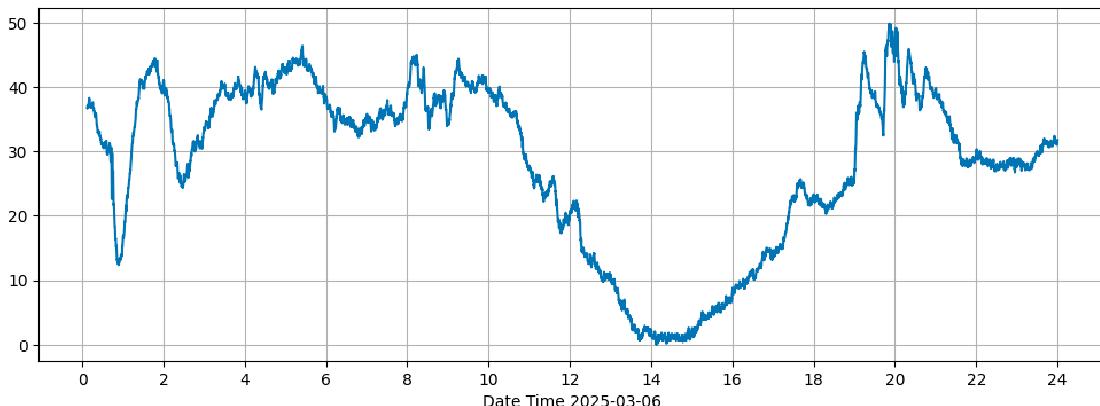


Nick Quinn's recording from the 8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> also shows solar wind turbulence, this time from a co-rotating interaction region (CIR), where magnetic polarities rapidly change. There is also a high speed wind present, although it faded out later on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Activity increased again on the 12<sup>th</sup>, a strong disturbance in the evening shown in Roger Blackwell's recording. This continued over the next few days, but not quite as strong.



The STCE bulletin reports a CME impact late on the 5<sup>th</sup>, although none of our recordings show the impact. Callum Potter recorded a fairly mild disturbance on the 6<sup>th</sup>, possibly related to the CME. This was much weaker on the 7<sup>th</sup>, fading out after that.

### Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N,3.06W)



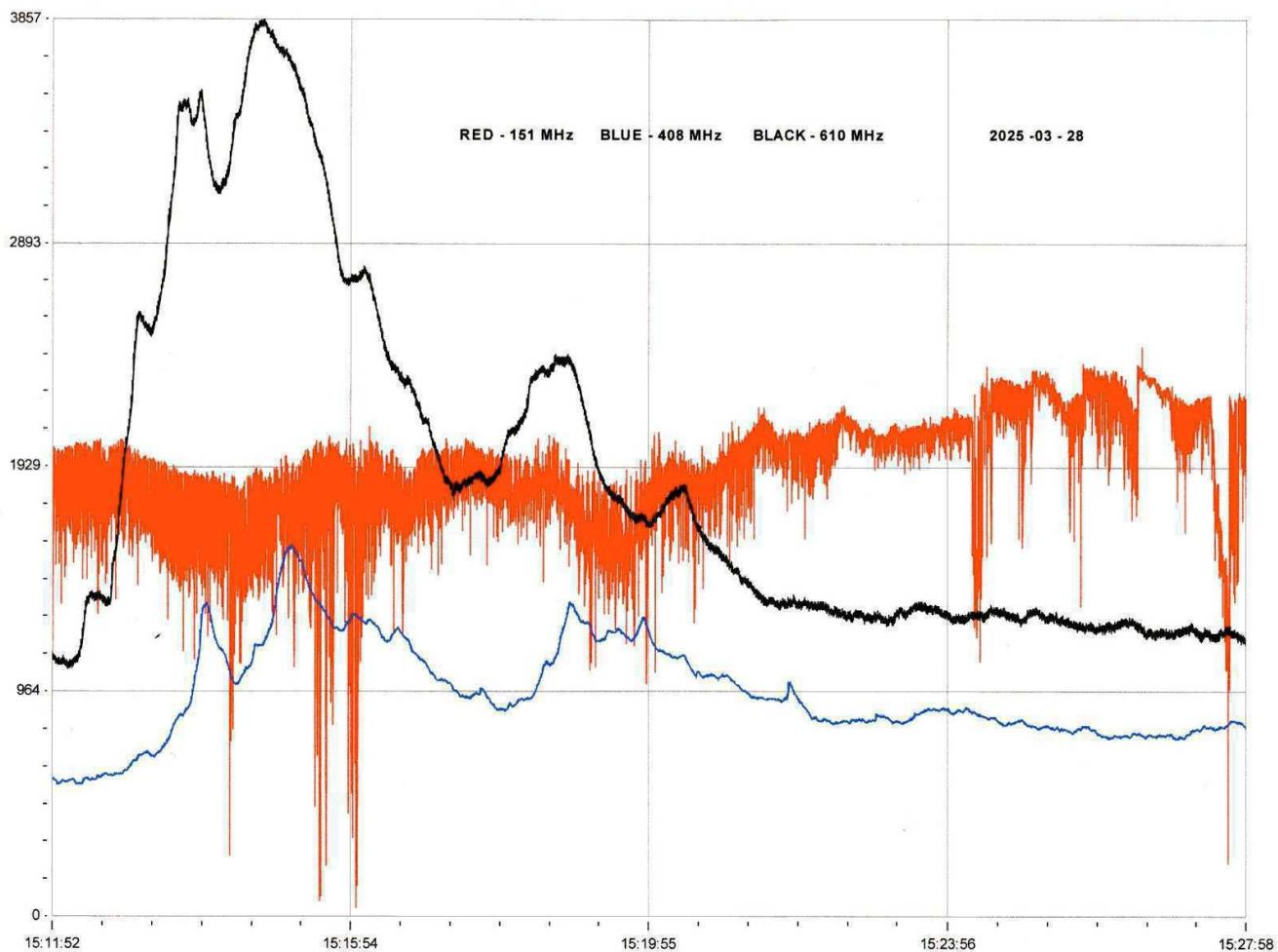
The STCE bulletin does list a CME from the X1.1 flare on the 28<sup>th</sup>, but our recordings show little evidence other than mild activity at the end of the month. There was also a CME on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with a short period of activity recorded by Thomas Mazzi:



Activity starts mid-afternoon on the 21<sup>st</sup> with a quiet period over midnight and further activity early morning on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

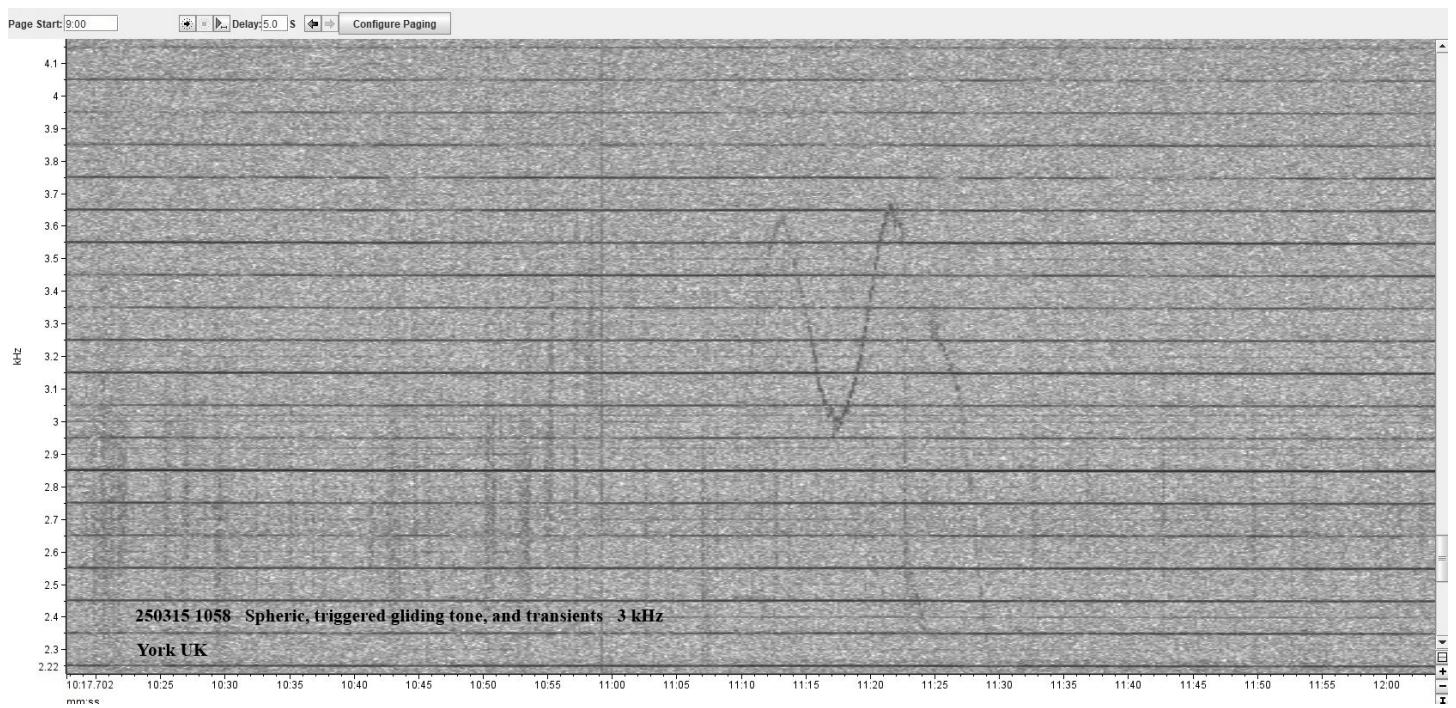
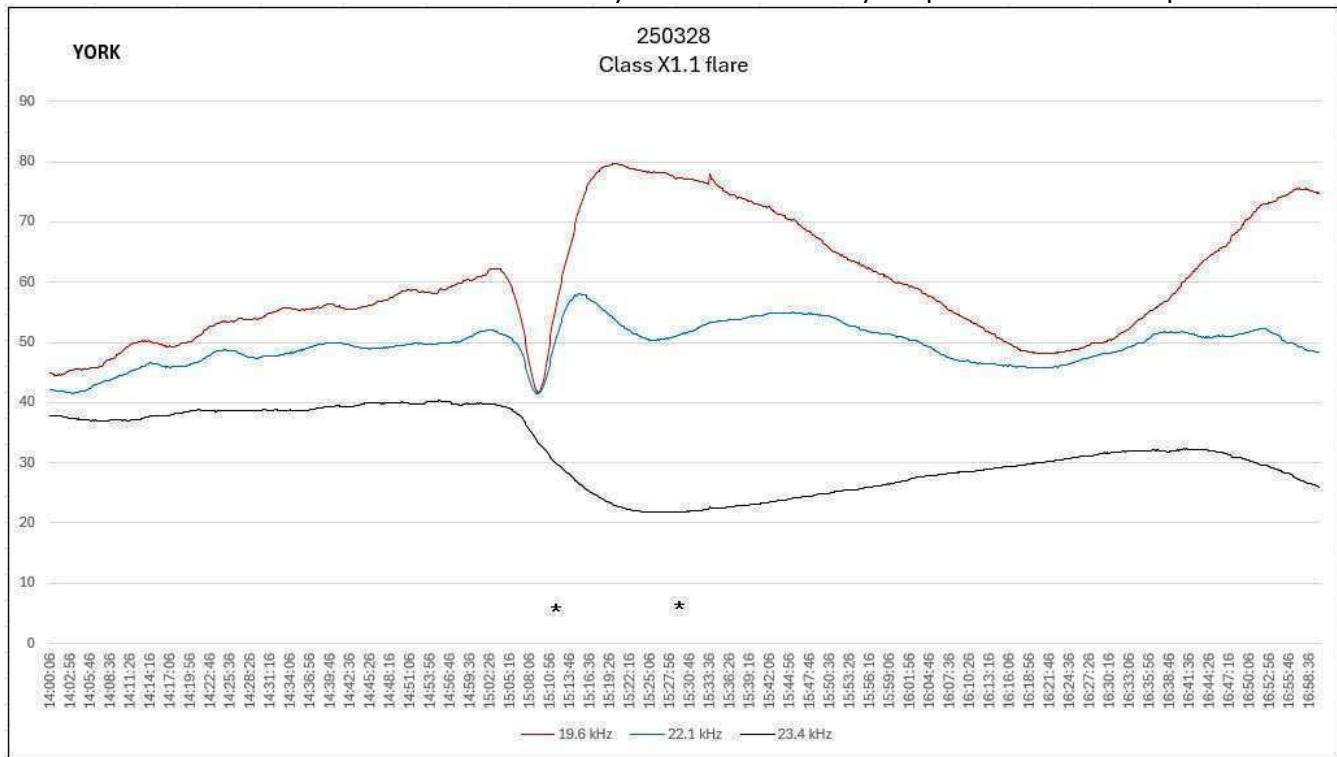
Magnetic observations received from Roger Blackwell, Stuart Green, Thomas Mazzi, Callum Potter, Nick Quinn and John Cook.

## SOLAR EMISSIONS



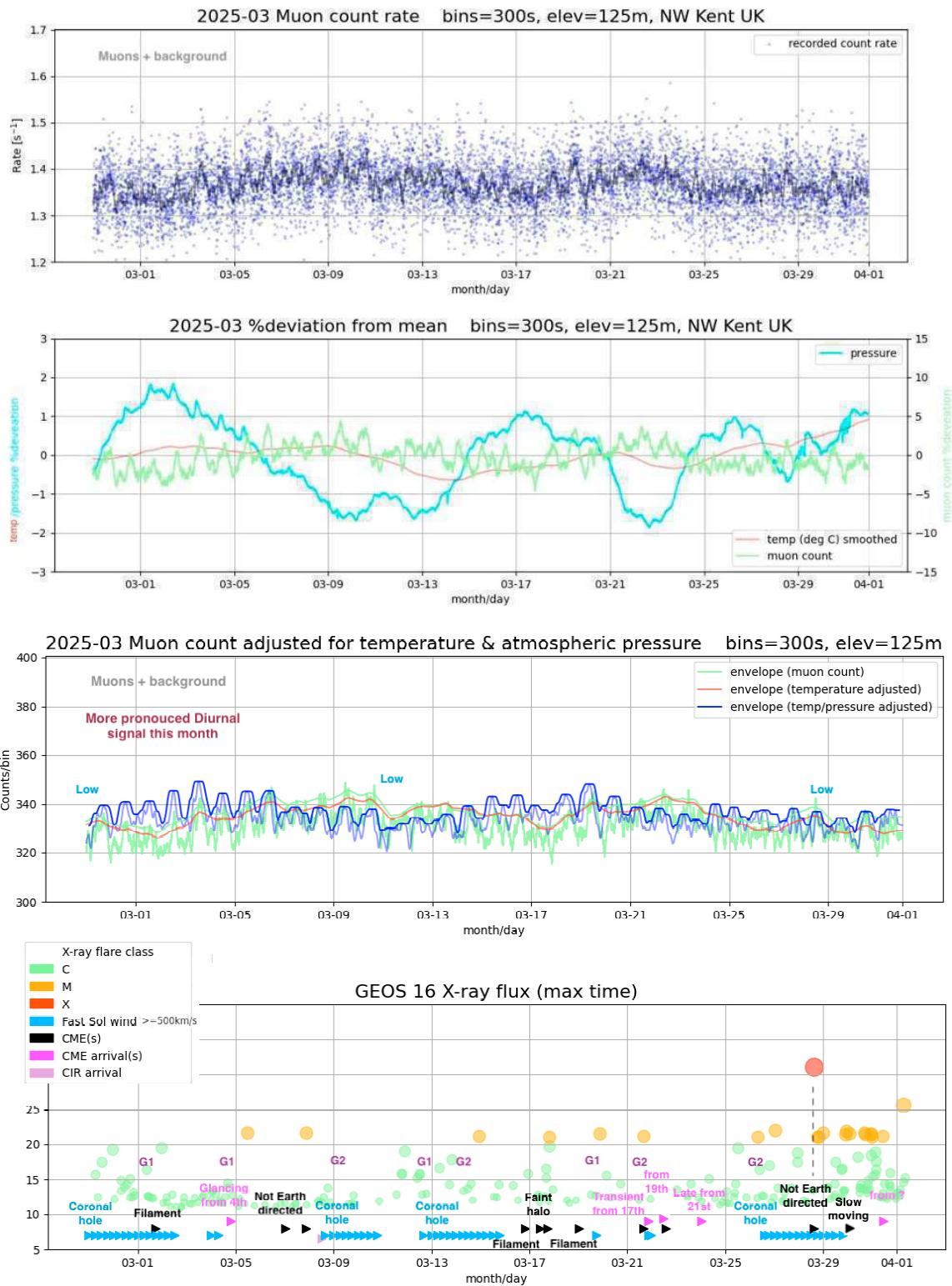
Significant VHF / UHF emissions were recorded by Colin Clements from the X1.1 flare. 408MHz and 610MHz both show a very clean rise in signal level, peaks shifted barely a minute apart. 151MHz shows

more noise, but the pattern is very similar with just a small delay. Colin Briden provided an expanded VLF recording showing 19.6kHz, 22.1kHz and 23.4kHz. I have added '\*' marks to show where the VHF / UHF chart starts and ends. This also shows the short delay between the X-ray output and the RF output.



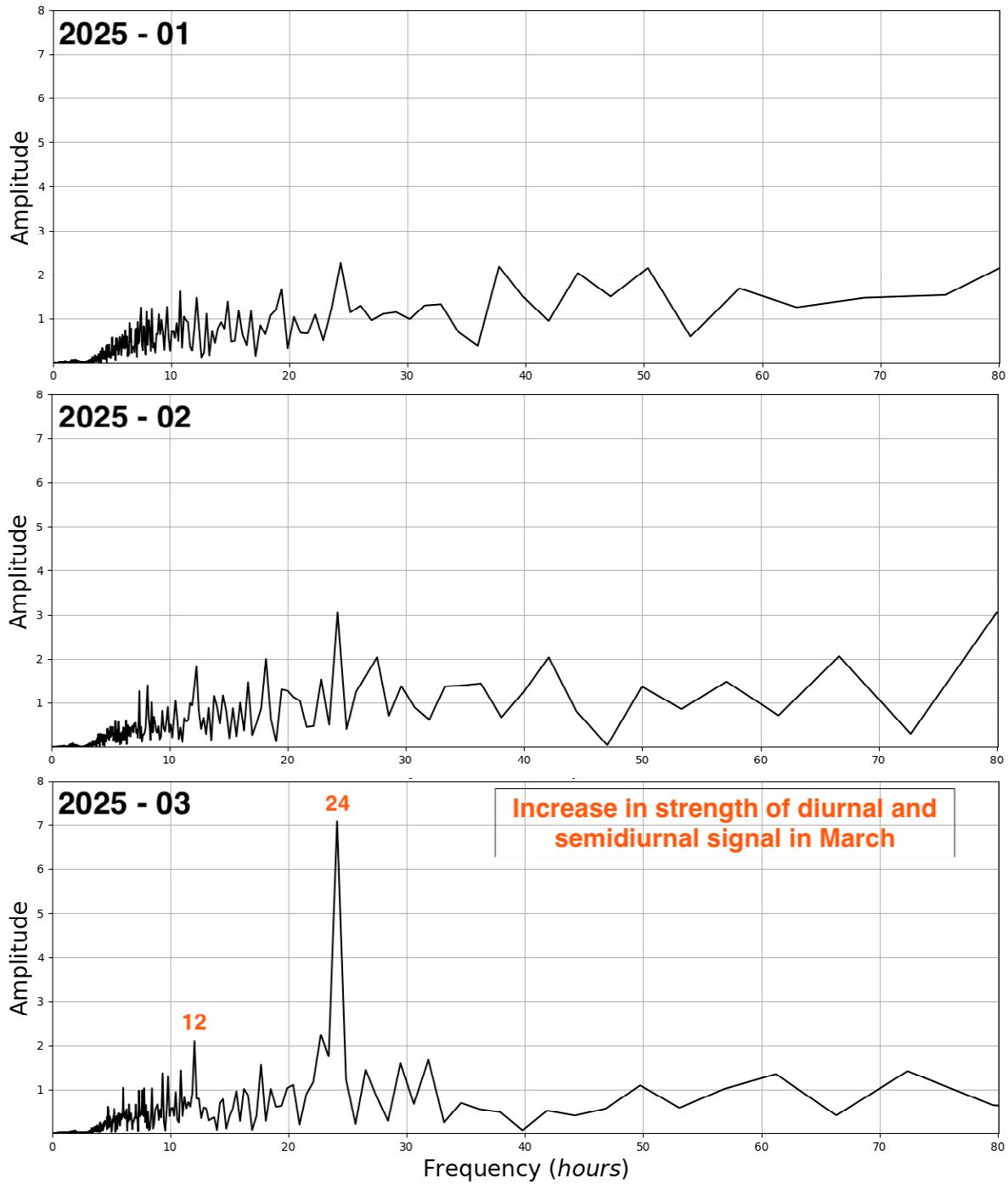
Colin Briden also recorded spherics at 3kHz on the 15<sup>th</sup>. His chart runs from 11:17 to 12:00, showing transients and a gliding tone. The vertical axis covers 2.3kHz to 4kHz. I have enhanced the contrast a little to make them a little easier to see.

## MUONS



The raw muon data in the top chart from Mark Prescott shows a very slow variation through the month, perhaps reflecting the generally weaker flaring activity. Mark has also noticed a more pronounced diurnal variation, illustrated in his FFT analysis of data recorded over January to March on the next page:

## Muon count (+background) adjusted for Atmospheric Pressure and local Temperature - FFT spectra



The top two charts from January and February both show peaks at 12 hour and 24 hour intervals, but the peaks in March are considerably stronger. The peaks at longer intervals are far more random.

## VLF flare activity 2005/25

C M X — Relative sunspot number

