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BAA Radio Astronomy Section.

Director Paul Hearn.

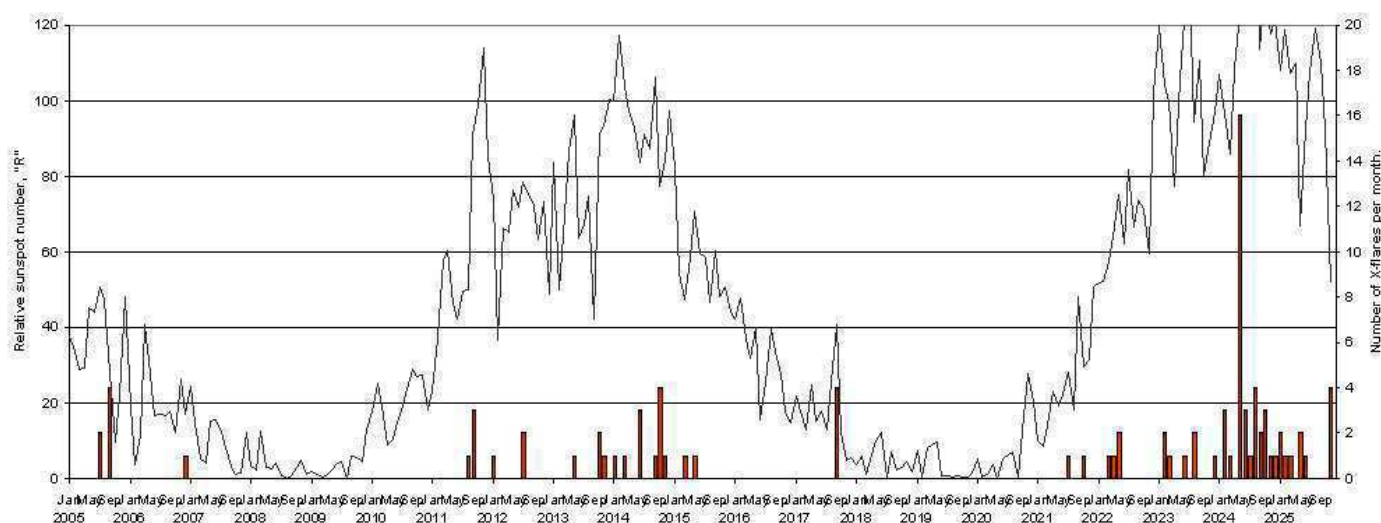
RADIO SKY NEWS

2025 NOVEMBER.

VLF SID OBSERVATIONS.

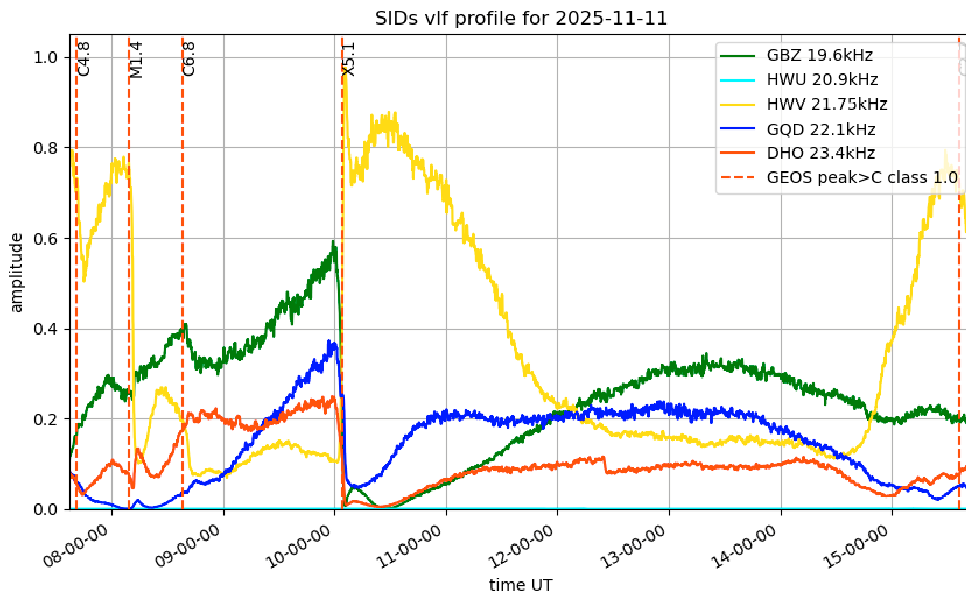
Solar flare numbers in November were slightly lower than in October, but the flares were also stronger. Four X-class flares were recorded as SIDs, with a total of six shown in the satellite data. Most of these were from AR 14274, a large and complex group of sunspots crossing the solar meridian during this activity. The current solar cycle has produced considerably more X-flares than the previous cycle:

X-class flares 2005-2025.

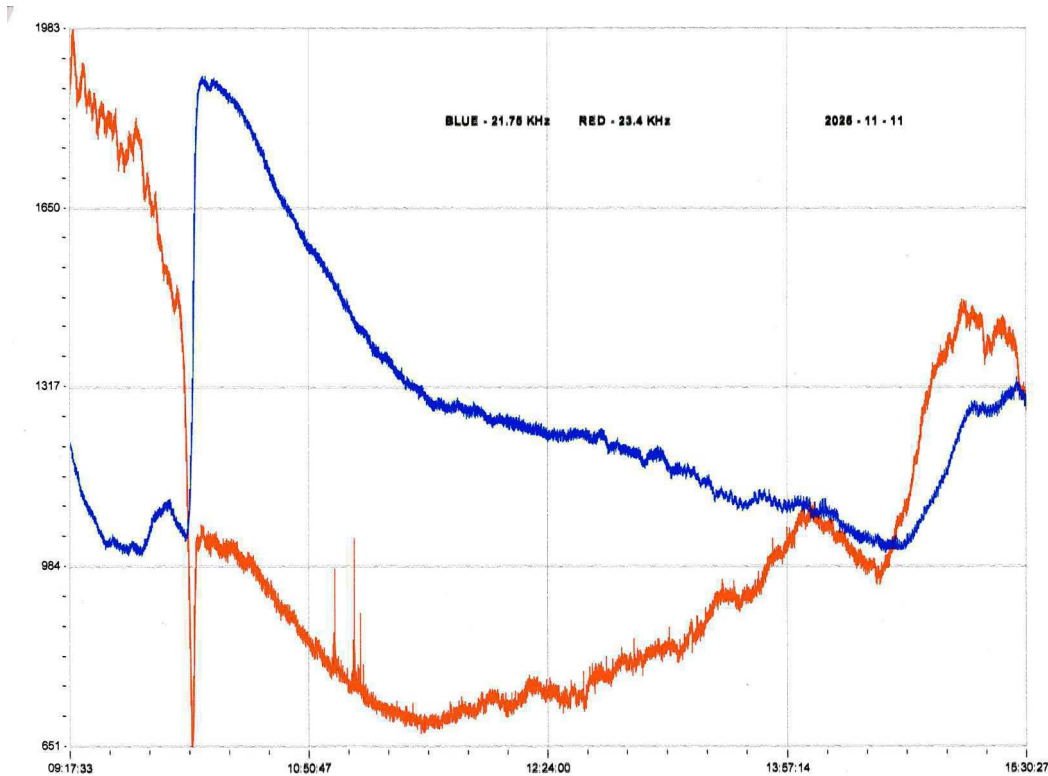


The peak in 2024 May was 16 (right-hand scale), most months being four or less. The peak of four in 2017 September marked the end of solar cycle 24, none recorded over the following four years. We appear to be near the end of the peak for the current cycle, so more X-flares could be expected over the next few years.

The strongest of the November flares was an X5.1, peaking around 10UT on the 11th. This was widely recorded with a range of different SID shapes, shown on the next page.

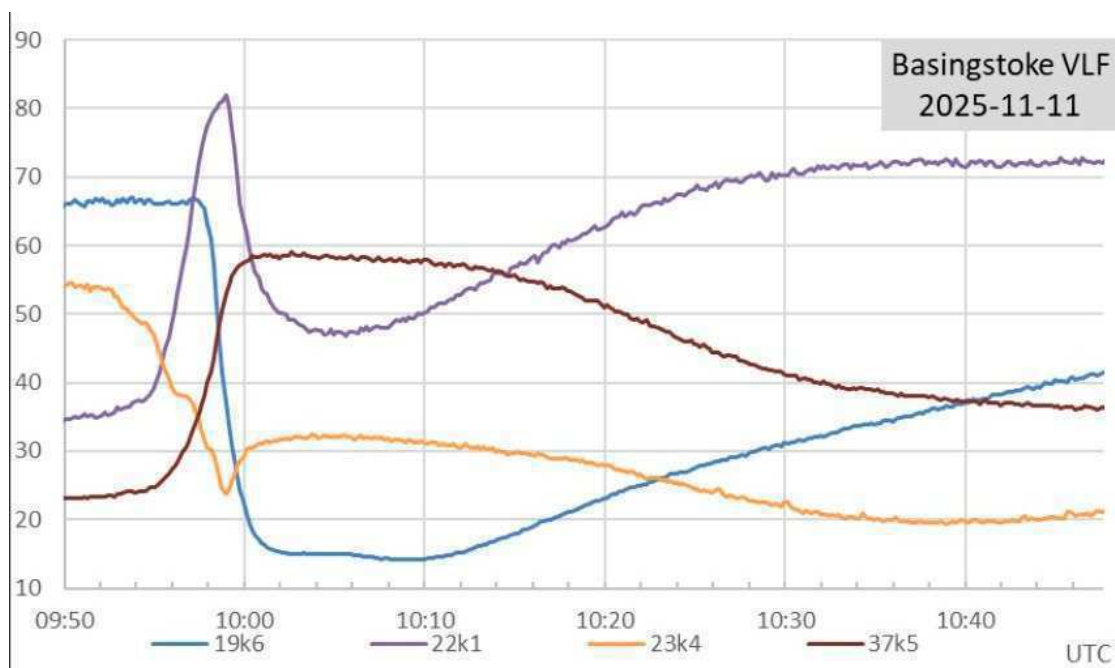


Mark Prescott's recording has a very strong 21.75kHz response with a spike and wave shape. 19.6kHz has an inverted spike and wave, as does 23.4kHz.

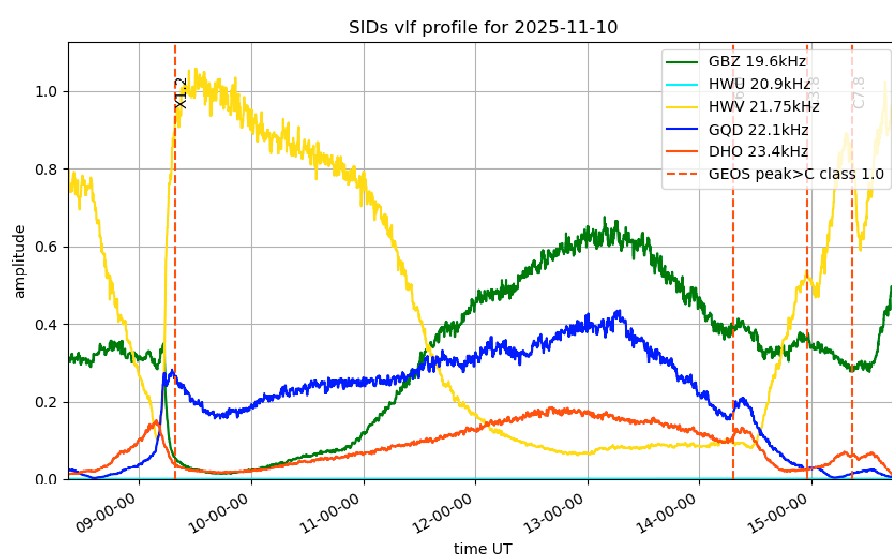
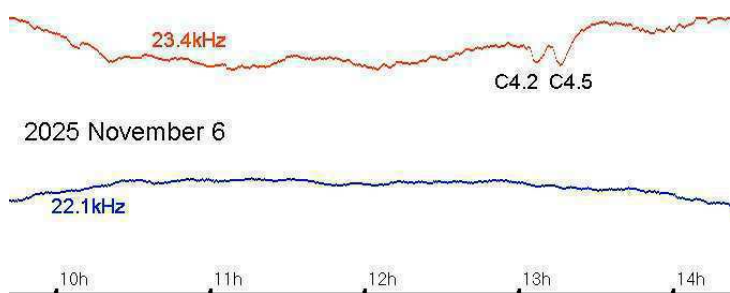


Colin Clements also recorded a spike and wave at 21.75kHz (blue trace), although the dip at its peak is much smaller. There is also a small dip in the signal just before its sharp rise. 23.4kHz (red) shows a cleaner version, helping to see the 21.75kHz shape.

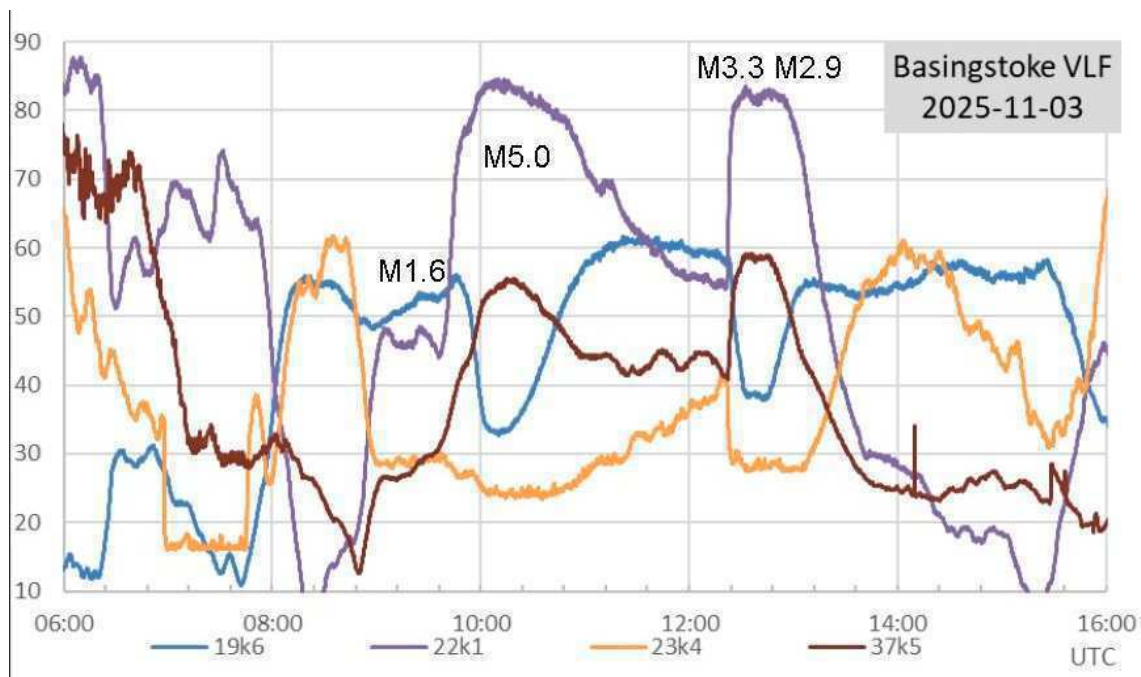
Paul Hyde's recording shows spike and wave SIDs where the peak time can be hard to determine. 37.5kHz has a very flat peak lasting nearly 10 minutes. Comparing 19.6kHz and 22.1kHz gives a clearer peak between 10:04 and 10:06UT. The end of the SID is not shown in this close-up of the peak, but timings generally varied from 11:25 to 14:06, quite a significant range.



The C4.2 and C4.5 flares on the 6th were among the weaker flares recorded. My recording shows them at 23.4kHz on a very unstable signal. Often during the winter period the lower altitude of the sun leads to a less stable ionosphere, making smaller flares difficult to detect. 22.1kHz shows no response.

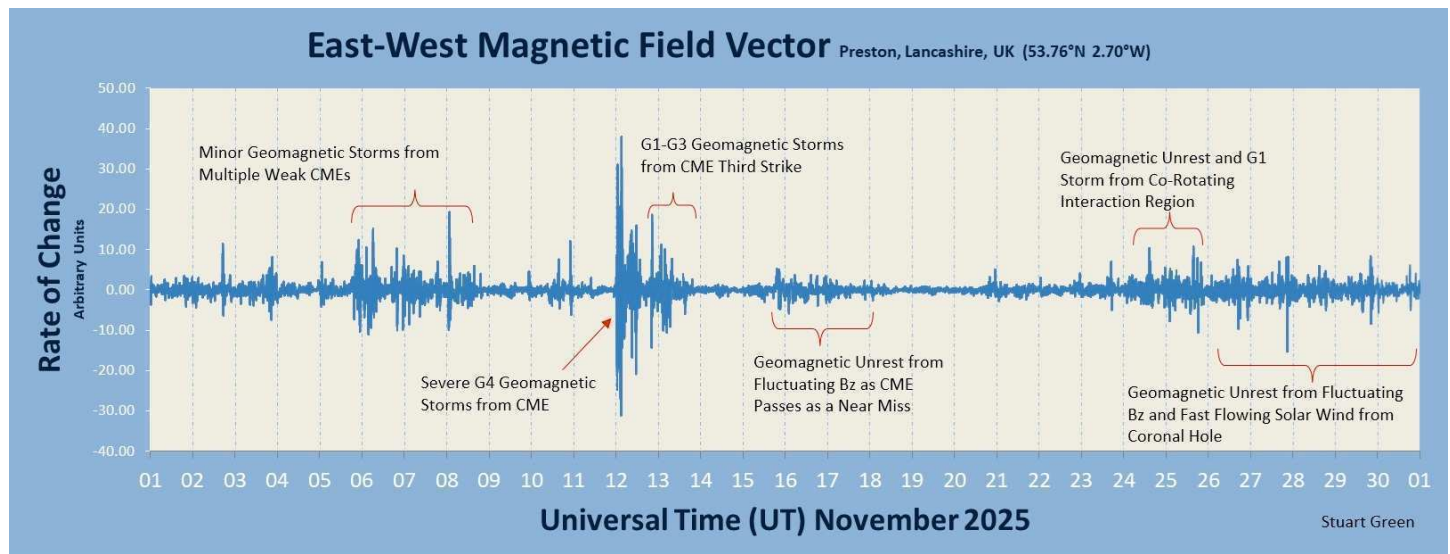


Mark Prescott's recording shows another strong set of SIDs from the X1.2 flare on the 10th. This one was a little earlier, peaking around 09:40UT. The decay phase is again very long on all of the signals, the C6.0 flare at 14:16 just visible as it merges into the sunset.



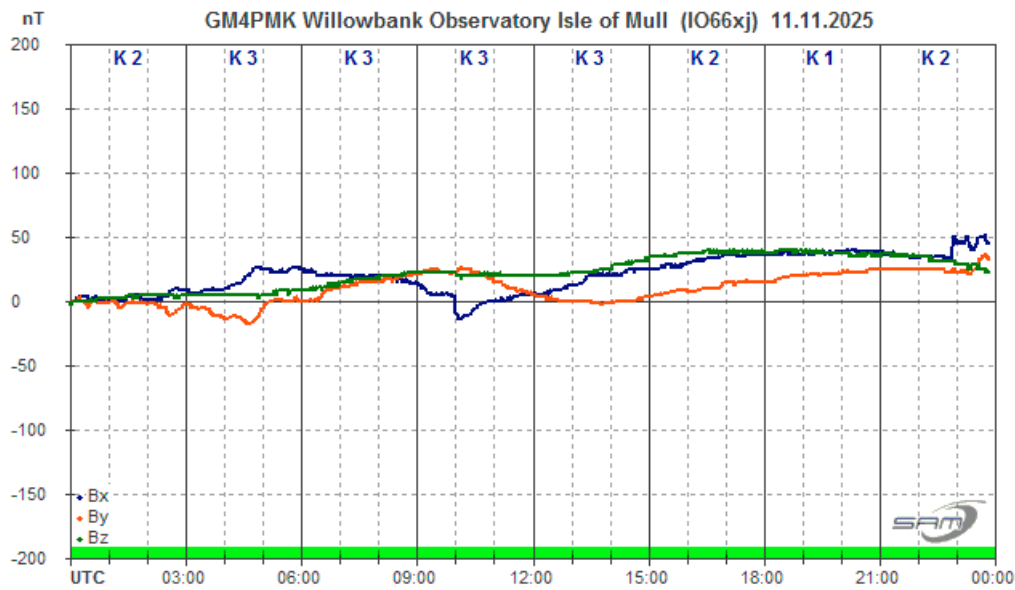
November started with a series of M-flares on the 3rd, shown in Paul Hyde's recording. 22.1 kHz shows the best response to the activity. The M1.6 flare seems to show two peaks before the start of the M5.0 flare. This also has a small second peak in its decay phase. The M3.3 and M2.9 flares have merged into a single SID, ending as sunset starts. After all of this strong activity, the number and strength of flares dropped significantly, with just a few SIDs recorded between the 16th and 28th. Three stronger flares were then recorded on the 29th and 30th.

MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS.

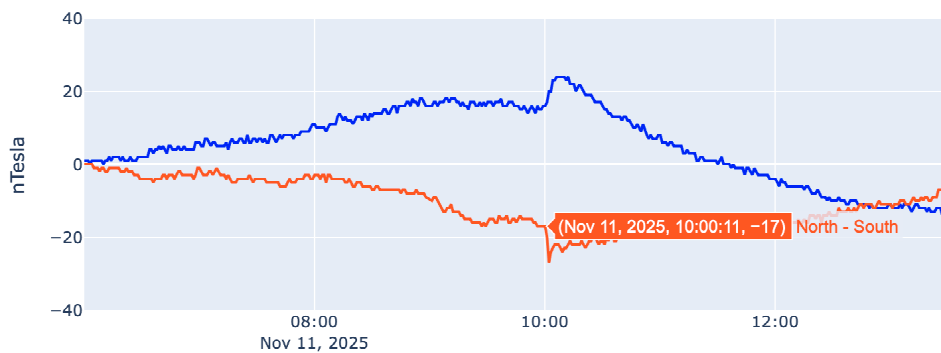


Stuart Green's summary of November's magnetic activity shows a similar pattern, with some strong activity in the first two weeks, followed by a period of low activity before it picked up again in the last week. The most active period was on the 12th–13th following the strong X-flares. There were several CMEs that combined to produce this activity. The X5.1 flare on the 11th was the only one to leave its own signature, with

an SFE (solar flare effect) at the same time as its start. This was recorded by Roger Blackwell on Mull, and Nick Quinn near the South coast:



Steyning Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



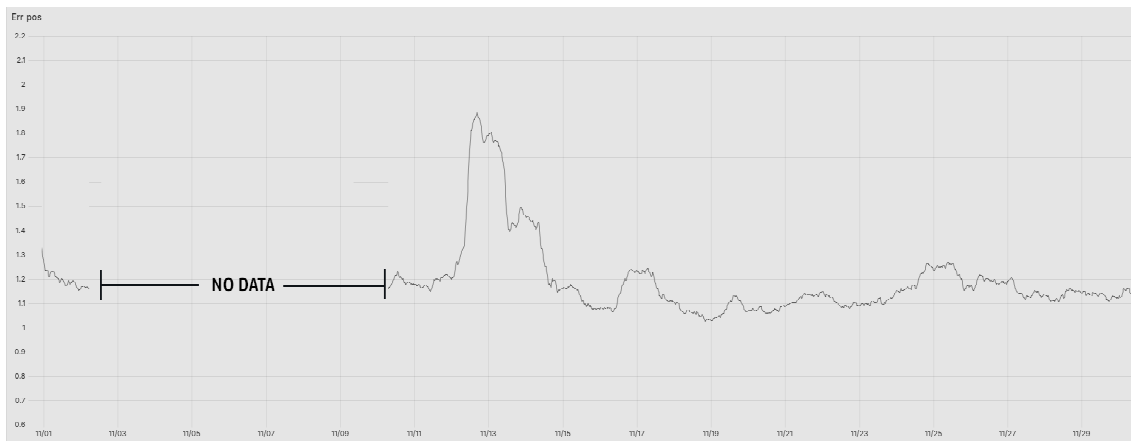
With a magnitude of 17..20nT it is quite a small change, but its timing is an exact match with the SID that we recorded. Unfortunately Callum Potter had a power cut shortly before the flare and so missed the SFE. Power had returned later, and so he did catch the magnetic storm that followed on the morning of the 12th.

Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N, 3.06W)



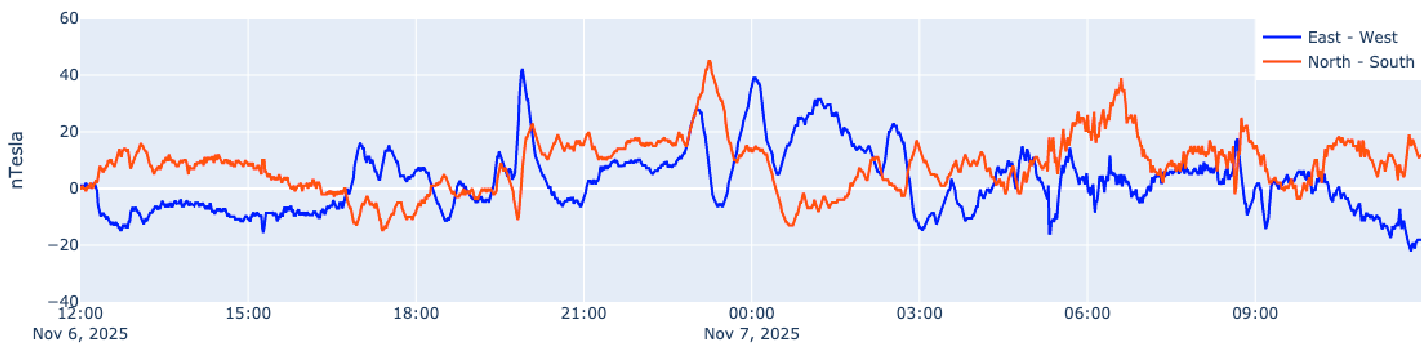
The storm continued into the 13th with some very rapid turbulence, although with a smaller amplitude.

Thomas Mazzi recorded a significant GPS error during this storm, shown in his monthly chart:

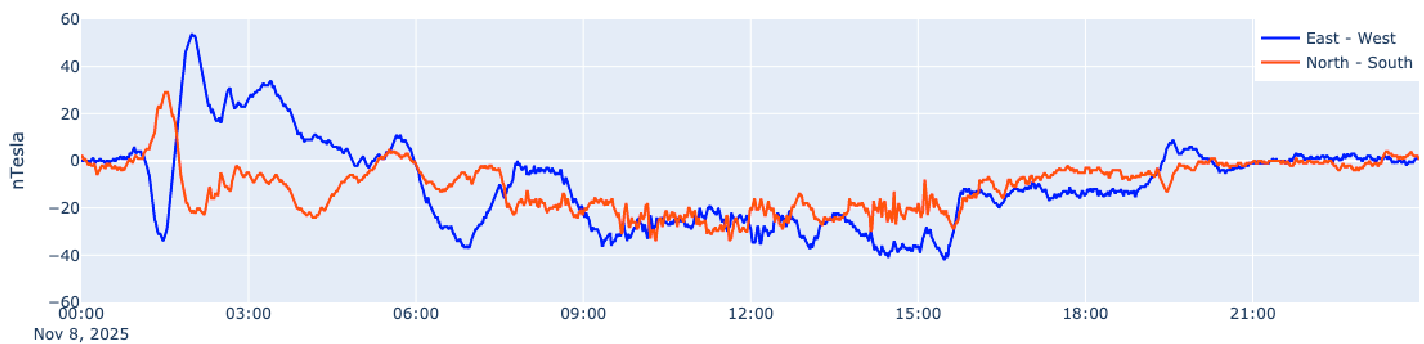


The peak error covers the 12th to 14th.

Steying Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



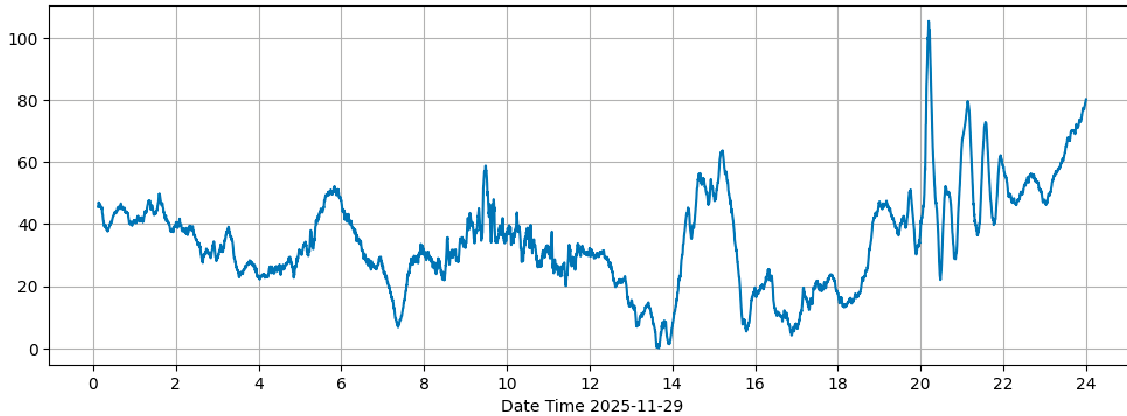
Steying Magnetometer (50.8 North, 0.3 West)



Multiple CMEs together with a strong solar wind produced activity at the start of November, with a very turbulent disturbance over the 6th to 8th, shown in Nick Quinn's recording. Most of the rapid turbulence is only about ± 30 nT, with a short stronger peak around 02UT on the 8th. Roger Blackwell recorded stronger peaks, with around ± 100 nT early on the 6th.

The solar wind was again responsible for the activity at the end of the month. Callum Potter's recording shows the strongest disturbance on the 29th:

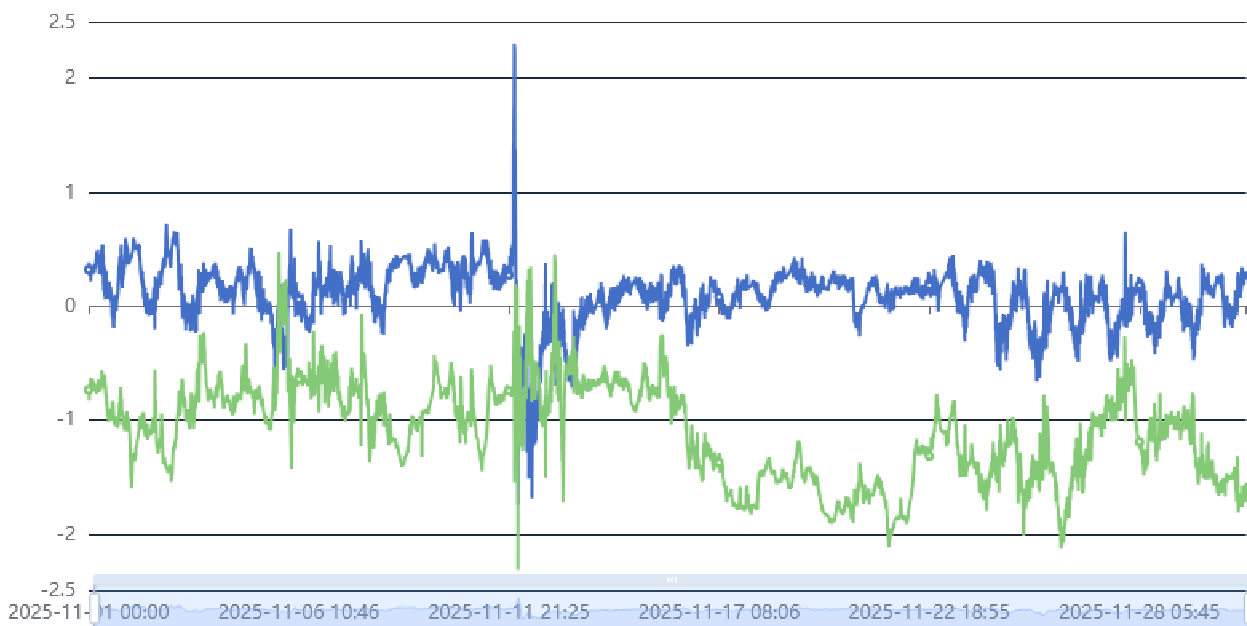
Wasbister Magnetometer (59.17N,3.06W)



Andrew Thomas has also made a summary of the month's activity. This shows the diurnal variations in inclination (blue) and declination (Green) using the UKRAA 2-axis magnetometer. This gives a different pattern compared with the rate of change shown in Stuart Green's chart. The storm on the 11th–12th shows up well, while the rest of the activity shows a more defined diurnal curve.

Magnetometer

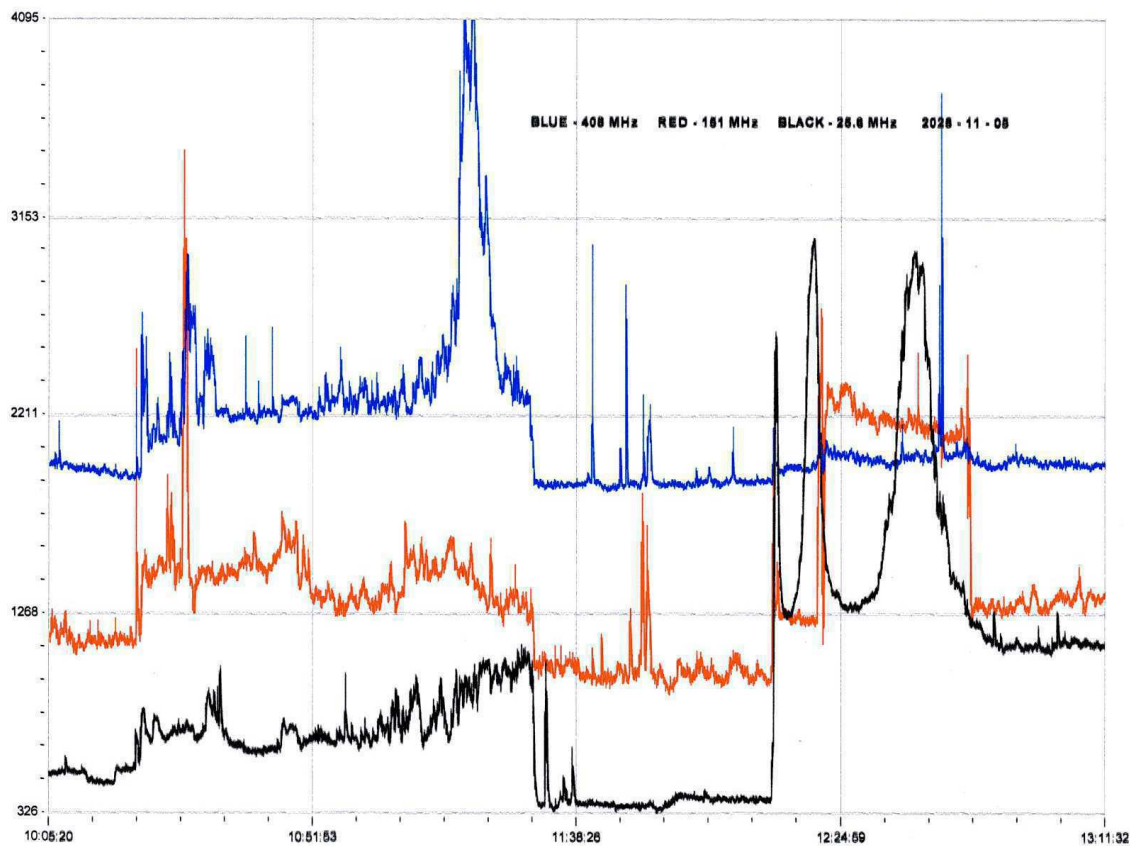
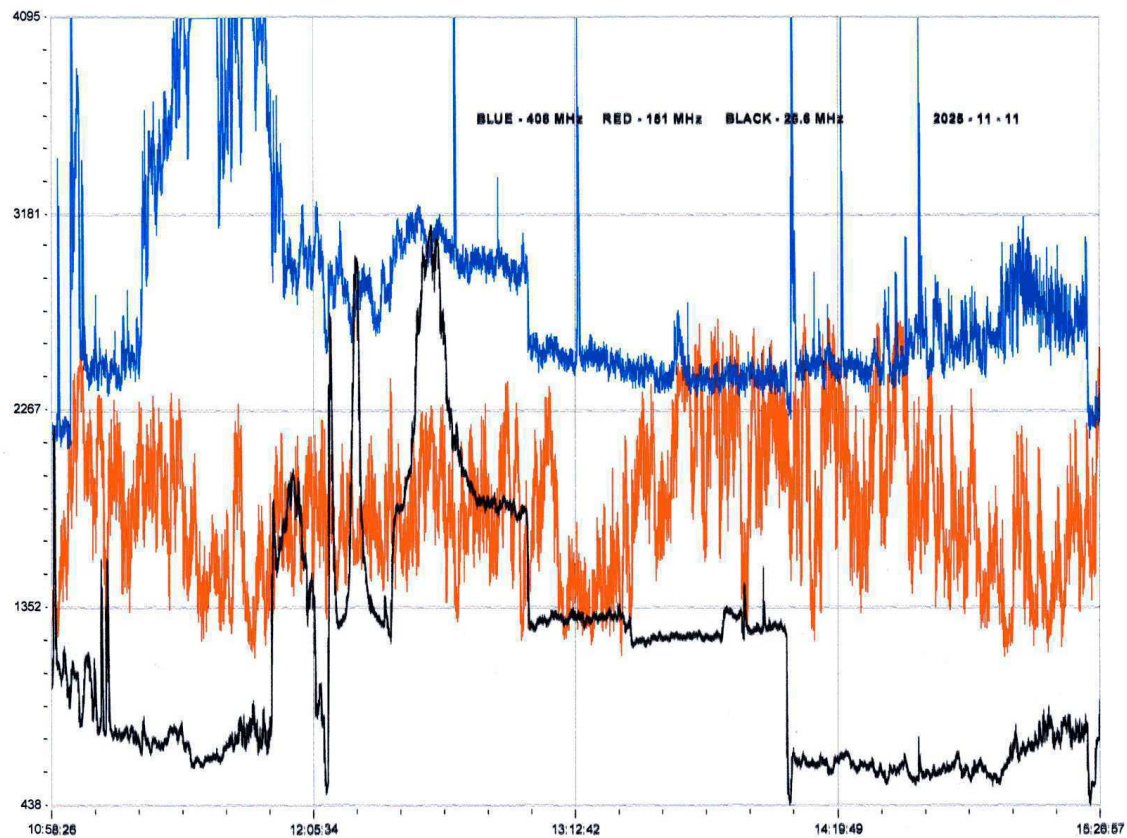
Channel 1 Channel 2



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

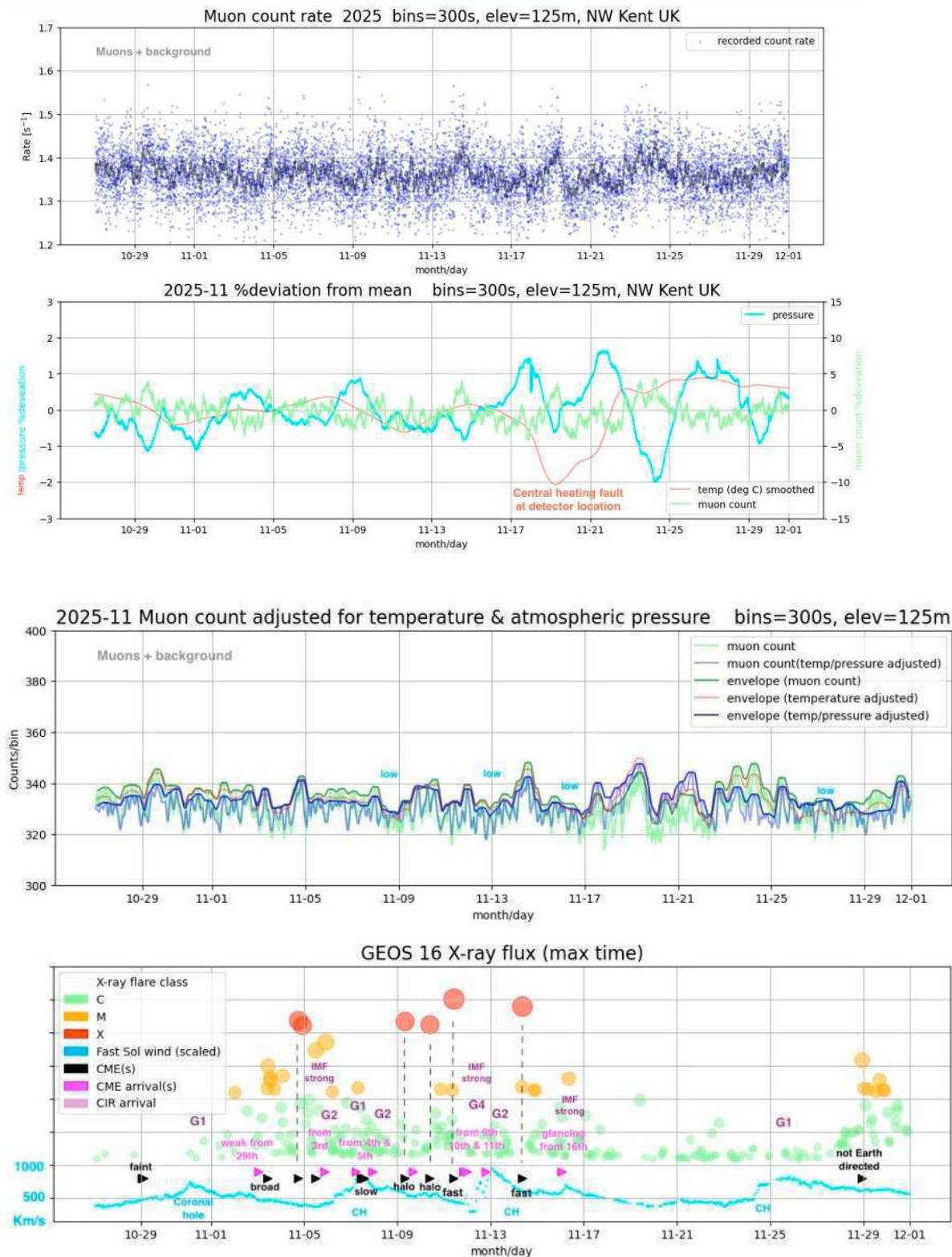
SOLAR EMISSIONS

Colin Clememts recorded some very strong radio emissions from the X5.1 flare on the 11th. 408MHz (blue) shows a very strong peak in activity from the start of the recording, continuing at a lower amplitude until the end of the recording. 151MHz (red) shows a strong disturbance throughout the period, but with no significant peak. 25.6MHz (black) does have a peak after the 408MHz peak, but with much less activity.



Colin also recorded emissions from the M7.4 on the 5th, with a strong 408MHz peak as well as a small increase for an hour before the peak. The 151MHz and 25.6Mha peaks are delayed by an hour, but are still quite strong. There was also activity of the 3rd, but much weaker.

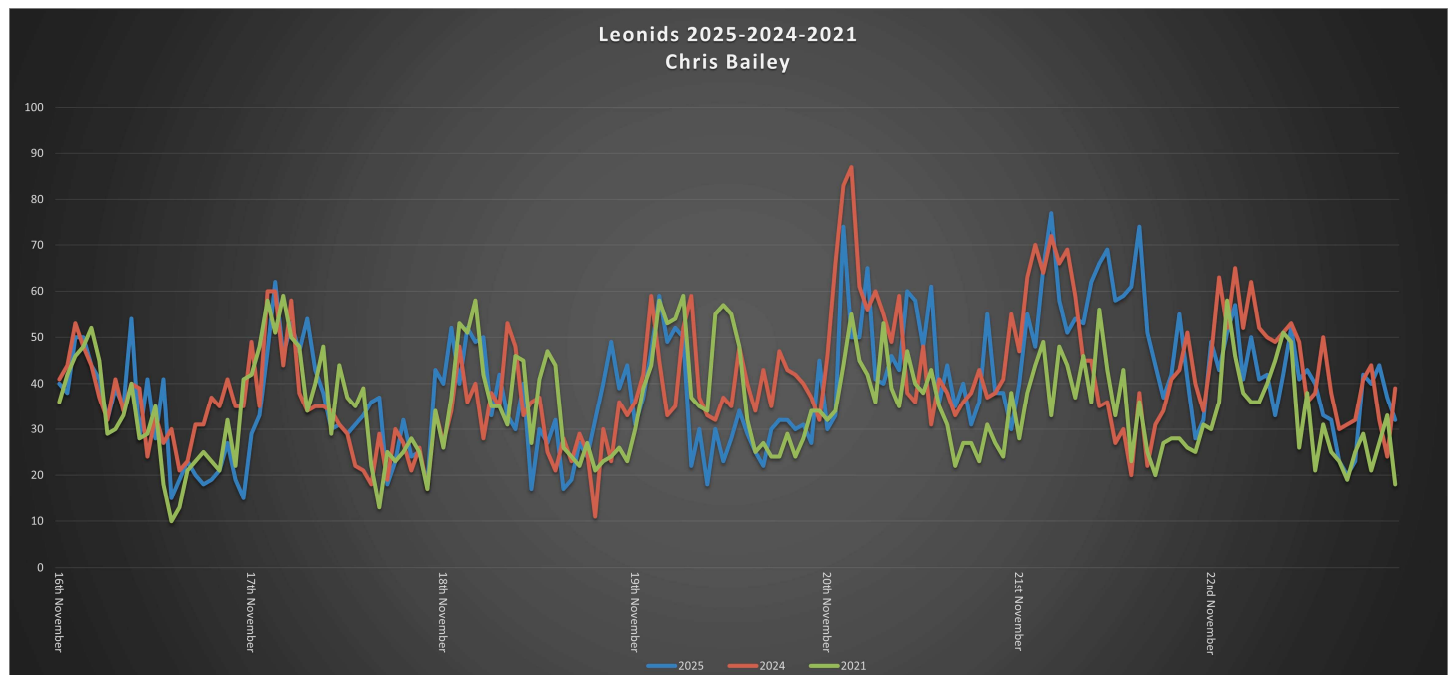
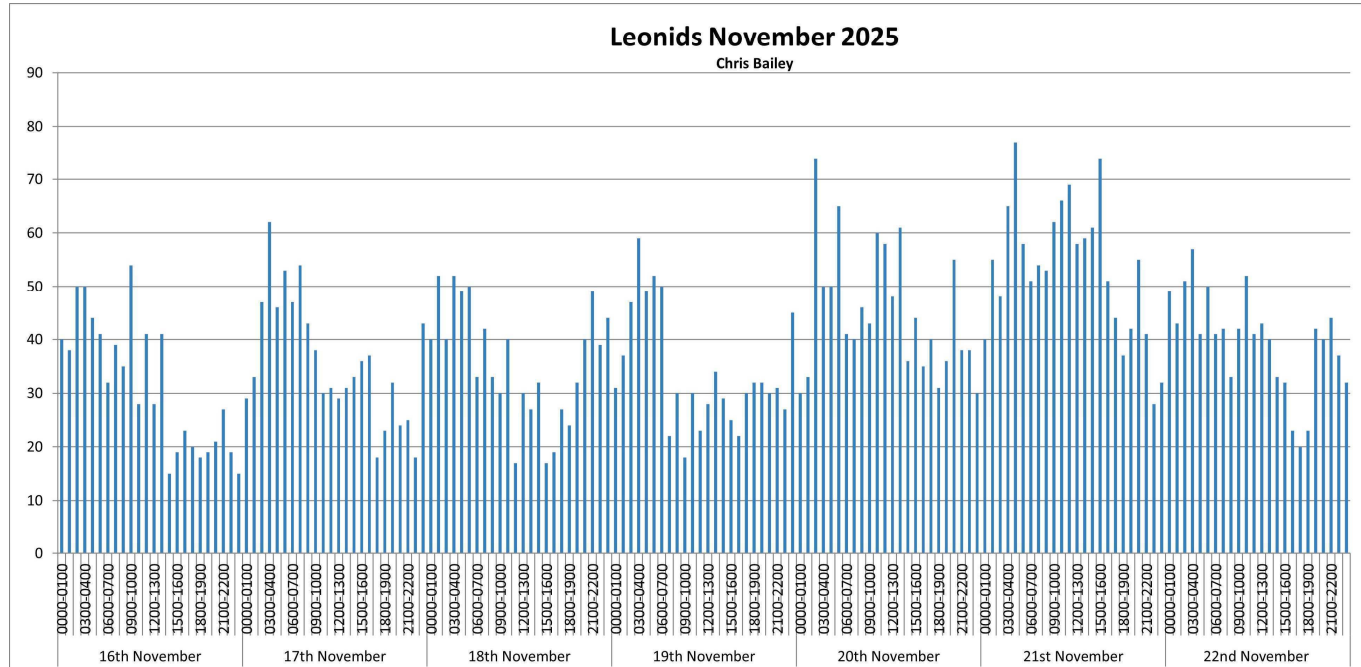
MUONS



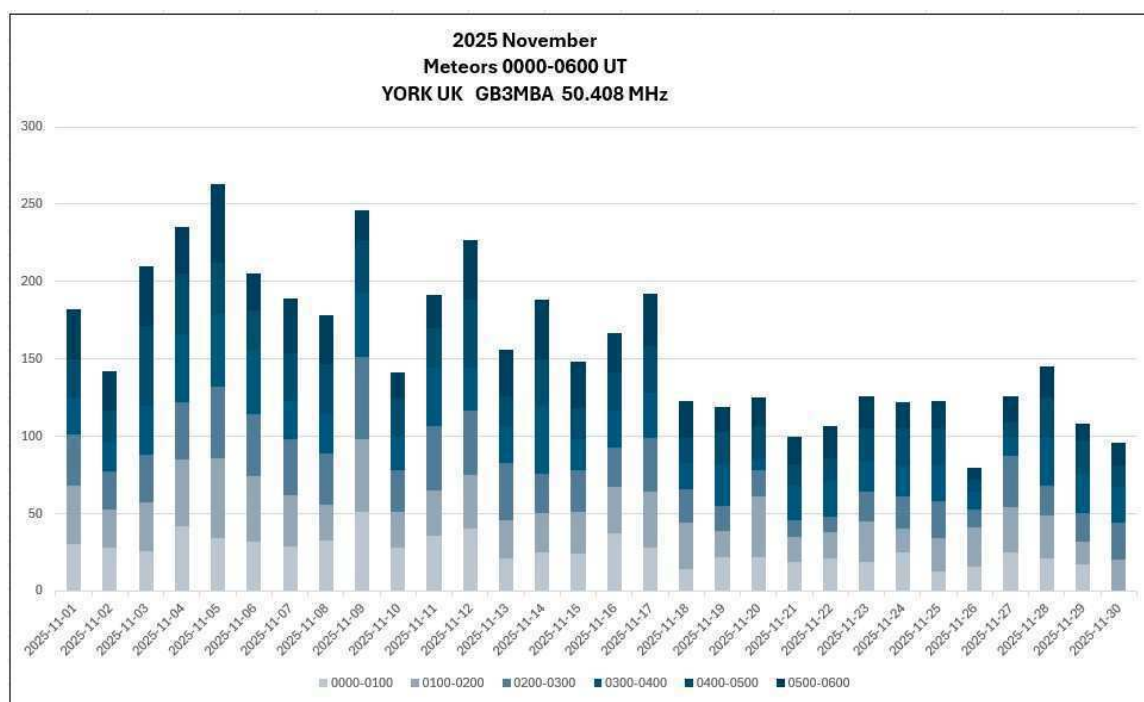
Mark Prescott's Muon chart for November is quite interesting, covering the series of X-flares around mid-month. The STCE weekly report (STCEnews20251210.pdf) has an in-depth report on the effects of these strong solar storms on the particles pushed into the Earth's atmosphere and their effect on air traffic. The X5.1 flare did cause a strong Ground Level Enhancement (GLE) during which the radiation levels experienced by aeroplane passengers was quite high. The report includes a map showing that the UK and Europe were not

within the area covered by the GLE. Mark's chart shows plenty of peaks and lows during this period, but not the worst of the GLE. There were also some large swings in atmospheric pressure later in the month that have added to the variations in Muon flux.

LEONIDS

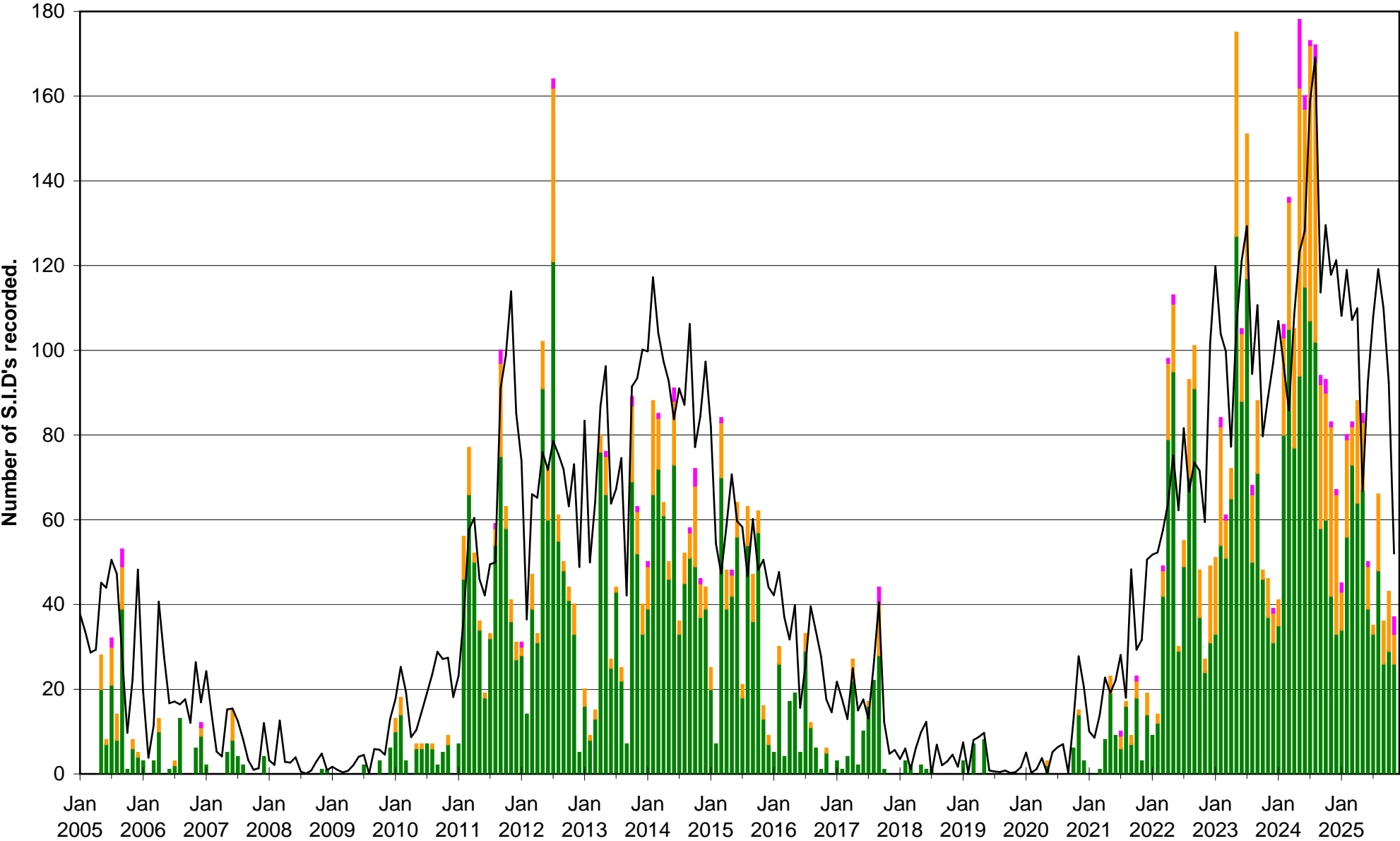
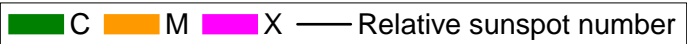


Chris Bailey monitored the Leonid meteor shower, recording activity during the early morning from the 16th to 22nd, with peaks on the 20th and 21st. The lower chart compares results from 2022 (green), 2024 (red) and 2025 (blue). The 2025 peak seems to be more evenly spread over the 21st–22nd compared with 2024, which had a more distinct peak on the 20th. The background levels leading up to the peak were very similar in each year.



Colin Briden also monitored meteors through the whole month, with the various daily periods shown with different shades of blue. Each segment covers a one hour period, running from 00h to 06h each day. This is the first report that we have received using the GB3MBA 50.408MHz beacon in Sherwood. The strongest activity seems to be from the 3rd to 17th, mostly in the 05 to 06h period. The geometry of the signal path will be very different compared with the more distant GRAVES signal, so it will be interesting to see how future meteor showers perform.

VLF flare activity 2005/25



[illegible]

	X-ray class	Observers	John Cook (23.4kHz/22.1kHz)	Roberto Battaiola 20.3kHz	Paul Hyde (22.1kHz/24kHz)	Mark Edwards	Colin Clements (23.4kHz/21.75kHz)
			Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.58m frame aerial.	Modified AAVSO receiver.	Spectrum Lab / PC 1.5m frame aerial.	Spectrum Lab / PC 2m loop aerial.	Tuned Radio Frequency receivers, 0.76m screened loop aerial.
DAY			START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)
1	C3.0	1		08:19 08:30 08:46 1+			
2	C8.2	6	12:40 12:47 13:17 2		12:38 12:45 13:05 1+		12:43 12:51 14:19 3
3	M1.6	3	08:47 09:06 ? -	08:39 09:44 10:04 2+			09:33 09:40 09:46 1-
3	M5.0	6	09:40 10:11 12:03 3+		09:35 10:05 11:58 3+		09:58 10:17 10:56 2+
3	M3.3	7	12:23 12:35 ? -	12:20 12:25 12:40 1	12:20 12:30 13:42 2+		12:31 12:45 13:06 2
3	?	1		12:40 13:07 13:31 2+			
4	C4.6	2		10:06 10:12 10:19 1-	10:07 10:12 10:21 1-		
5	C3.2	2		09:24 09:30 09:42 1-	09:26 09:32 09:37 1-		
5	M7.4	8	10:47 11:14 ? -	10:38 11:10 11:53 2+	10:39 11:03 ? -		10:57 11:15 12:08 2+
5	?	3	12:21 12:27 12:56 2		12:06 12:26 12:59 2+		
5	C8.3	4	14:27 14:33 14:42 1-	14:23 14:30 14:48 1	14:25 14:31 14:42 1-		
6	C3.8	1		08:56 09:01 09:15 1			
6	C4.2	4	13:05 13:07 13:12 1-	13:02 13:06 13:09 1-	13:02 13:07 13:12 1-		
6	C4.5	3	13:14 13:17 13:24 1-	13:11 13:15 13:28 1-			
7	C8.7	4	09:23 09:27 09:33 1-	09:17 09:25 09:56 2			
7	C4.5	1		13:18 13:27 13:48 1+			
7	C2.6	1		14:55 15:00 15:08 1-			
8	C3.8	5	12:56 13:00 13:07 1-	12:55 12:58 13:16 1	12:54 12:58 13:05 1-		
9	X1.7	2	07:18 07:31 ? -	07:05 07:19 07:45 2			
10	C2.8	1		06:38 06:47 06:54 1-			
10	X1.2	7	09:03 09:38 11:38 3+	08:56 09:06 09:21 1	09:00 09:11 12:02 3+		09:14 09:48 11:45 3+
10	C6.0	3		14:07 14:17 14:40 2	14:08 14:16 14:33 1		
10	C3.8	1		14:52 14:56 15:02 1-			
11	M1.4	2	08:07 08:10 08:18 1-	08:02 08:09 08:24 1			
11	C6.8	1		08:34 08:40 08:56 1			
11	X5.1	7	09:58 10:08 12:00 3	09:48 10:04 11:25 3	09:54 10:04 12:03 3+		10:04 10:06 14:06 3+
13	C5.0	1		13:21 13:27 13:41 1			
14	X4.0	6	08:21 08:31 09:40 2+	08:20 08:30 09:23 2+	08:21 08:31 10:00 3		08:30 08:36 09:23 2+
16	M3.1	3	08:07 08:11 08:24 1-	07:57 08:10 09:21 2+			08:46 09:18 10:20 3
19	C9.9	3		09:29 09:57 10:59 3			
20	C2.3	1					
21	C3.8	1		13:27 13:31 13:39 1-			
22	C4.8	4			11:42 11:44 11:59 1-		11:49 11:51 12:00 1-
28	C5.0	3	12:00 12:04 12:28 1+		12:01 12:04 12:33 1+		
28	C5.0	1			13:45 13:47 13:55 1-		
29	C3.6	1			12:26 12:30 12:42 1-		
29	M1.1	5	13:12 13:17 13:31 1		13:11 13:18 13:46 2		13:16 13:23 13:35 1
30	C8.3	2	10:19 10:23 10:29 1-				
30	C9.0	1	10:53 10:55 10:58 1-				

	X-ray class		Steve Parkinson (Various)	Andrew Thomas (18.3kHz)	Phil Rourke (23.4kHz)	Mark Prescott (19.6kHz/22.1kHz)	John Elliott (18.3kHz)
			Tuned radio frequency receiver, frame aerials.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.6m frame aerial.	Spectrum Lab, 0.6m frame aerial.	SpectrumLab/Starbase, Active mini-whip aerial.	Tuned radio frequency receiver, 0.5m frame aerial.
DAY			START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)	START PEAK END (UT)
1	C3.0						
2	C8.2		12:39 12:46 13:06 1+			12:45 12:49 13:10 1	12:40 12:48 13:10 1+
3	M1.6						
3	M5.0		09:42 10:12 11:10 3			09:47 10:09 11:35 3	09:40 10:15 11:30 3
3	M3.3		12:23 12:35 13:36 2+			12:27 12:39 13:23 2+	12:24 12:45 13:30 2+
3	?						
4	C4.6						
5	C3.2						
5	M7.4		10:46 11:13 ? -		10:45 12:04 13:48 3+	10:53 11:17 12:20 3	10:46 11:15 12:20 3
5	?		12:22 12:29 12:46 1		14:28 14:30 14:44 1-		
5	C8.3						
6	C3.8						
6	C4.2				13:04 13:08 ? -		
6	C4.5				13:17 13:26 ? -		
7	C8.7		09:23 09:27 09:35 1-		09:18 09:27 09:41 1		
7	C4.5						
7	C2.6						
8	C3.8		12:57 13:00 13:08 1-		12:56 13:00 13:15 1		
9	X1.7						
10	C2.8						
10	X1.2		09:05 09:25 11:30 3+			09:12 09:43 11:48 3+	09:08 10:45 11:50 3+
10	C6.0					14:17 14:23 14:32 1-	
10	C3.8						
11	M1.4						
11	C6.8						
11	X5.1		09:57 10:07 12:20 3+			10:01 10:10 12:05 3	08:55 10:02 14:00 3+
13	C5.0						
14	X4.0					08:29 08:35 09:13 2	08:28 08:32 09:20 2+
16	M3.1						
19	C9.9				09:38 09:55 10:29 2+	09:45 09:59 10:17 1+	
20	C2.3				10:04 10:05 10:10 1-		
21	C3.8						
22	C4.8		11:45 11:47 11:54 1-		11:45 11:47 11:53 1-		
28	C5.0		12:00 12:04 12:23 1				
28	C5.0						
29	C3.6						
29	M1.1		13:12 13:17 13:35 1			13:16 13:21 13:42 1+	
30	C8.3		10:13 10:22 10:31 1-				
30	C9.0						