

**BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**Sable Island  
Observatory  
Monthly  
Magnetic  
Bulletin**

**January 2008**

**08/01/SB**



**British  
Geological Survey**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

# SABLE ISLAND OBSERVATORY MAGNETIC DATA

## 1. Introduction

Sable Island is the third overseas geomagnetic observatory to be established by BGS. The installation, funded by a joint venture between BGS, Sperry Drilling Services and Sable Offshore Energy, was completed in May 1999 and the observatory became operational from 8<sup>th</sup> May 1999.

Magnetic observatory data is presented as a series of plots of one-minute, hourly and daily values, followed by a tabulation of monthly values. 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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E-mail: orba@bgs.ac.uk  
Internet: [www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk)

## 2. Position

The Island is a sandbank formed by the meeting of currents from the St. Lawrence Delta and the Gulf Stream and is located approximately 290km southeast of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The observatory co-ordinates are:-

Geographic:  $43^{\circ} 55.9'N$   $299^{\circ}0.4'E$   
Geomagnetic:  $53^{\circ} 58.6'N$   $13^{\circ} 11.5'E$   
Height above mean sea level:  $5m$  (approx)

The geomagnetic co-ordinates are calculated using the 10<sup>th</sup> generation International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF) 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 April 2004 and became fully operational from 13<sup>th</sup> May 2004. 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 triaxial 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 61-point cosine filter whilst the total field intensity samples are filtered using a 7-point cosine filter.

### 3.2 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  $F$  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 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 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 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**

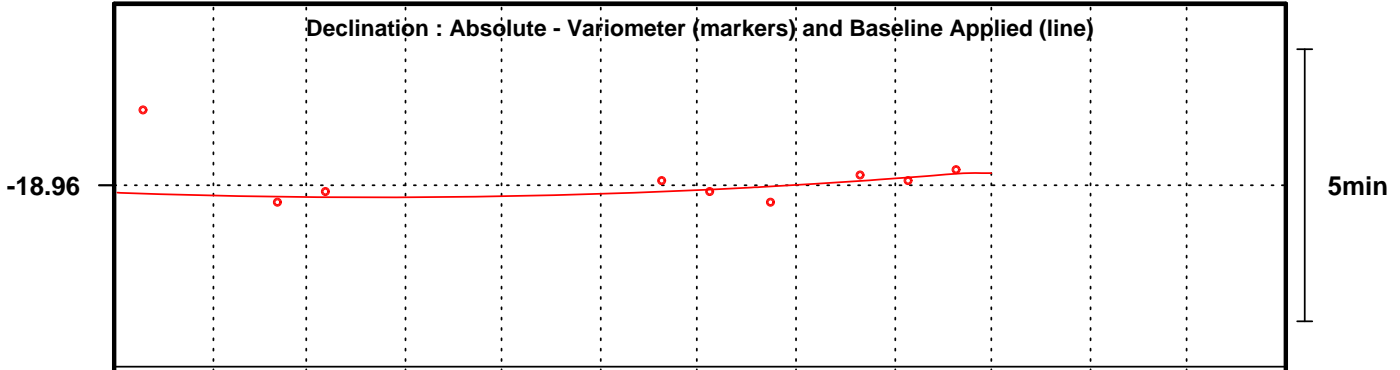
Daily mean values of  $D$ ,  $H$ ,  $Z$  and  $F$  are plotted throughout the year. In addition, a table of monthly mean values of all the geomagnetic elements is provided. These values depend on accurate specification of the fluxgate sensor baselines. It is anticipated that provisional values will not be altered by more than a few nT or tenths of arcminutes before being made definitive.



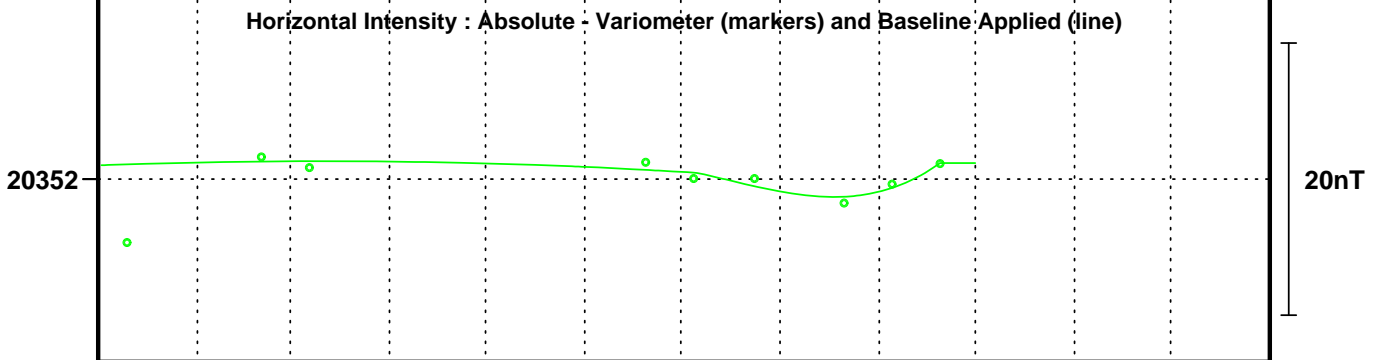


# Sable Island 2008

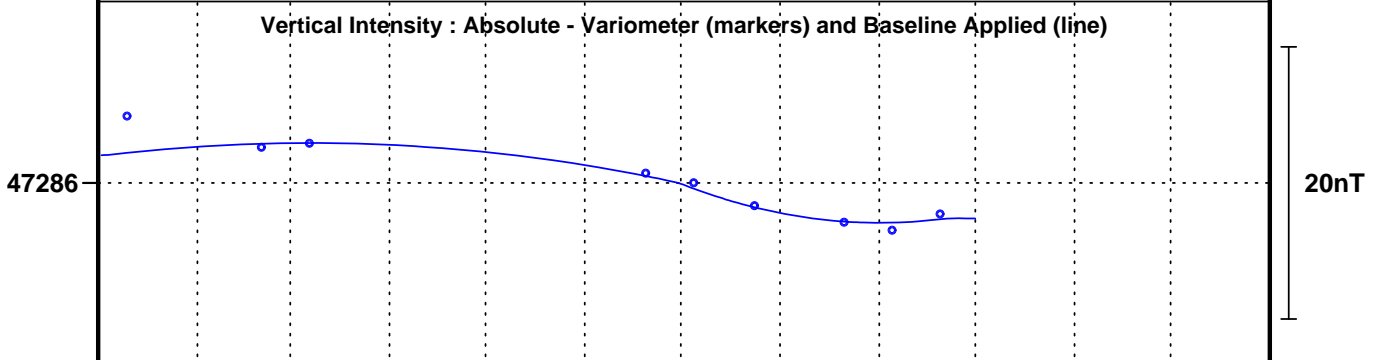
Declination : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)



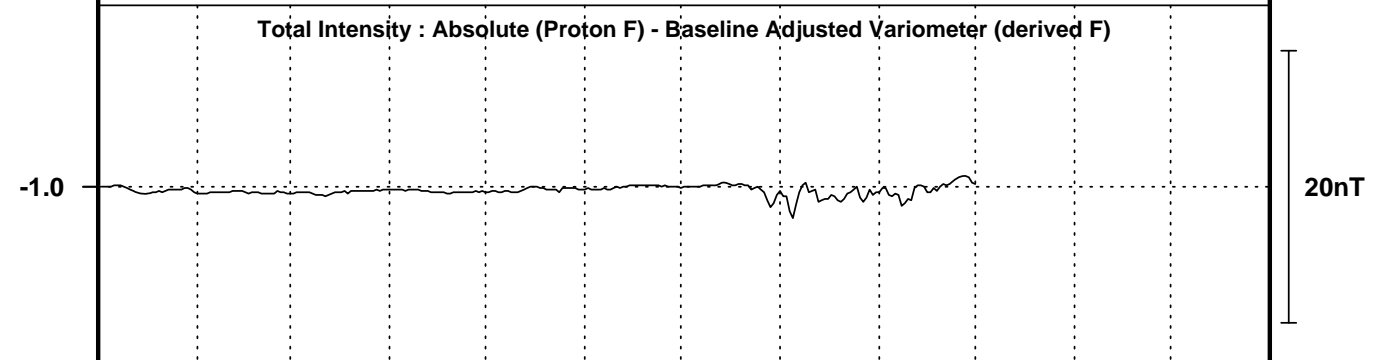
Horizontal Intensity : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)



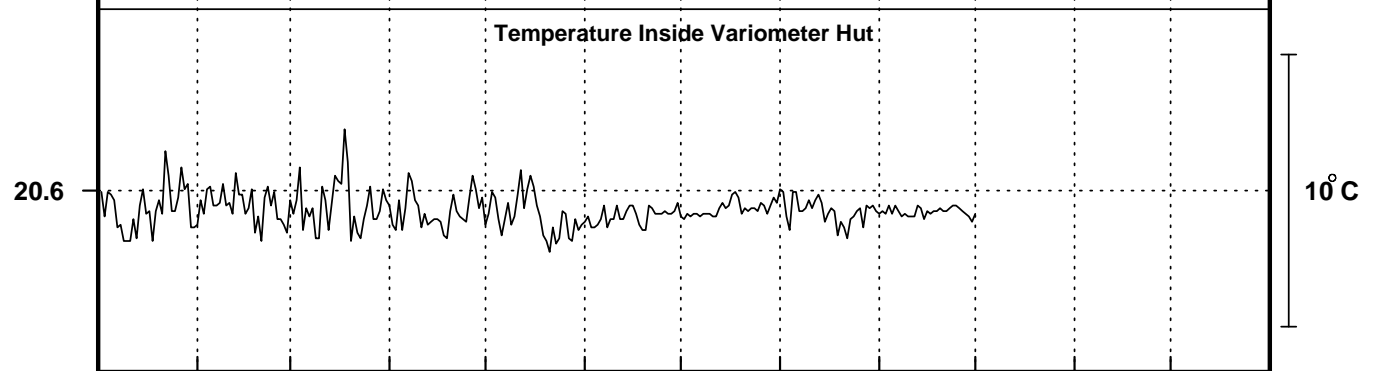
Vertical Intensity : Absolute - Variometer (markers) and Baseline Applied (line)



Total Intensity : Absolute (Proton F) - Baseline Adjusted Variometer (derived F)

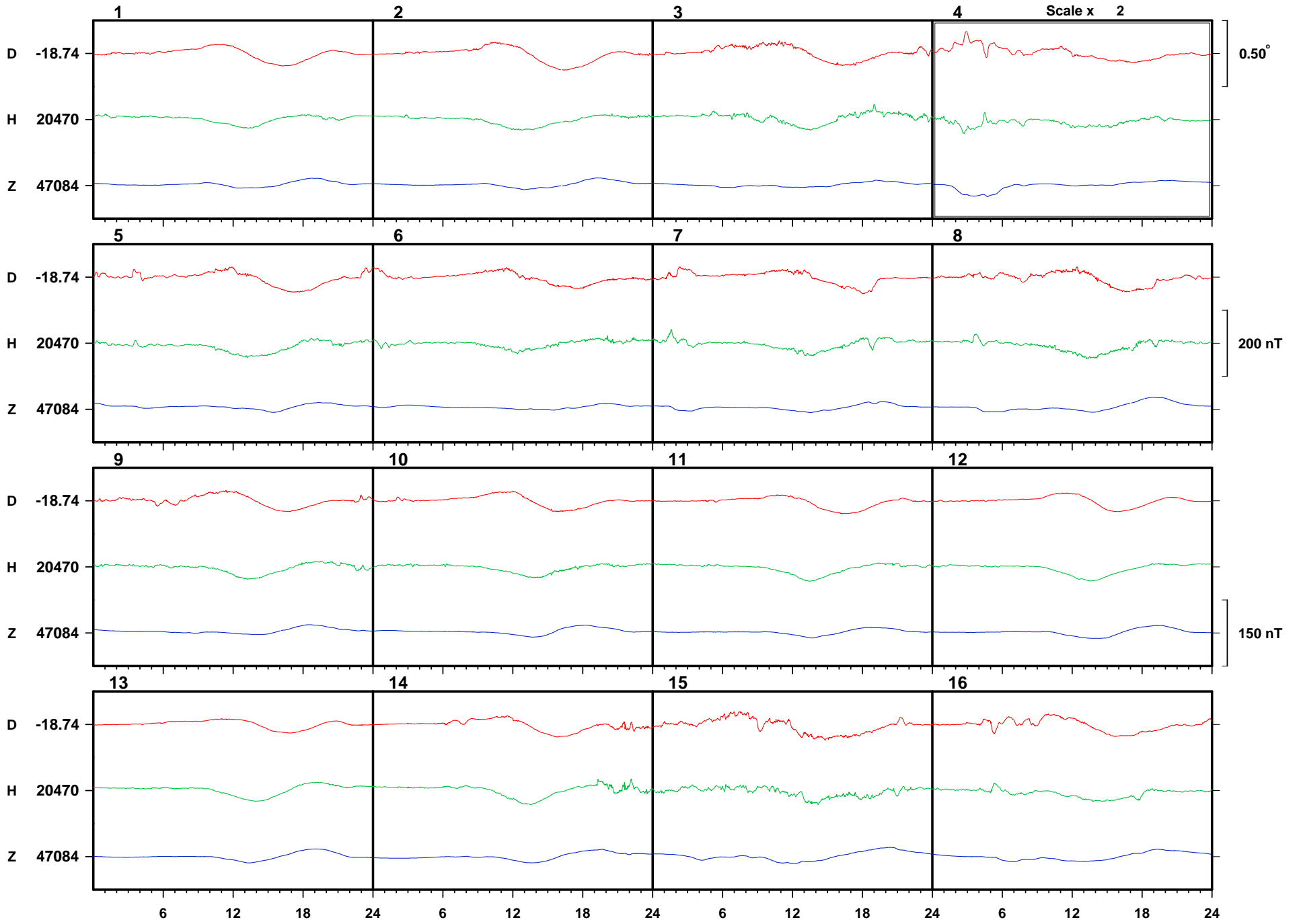


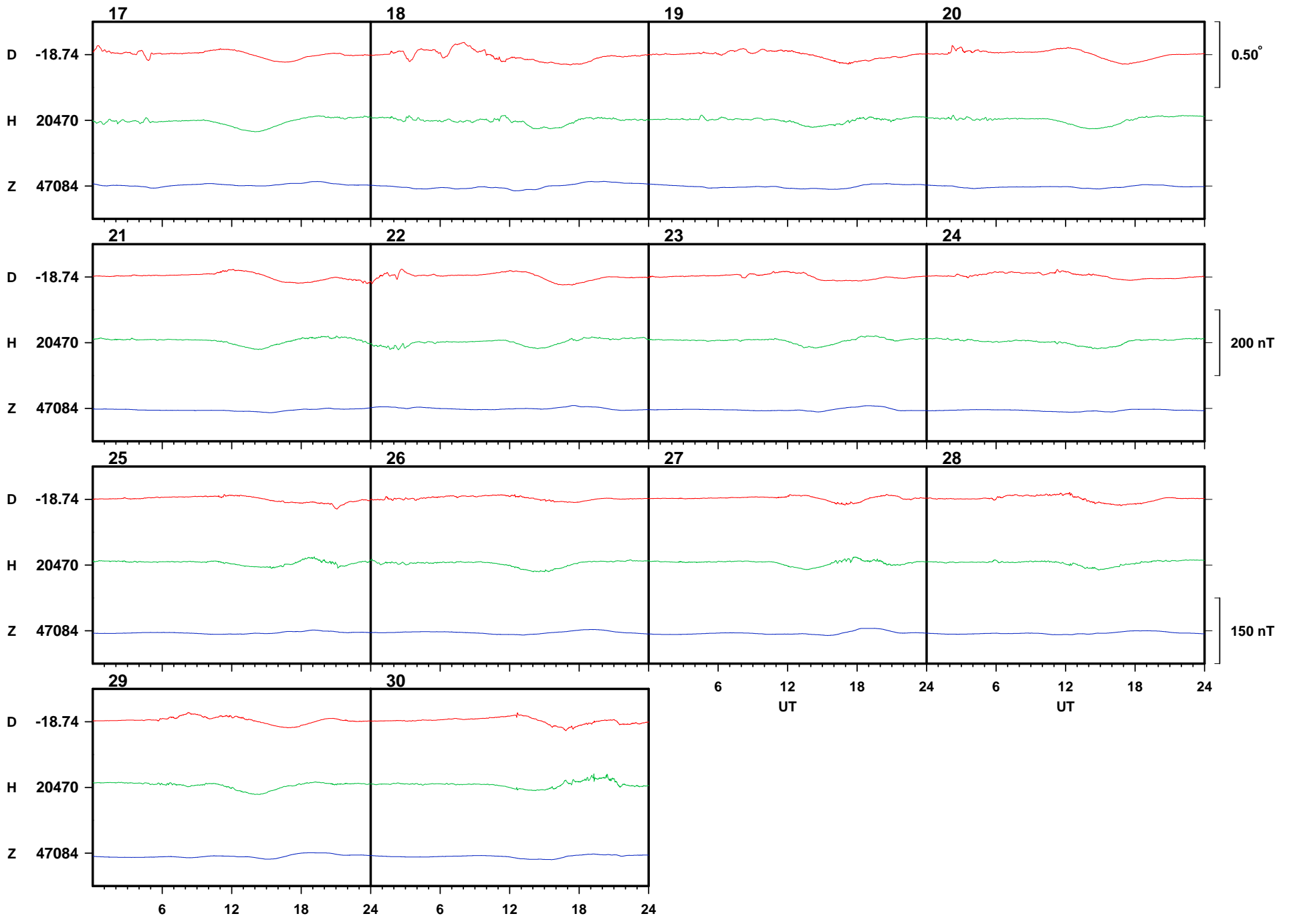
Temperature Inside Variometer Hut



Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Sable Island September 2008





Sable Island

September

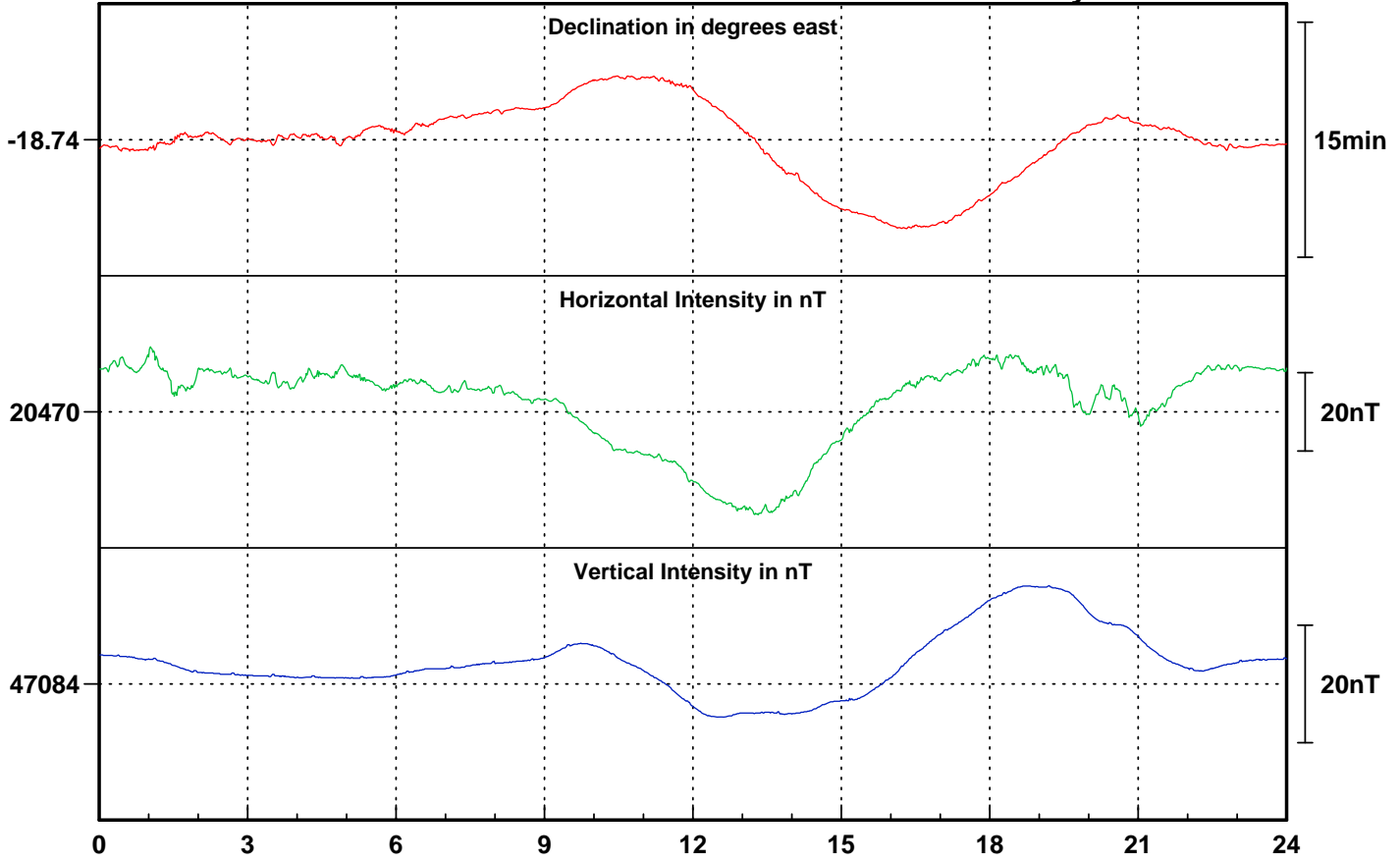
2008



Date: 01-09-2008

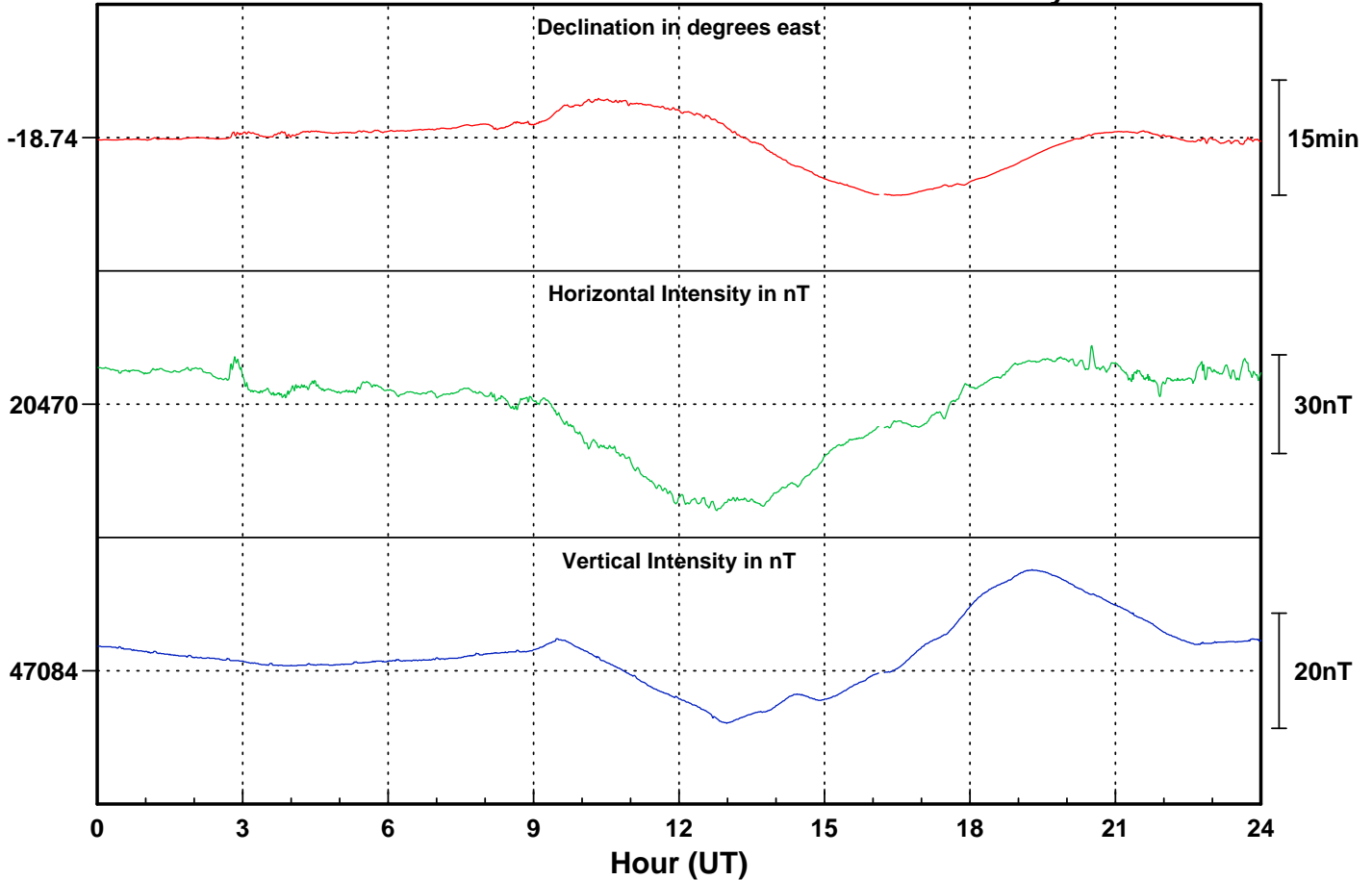
# Sable Island

Day number: 245



Date: 02-09-2008

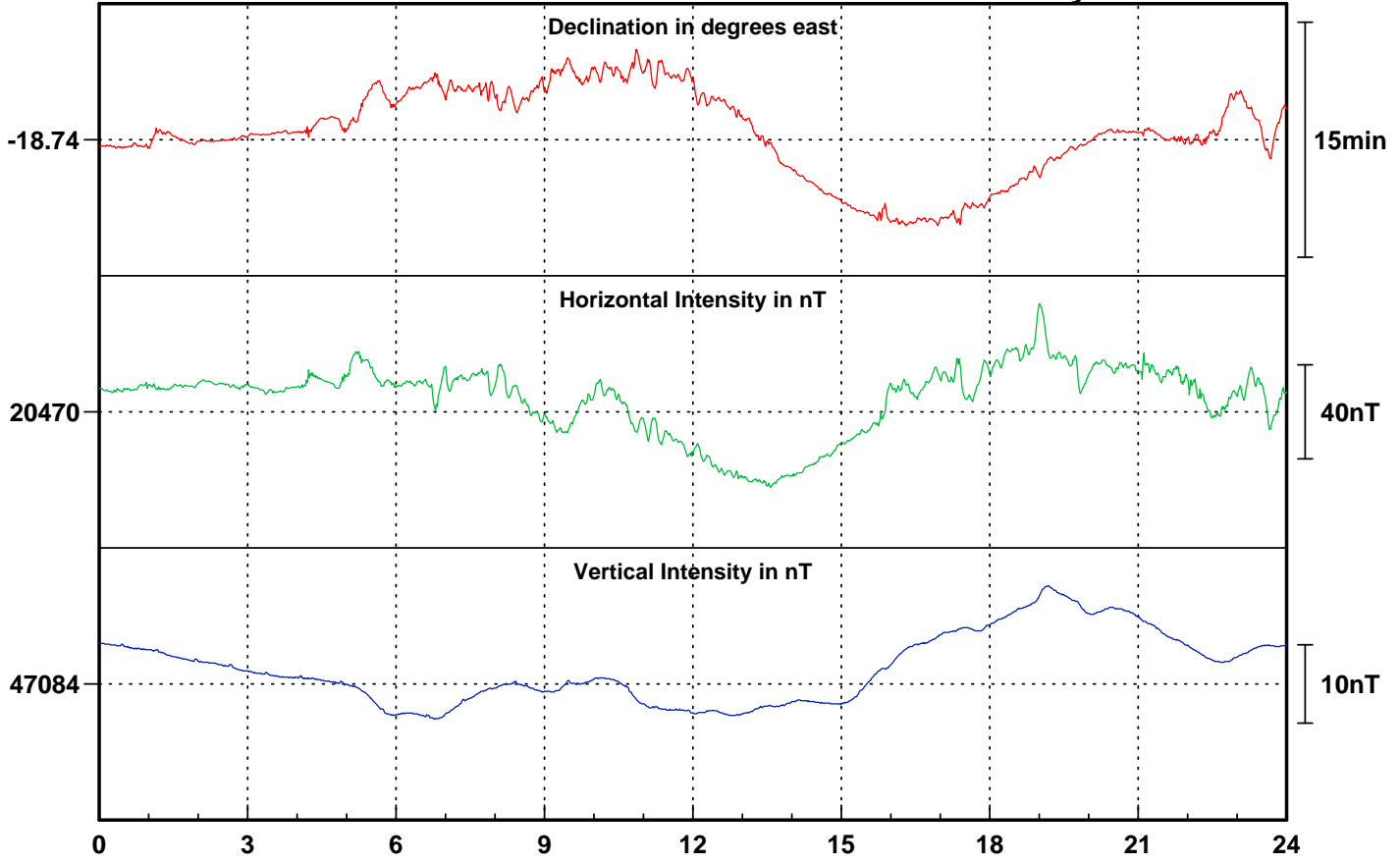
Day number: 246



Date: 03-09-2008

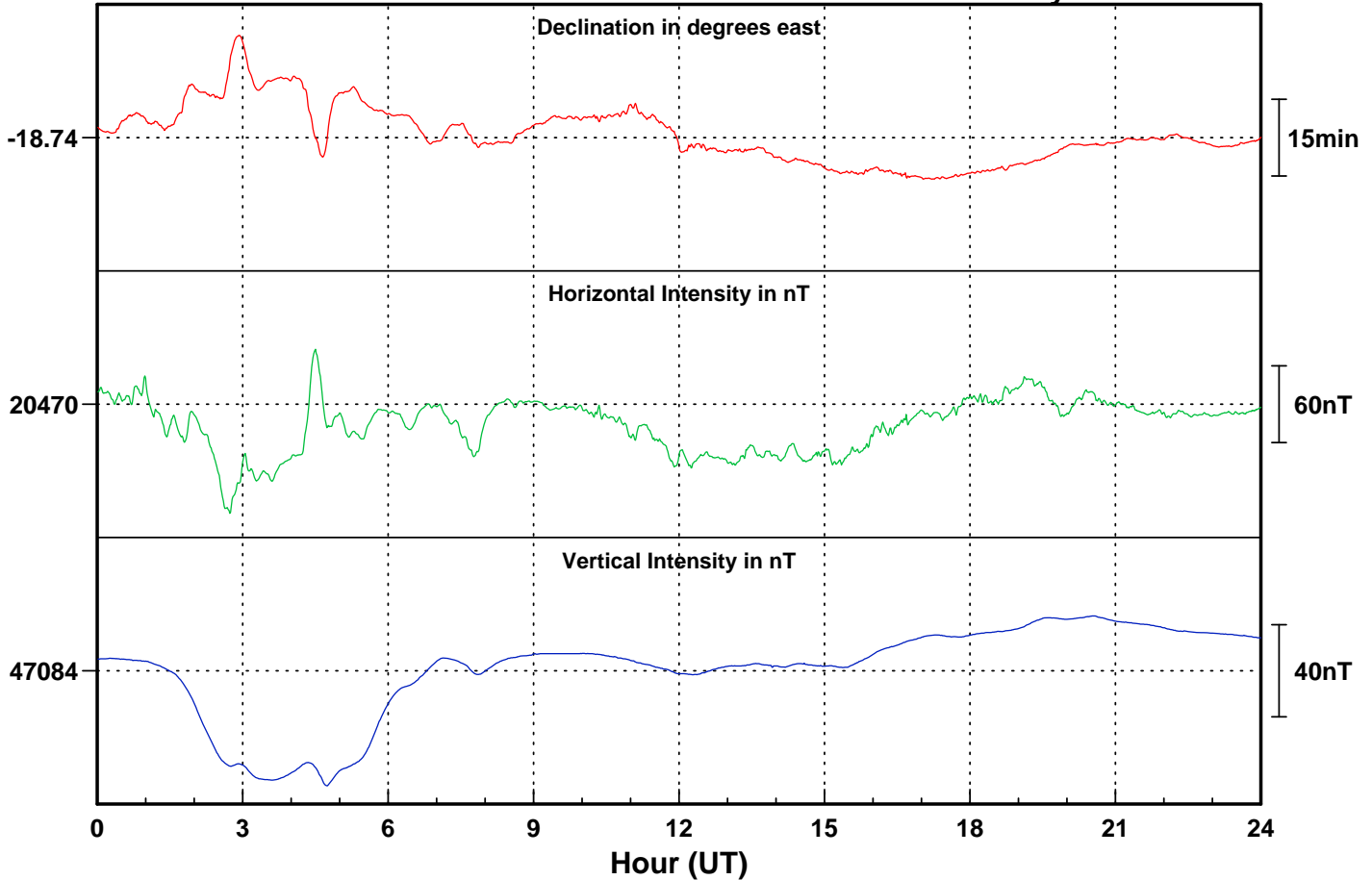
# Sable Island

Day number: 247



Date: 04-09-2008

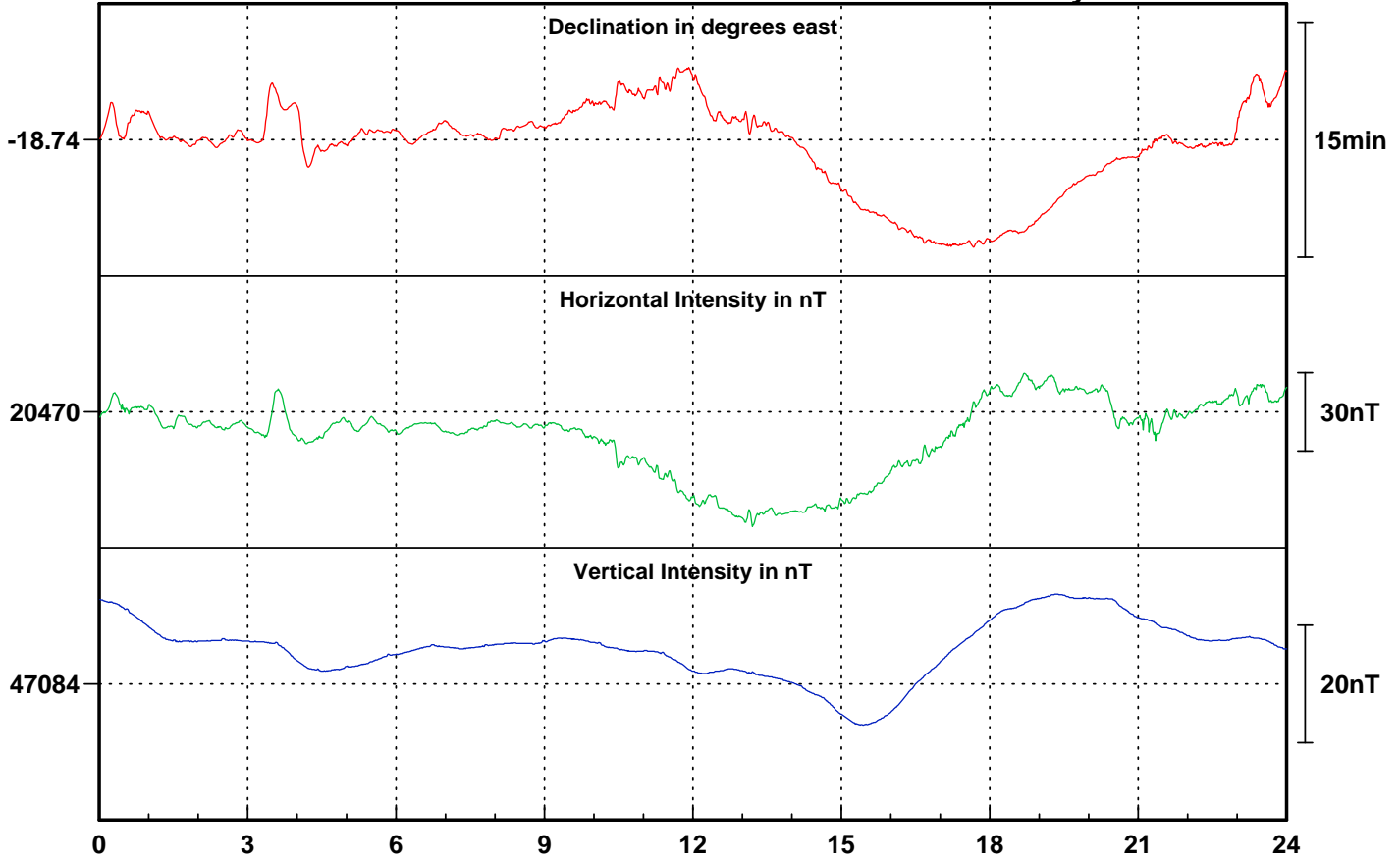
Day number: 248



Date: 05-09-2008

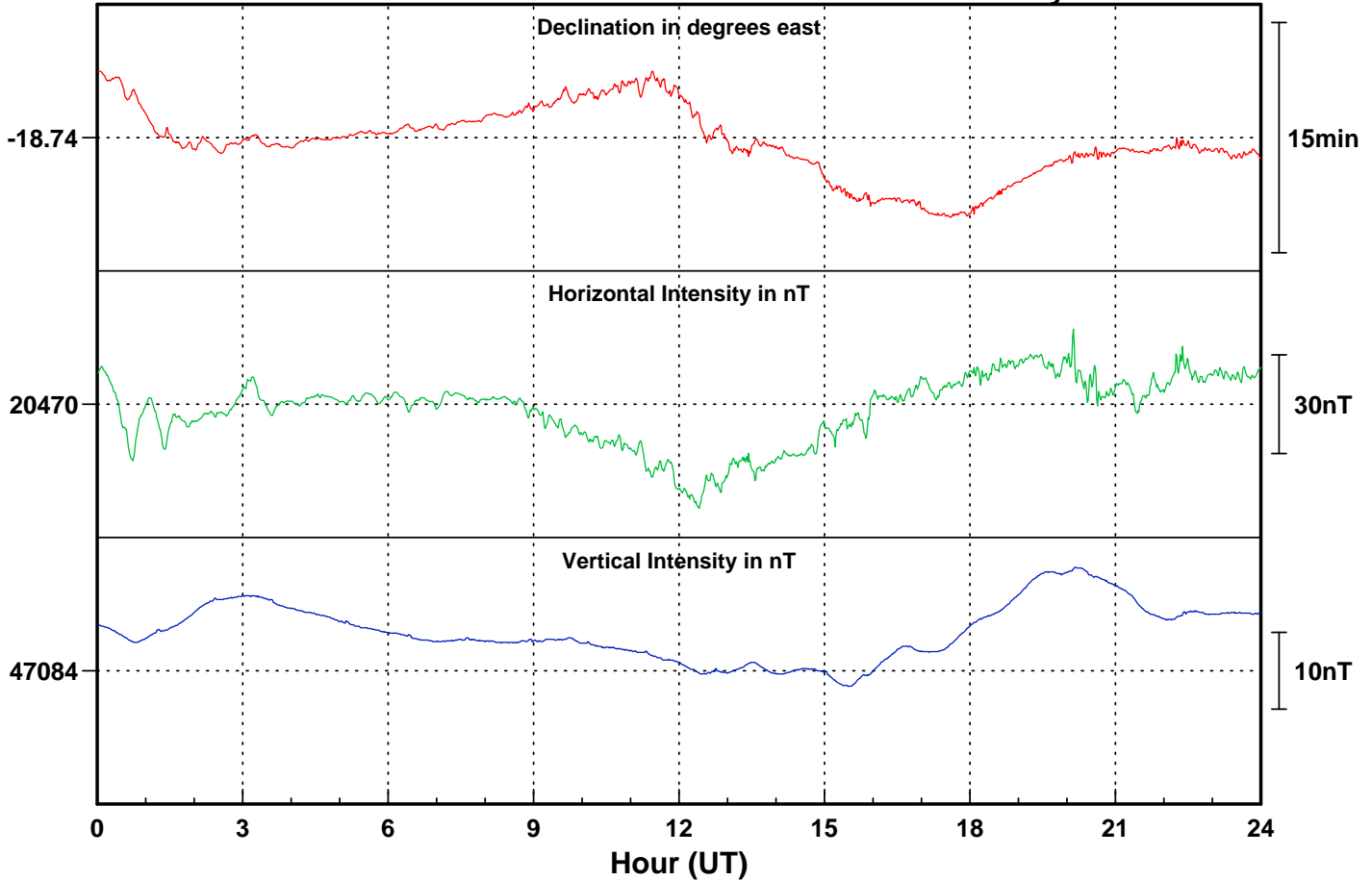
# Sable Island

Day number: 249



Date: 06-09-2008

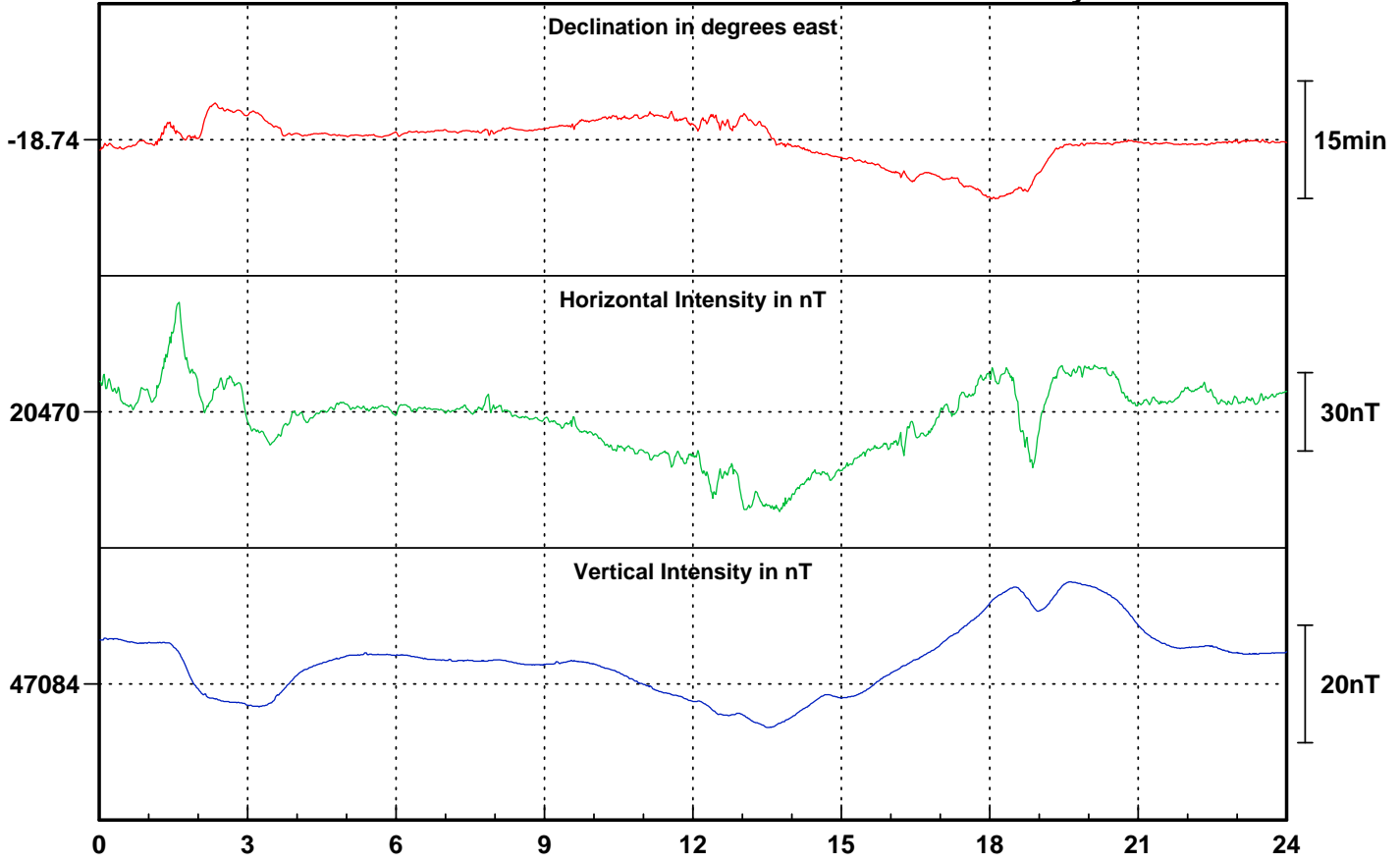
Day number: 250



Date: 07-09-2008

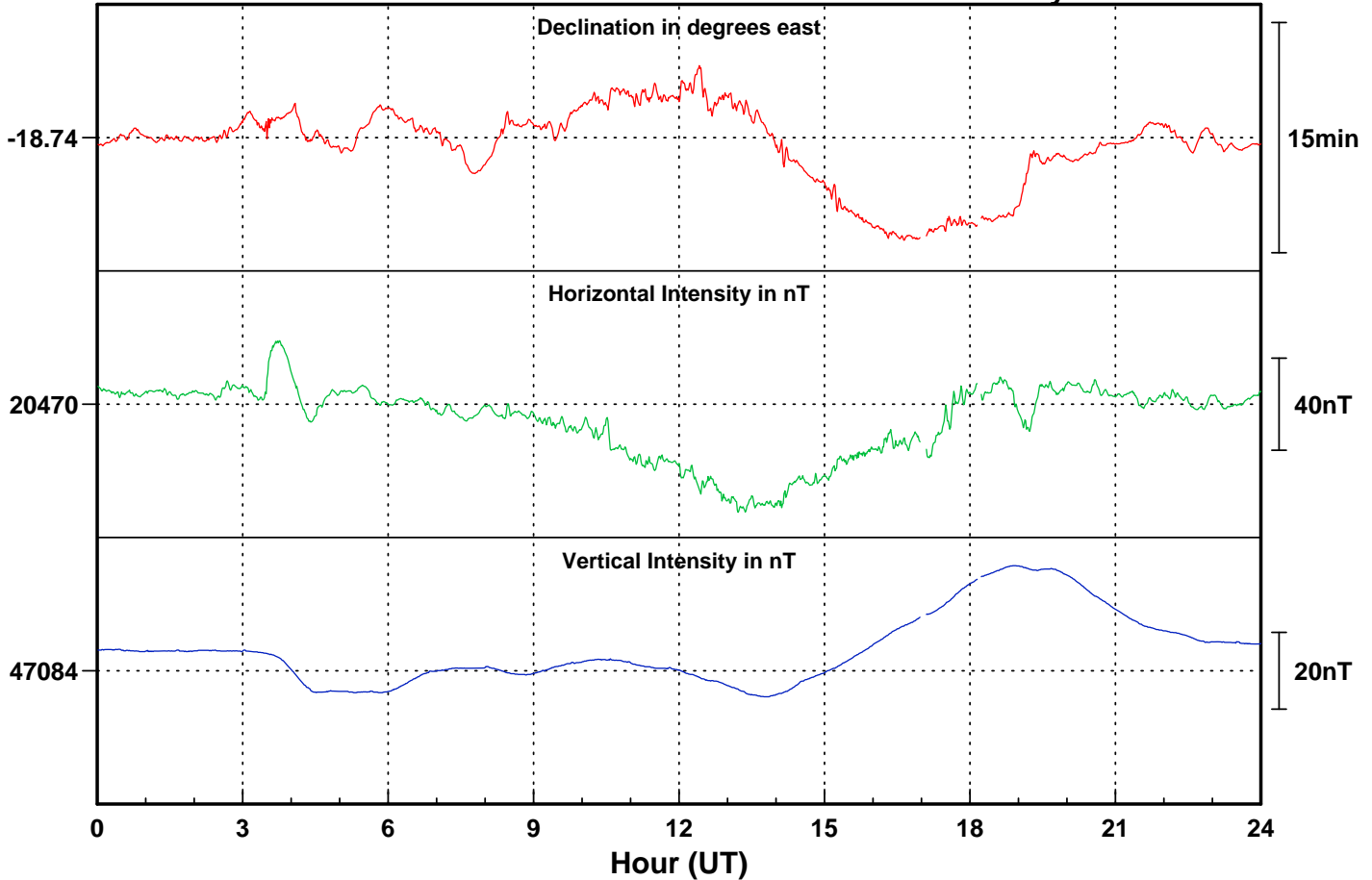
# Sable Island

Day number: 251



Date: 08-09-2008

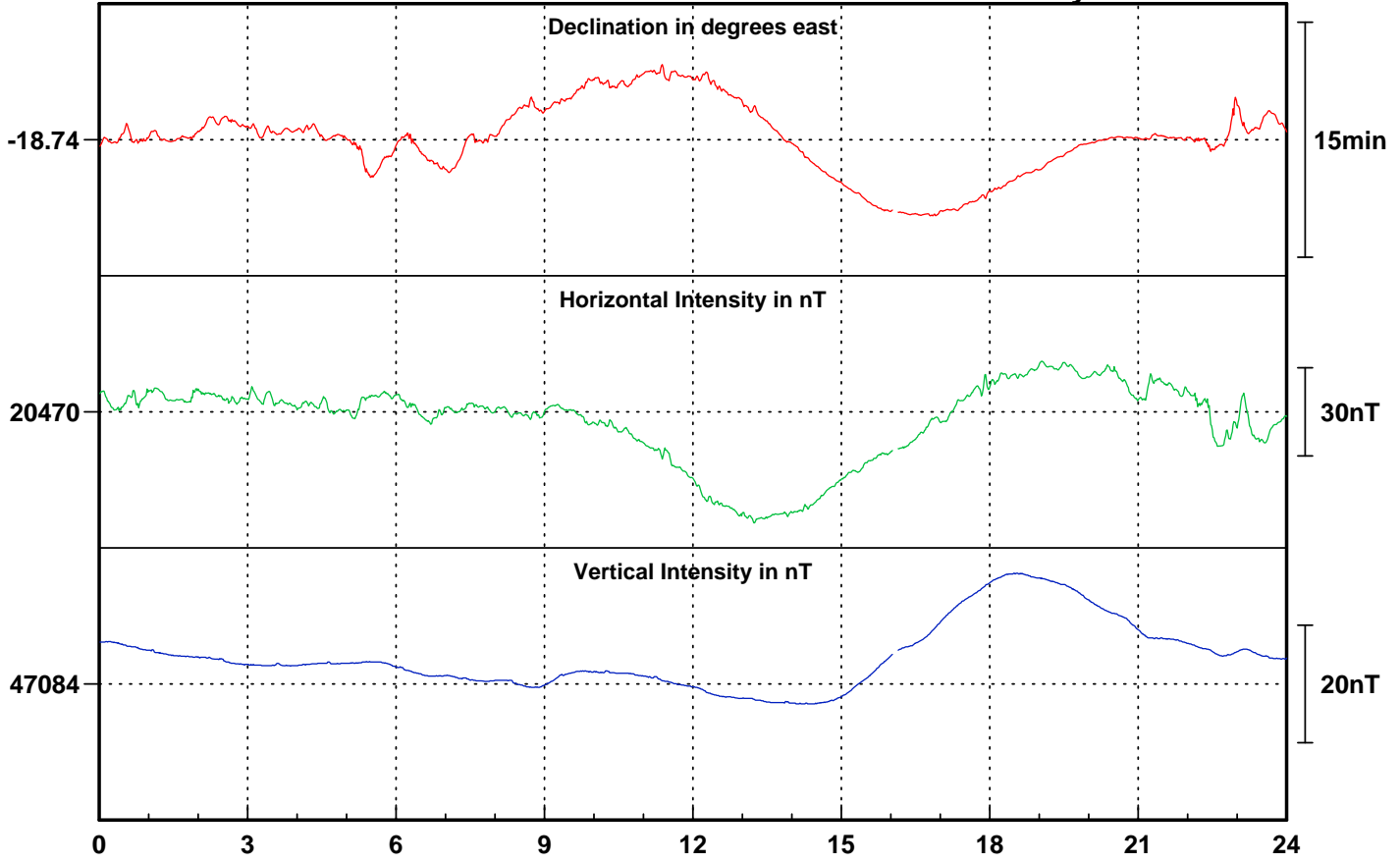
Day number: 252



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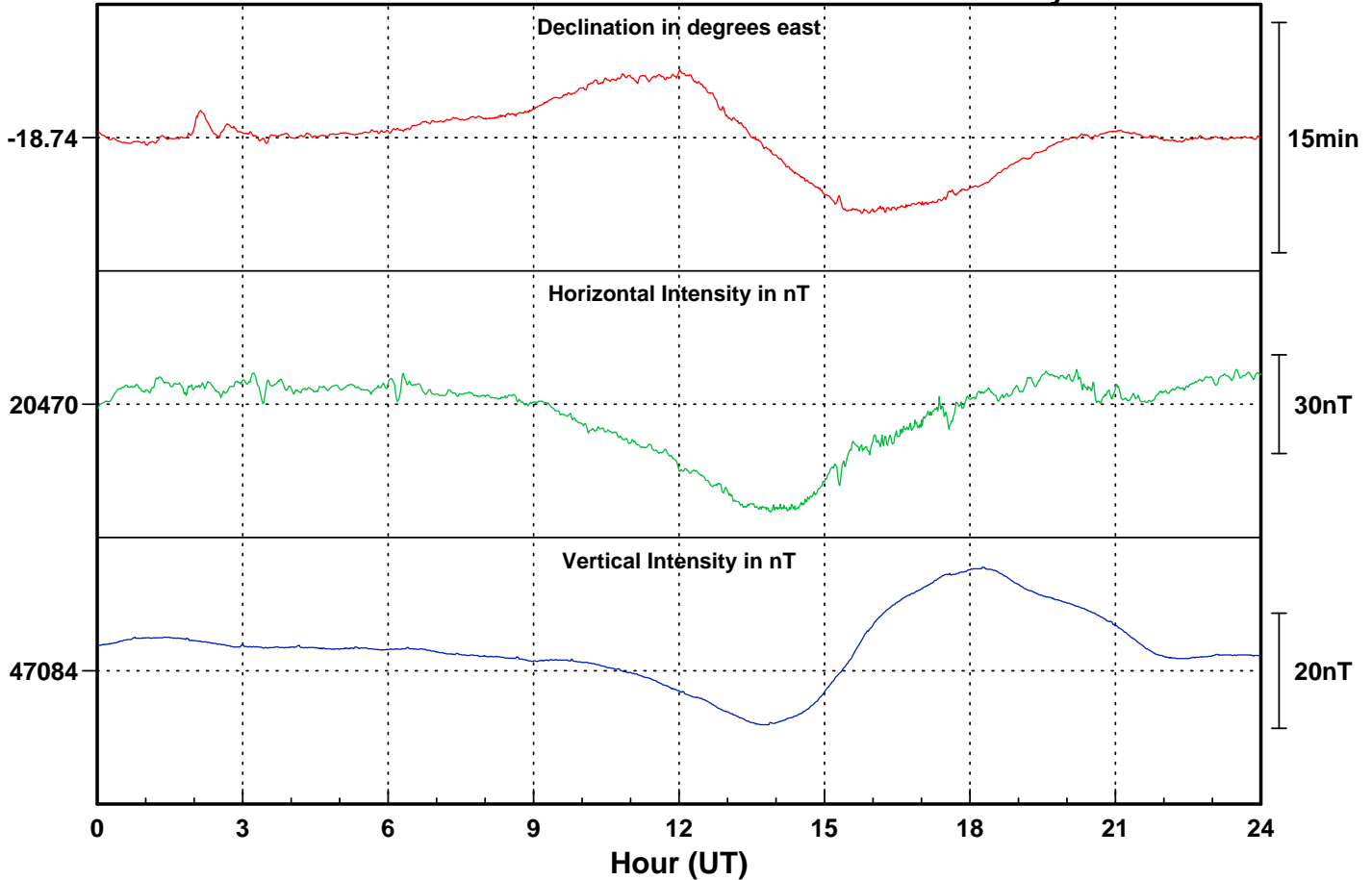
# Sable Island

Day number: 253



Date: 10-09-2008

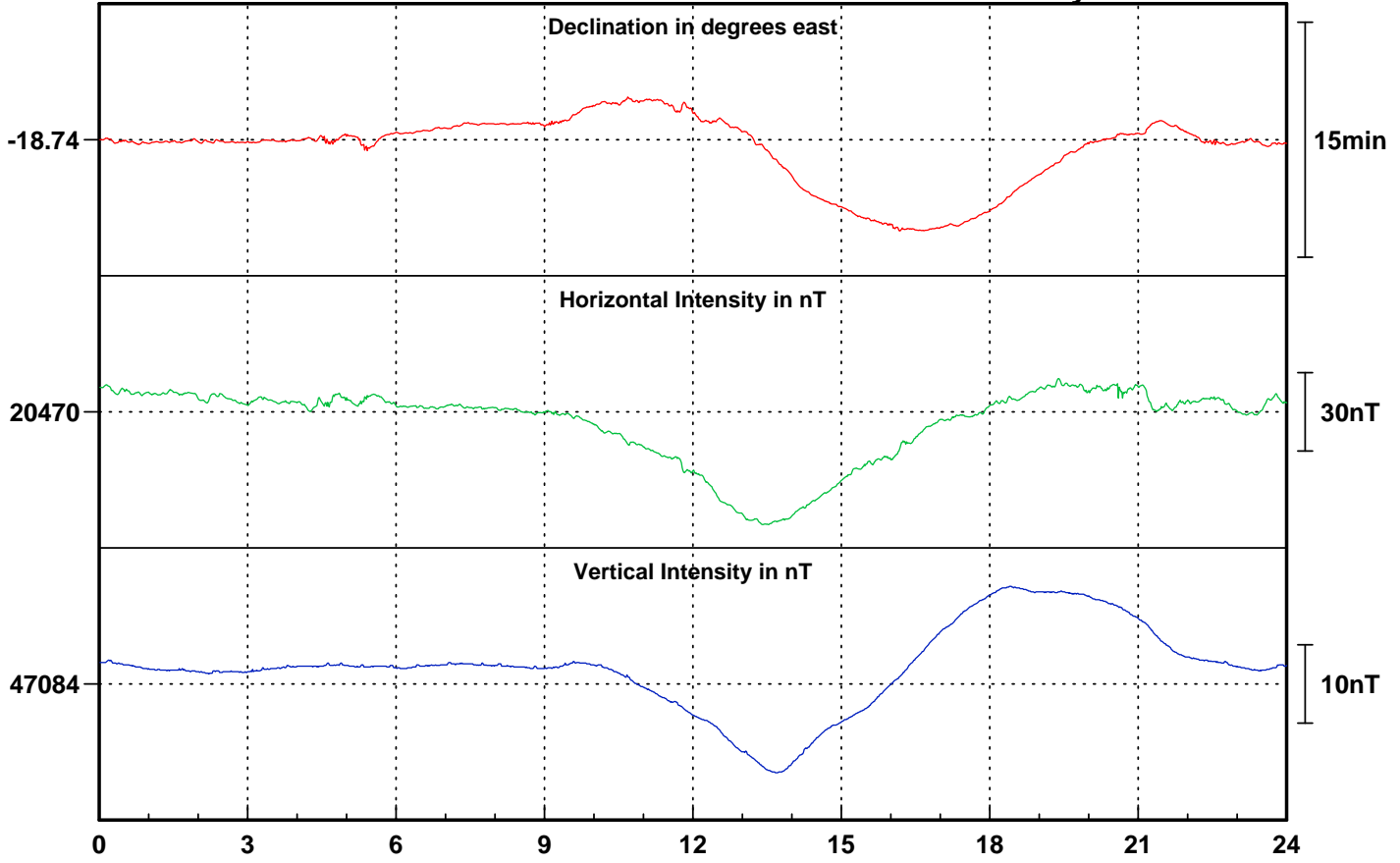
Day number: 254



Date: 11-09-2008

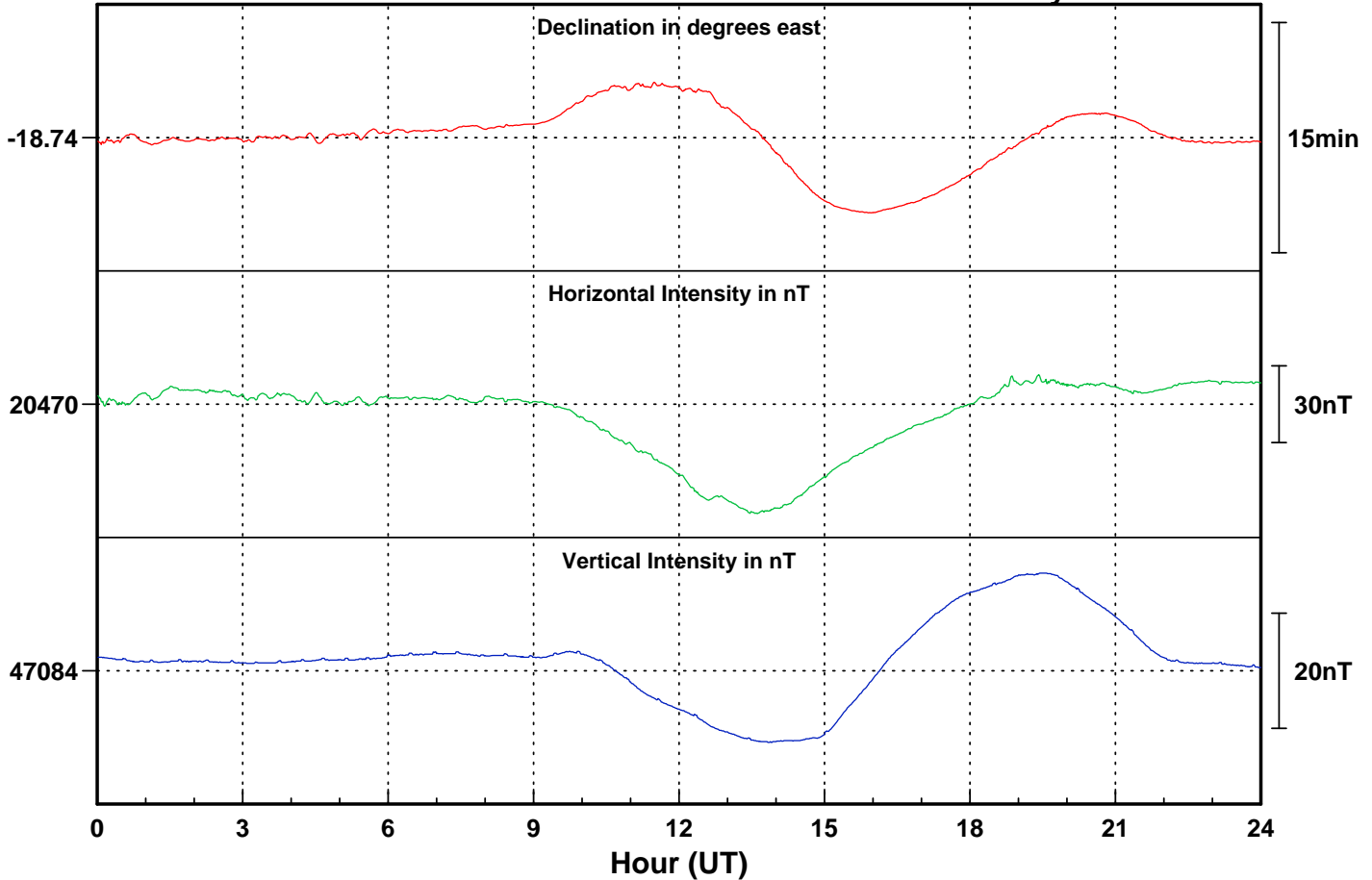
# Sable Island

Day number: 255



Date: 12-09-2008

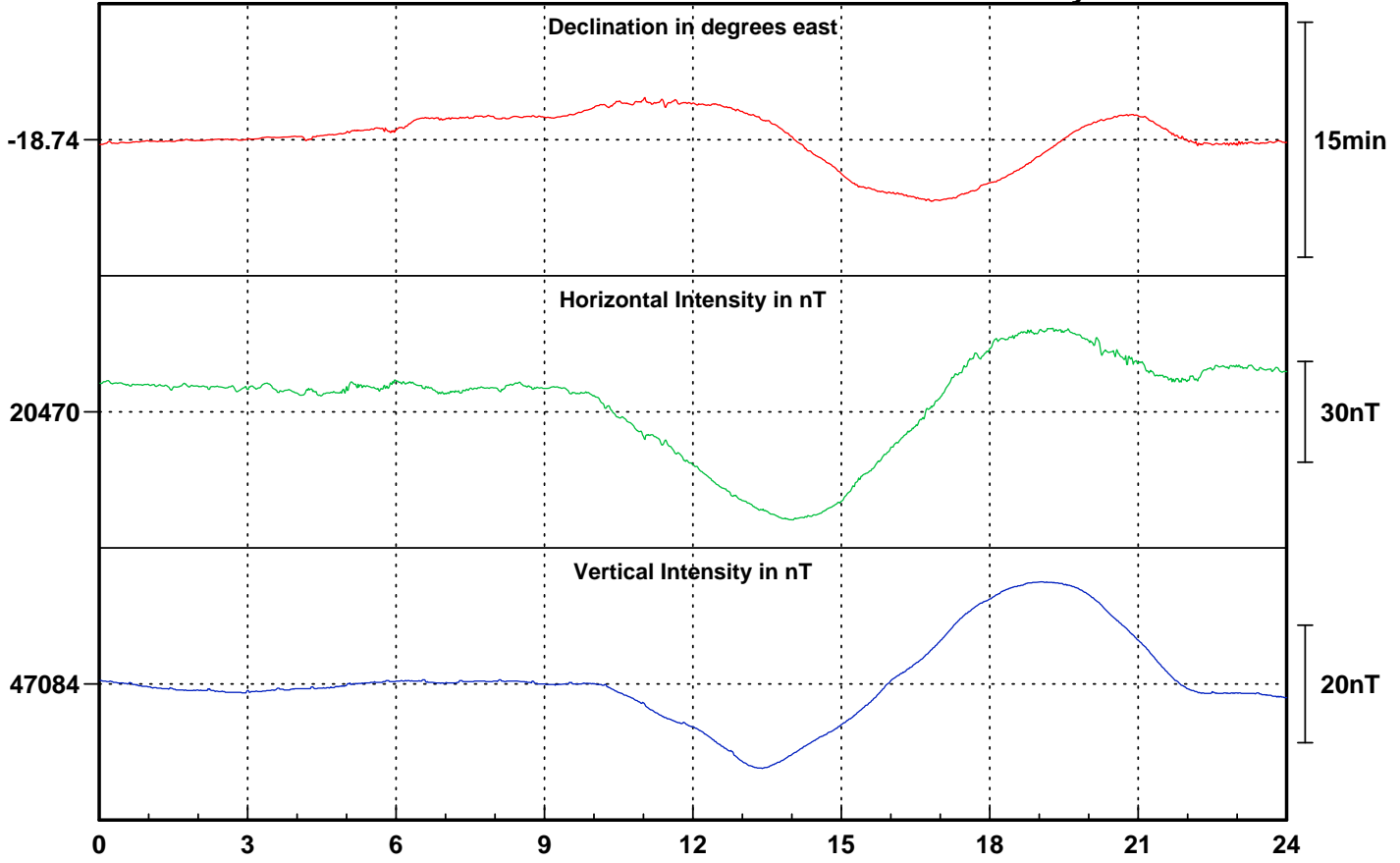
Day number: 256



Date: 13-09-2008

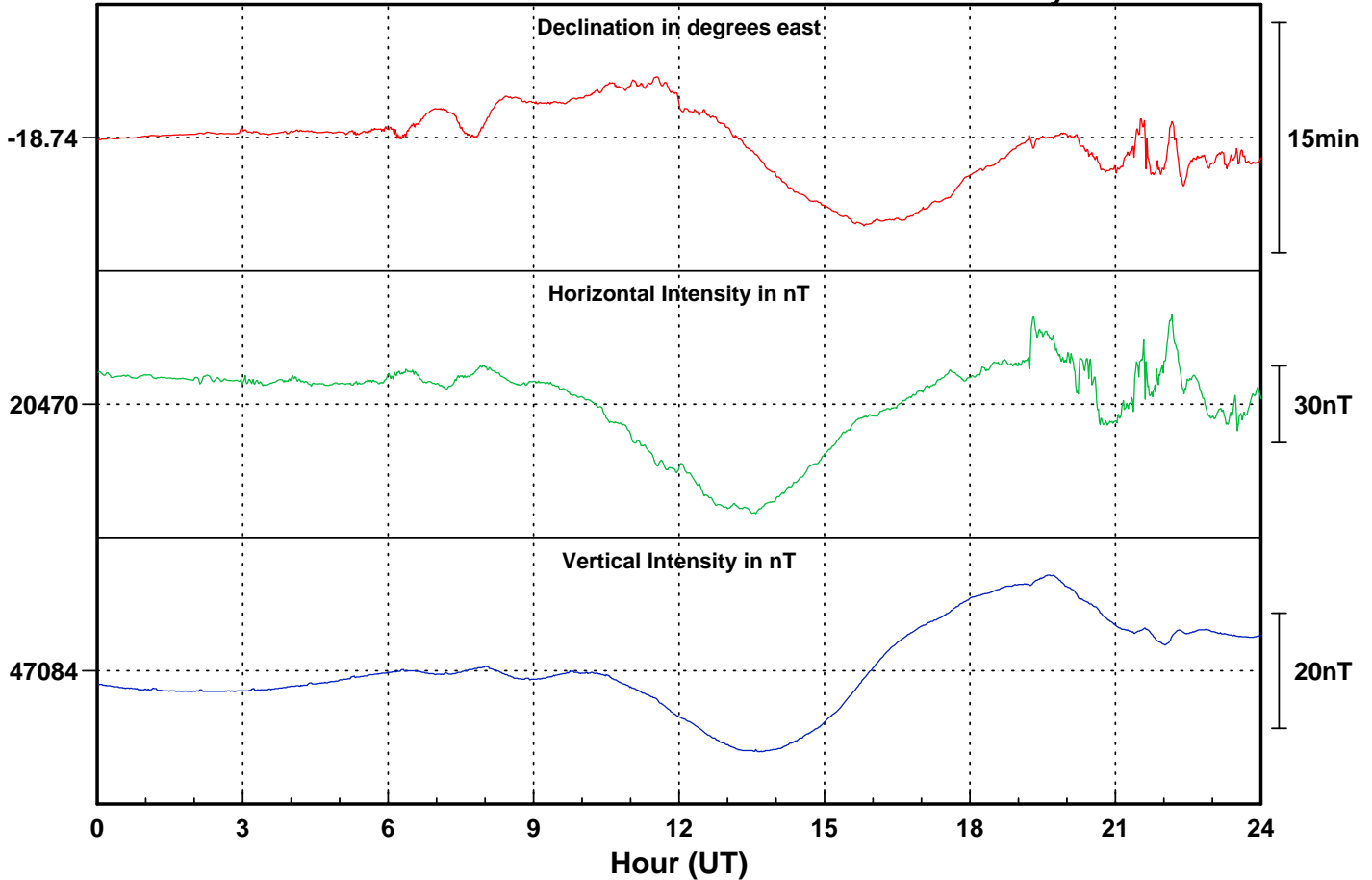
# Sable Island

Day number: 257



Date: 14-09-2008

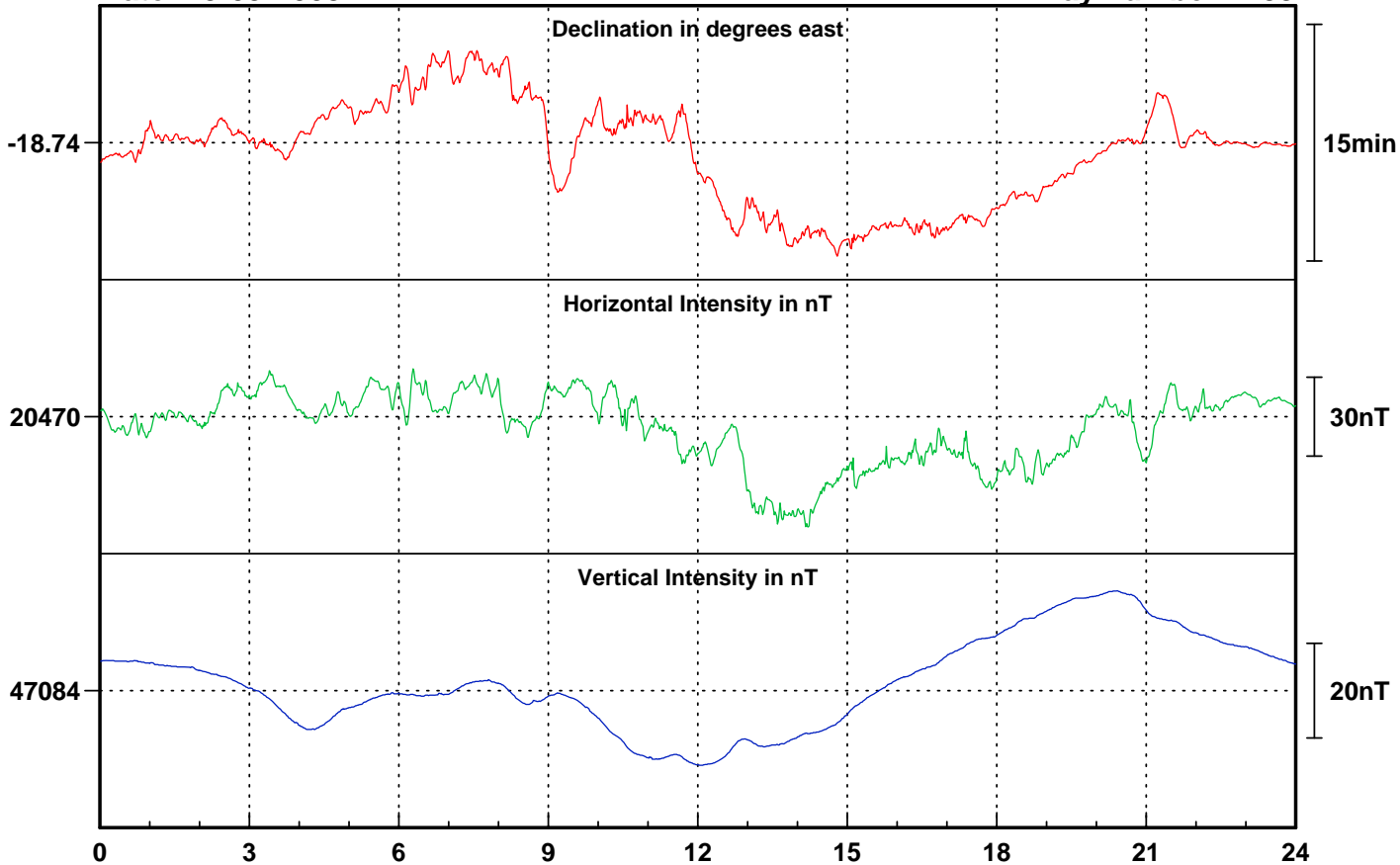
Day number: 258



Date: 15-09-2008

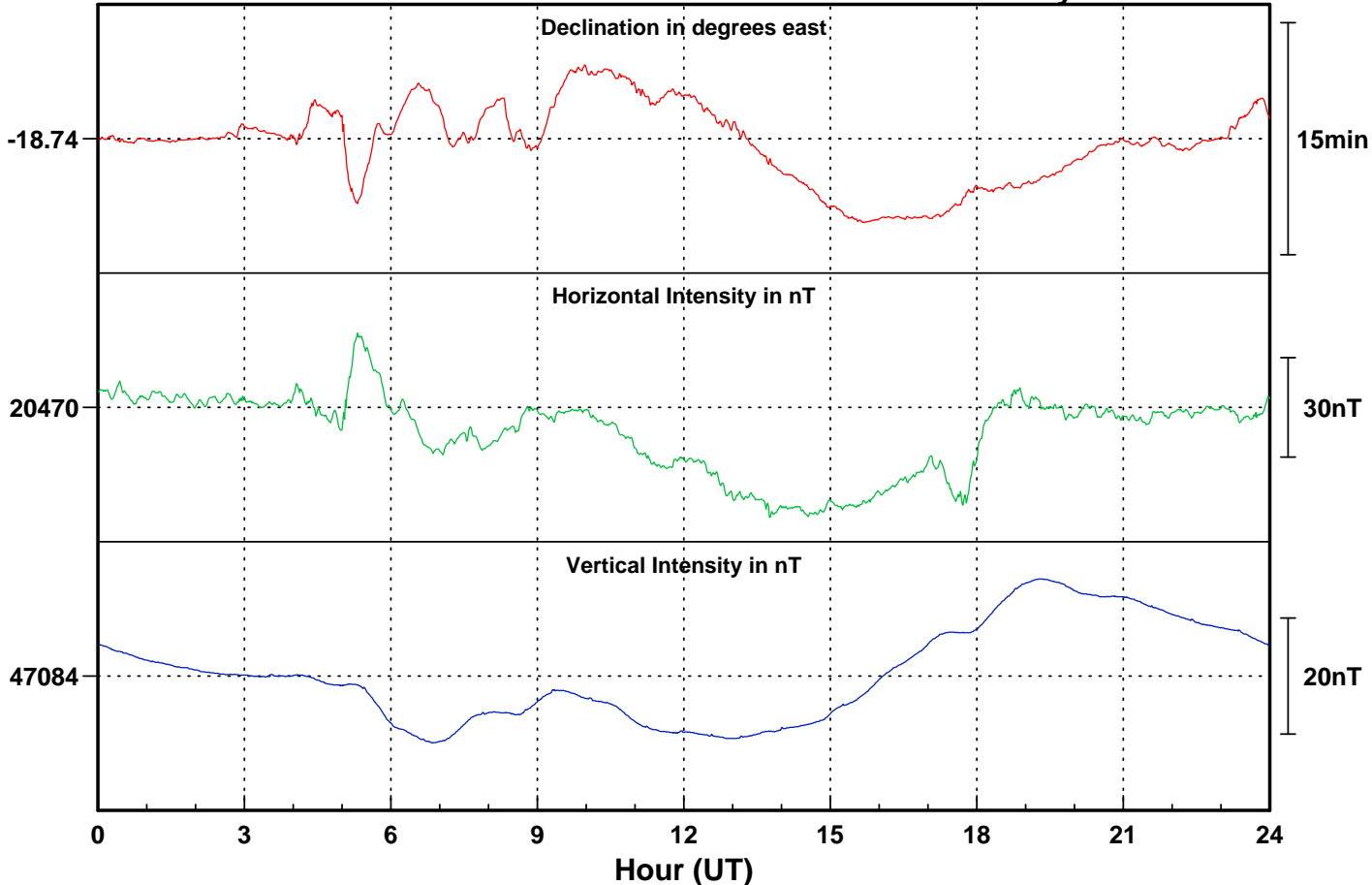
# Sable Island

Day number: 259



Date: 16-09-2008

Day number: 260

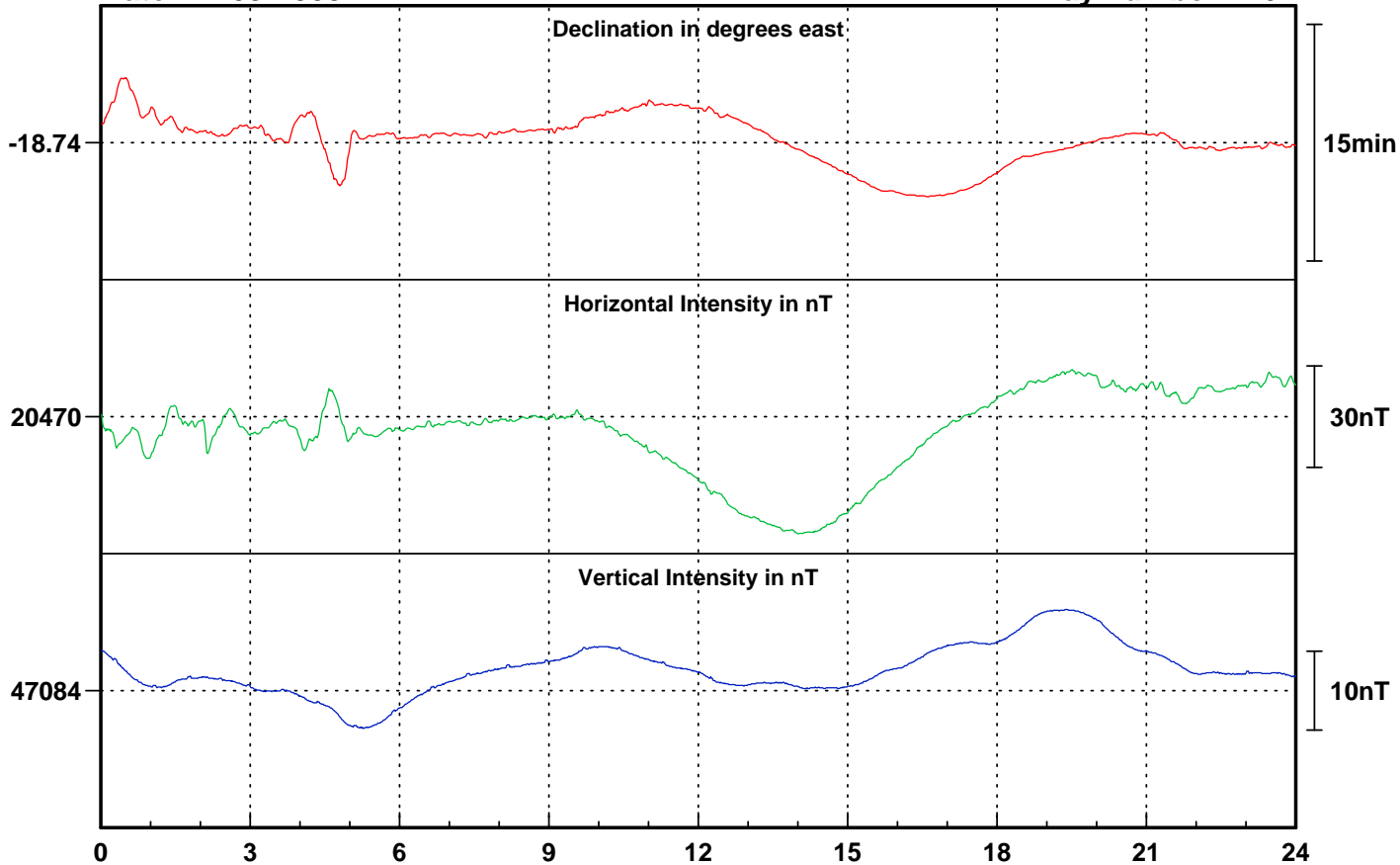




Date: 17-09-2008

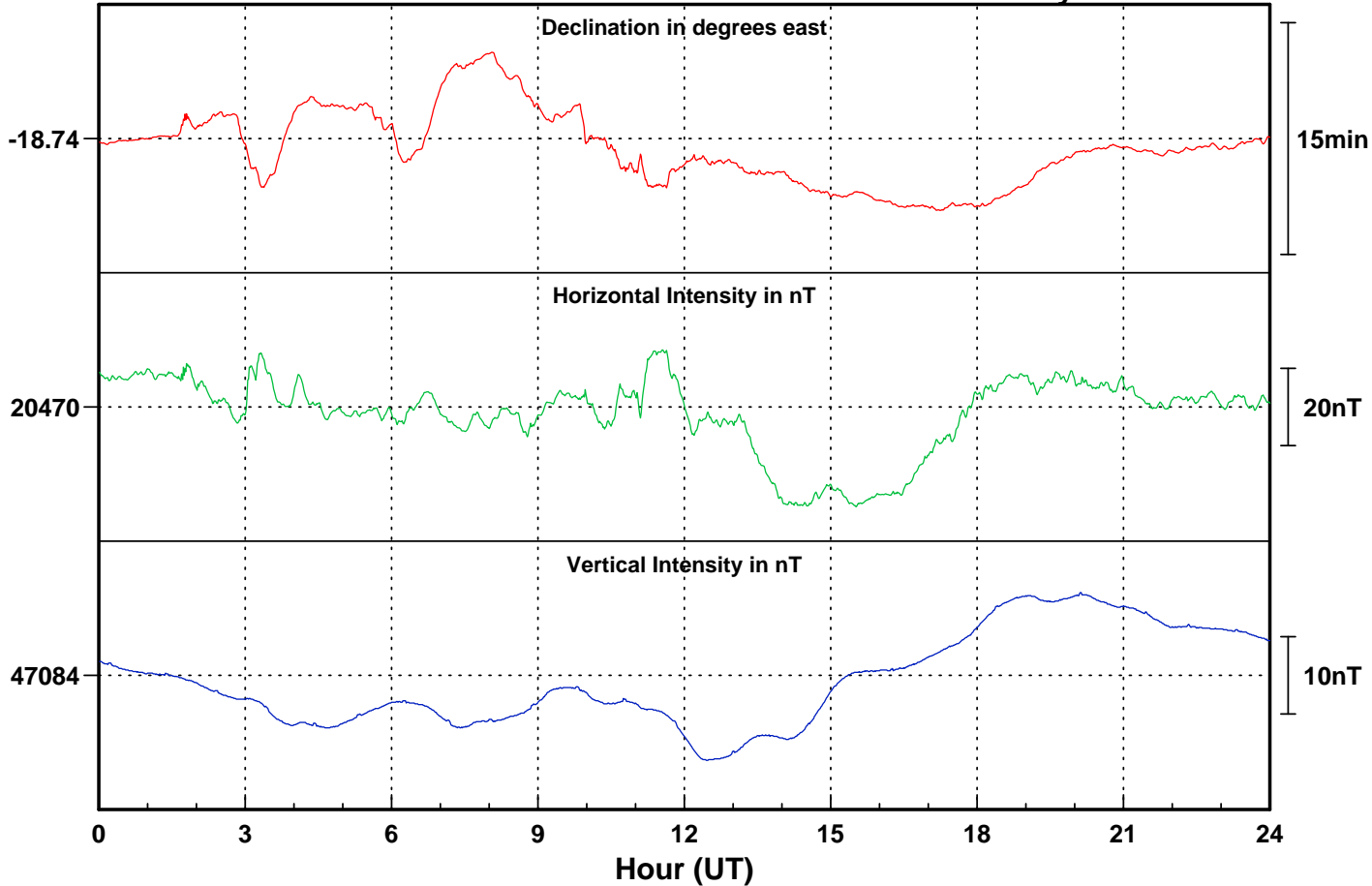
# Sable Island

Day number: 261



Date: 18-09-2008

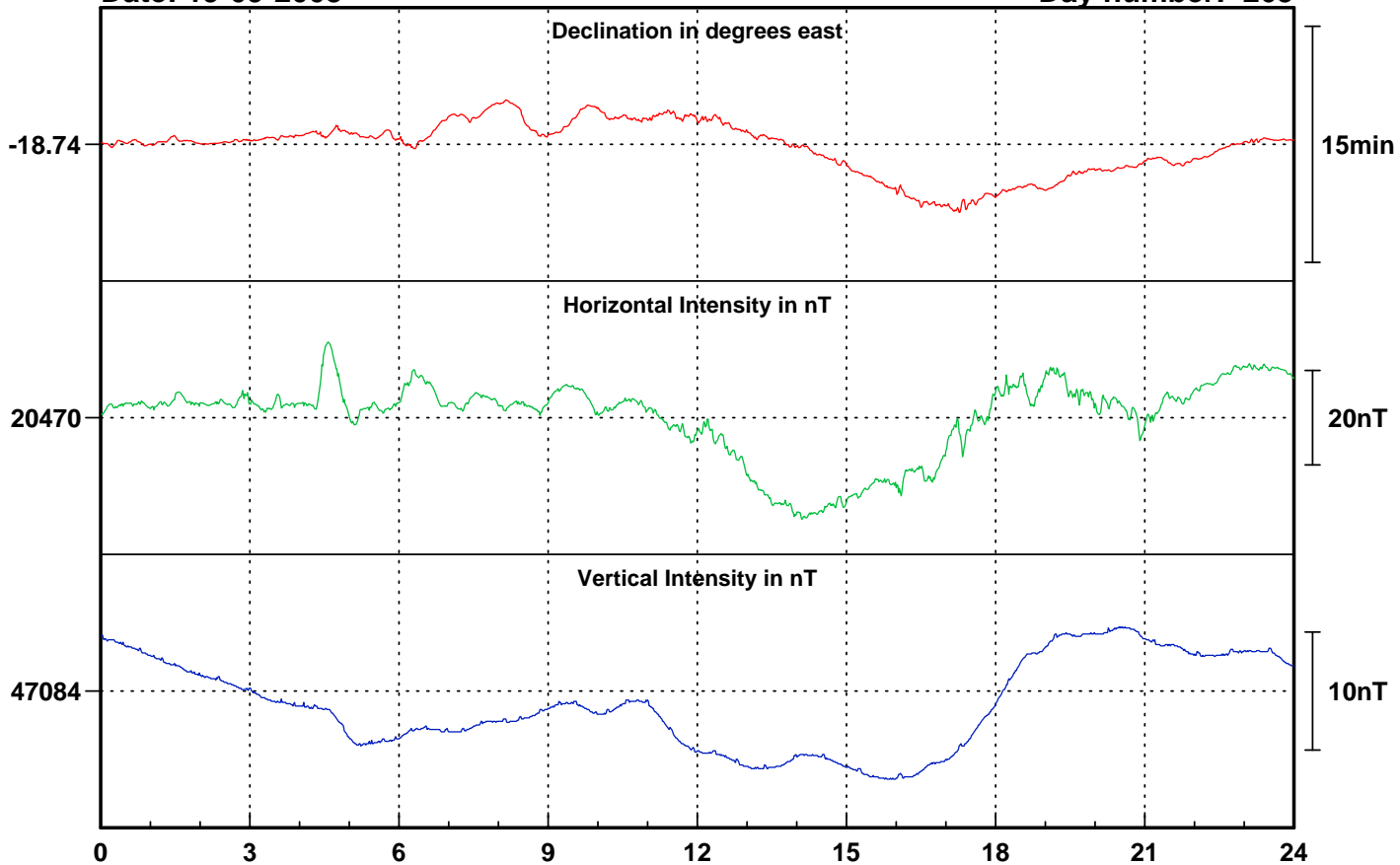
Day number: 262



Date: 19-09-2008

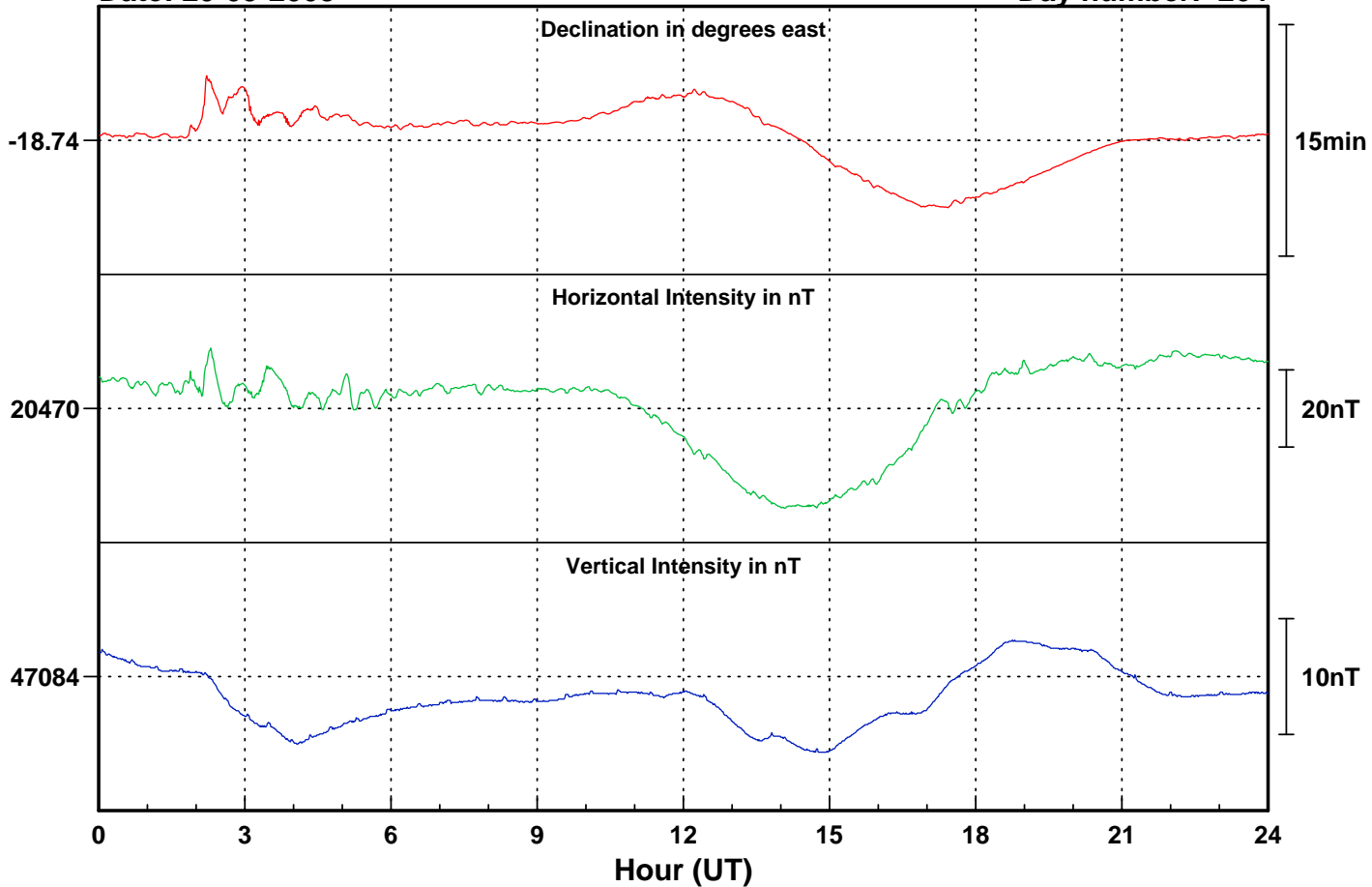
# Sable Island

Day number: 263



Date: 20-09-2008

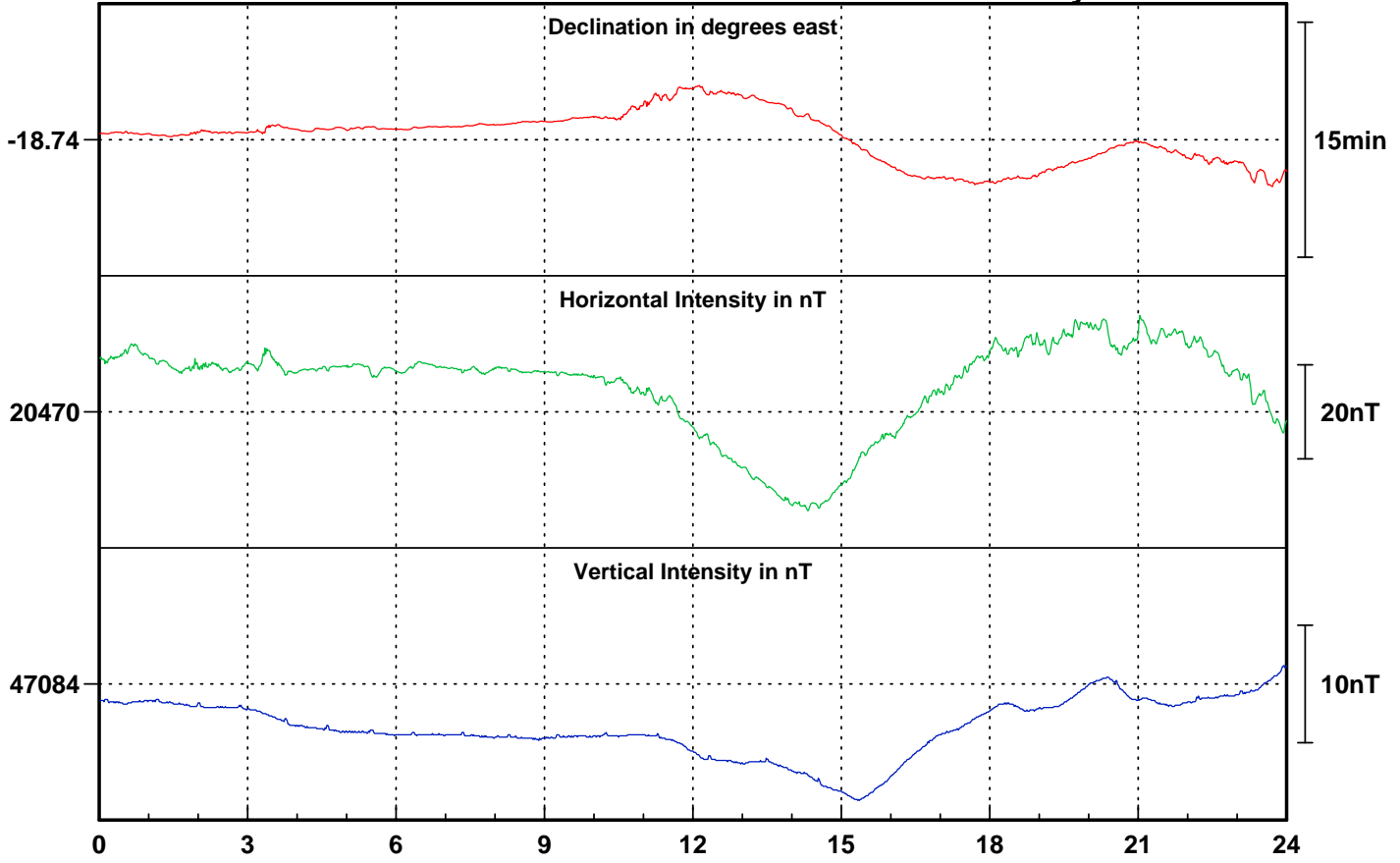
Day number: 264



Date: 21-09-2008

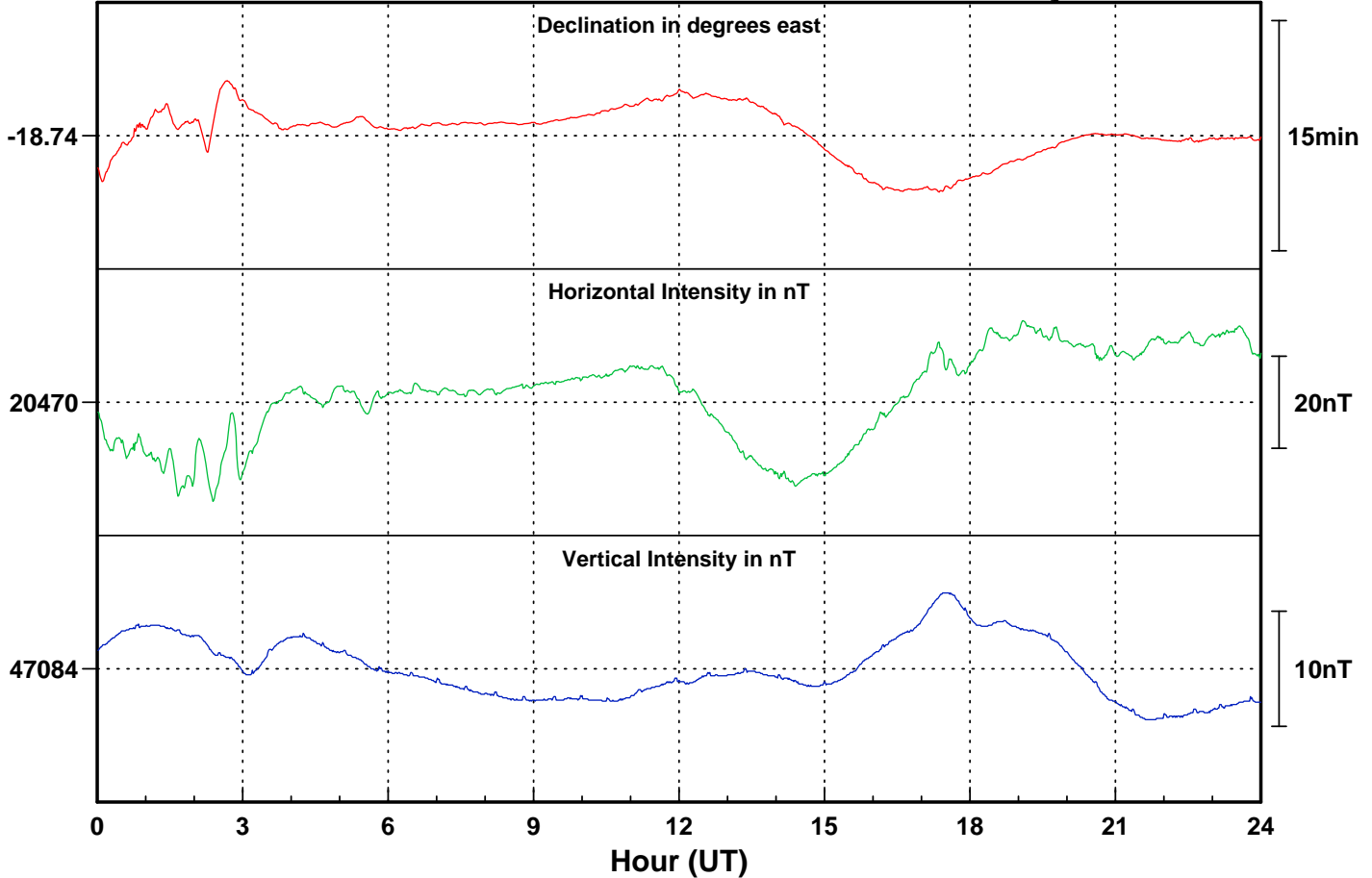
# Sable Island

Day number: 265



Date: 22-09-2008

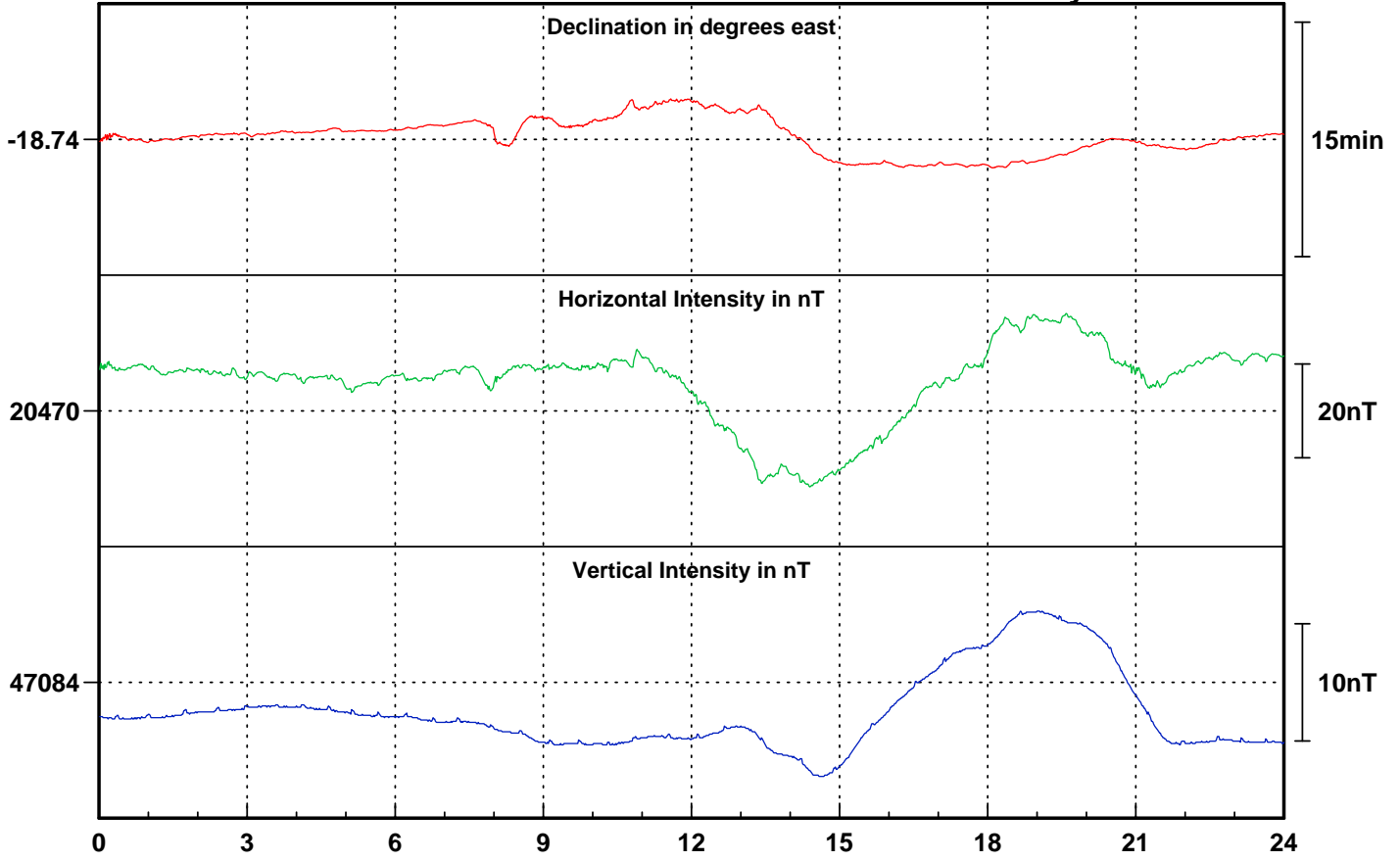
Day number: 266



Date: 23-09-2008

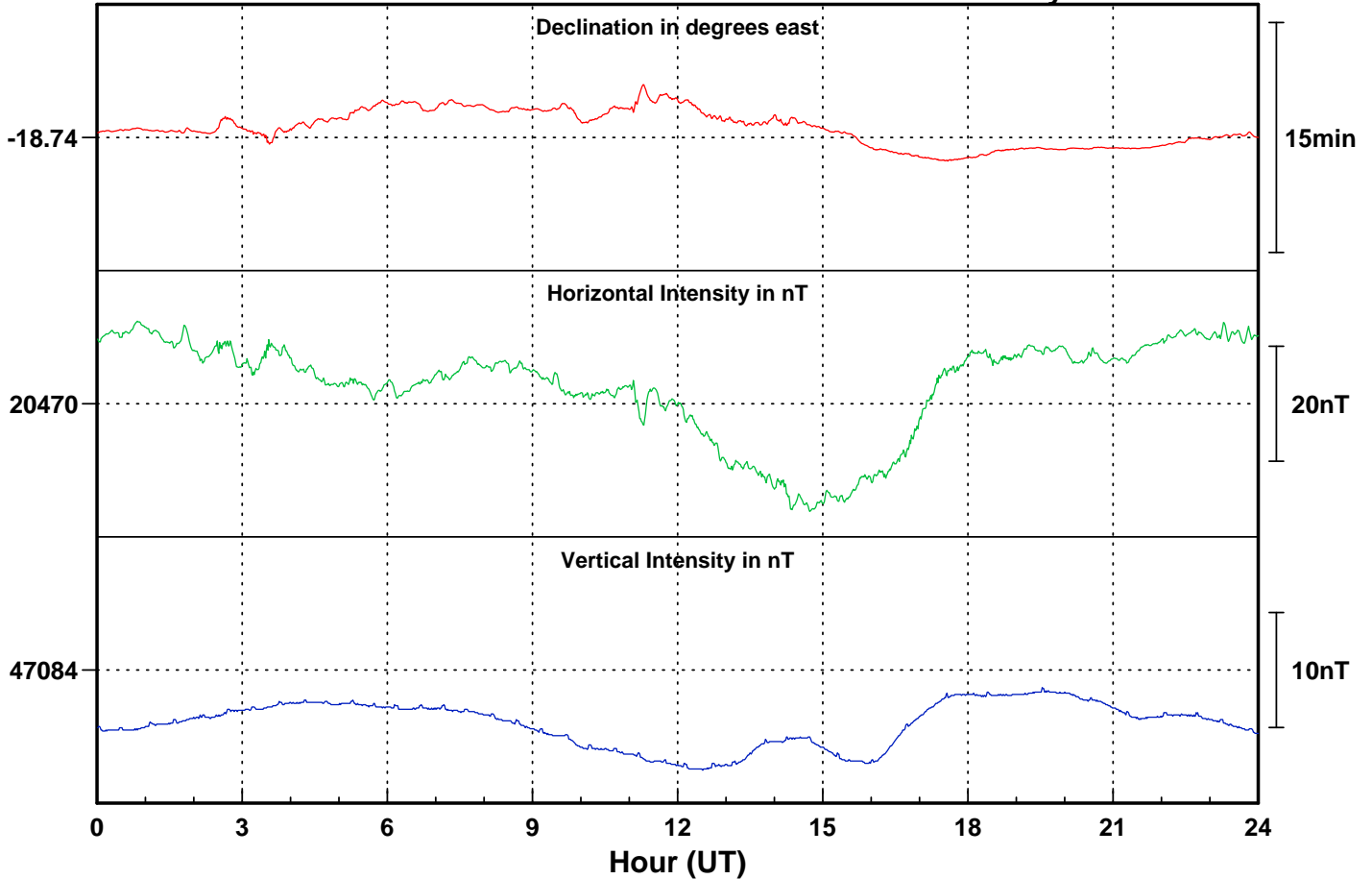
# Sable Island

Day number: 267



Date: 24-09-2008

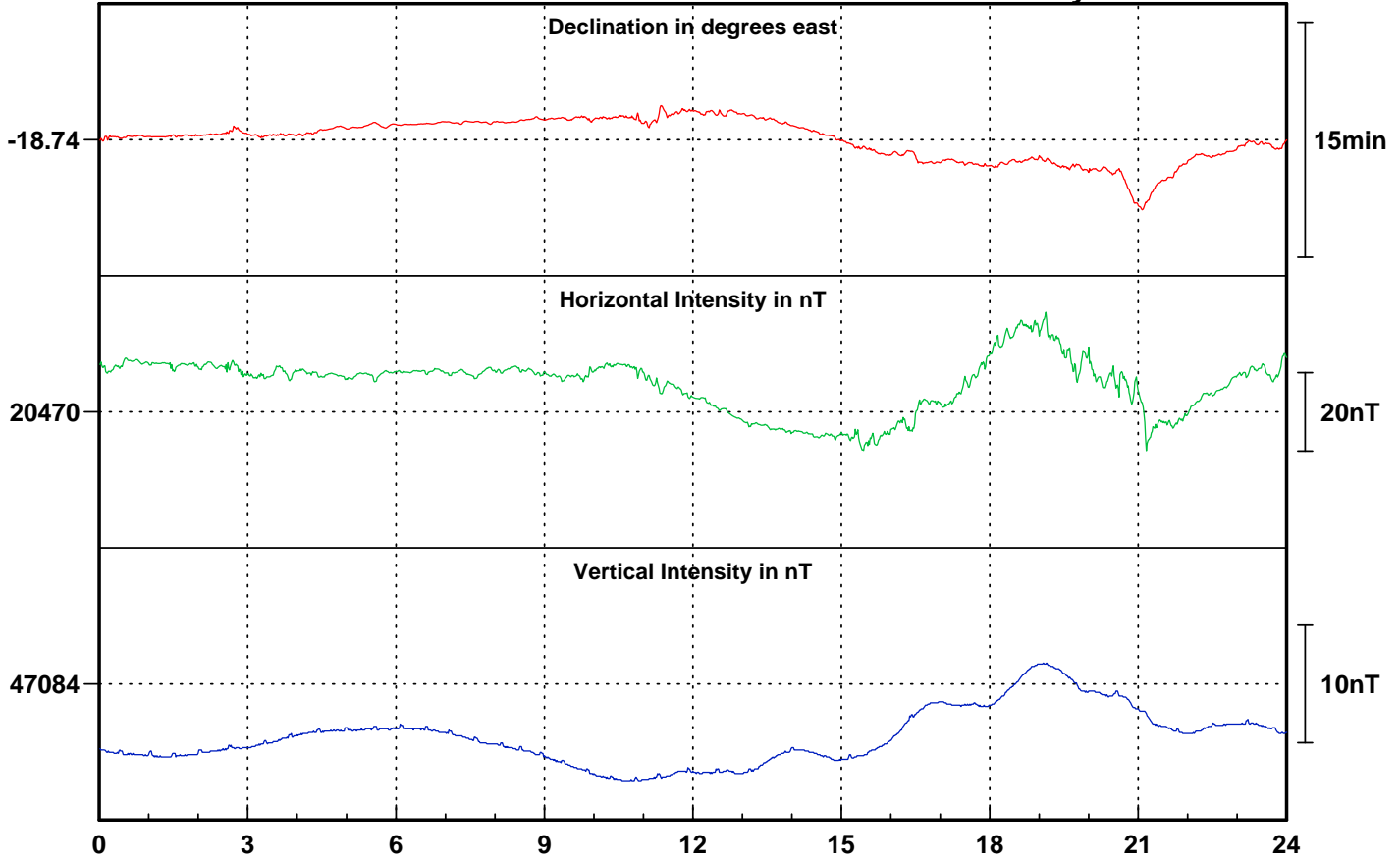
Day number: 268



Date: 25-09-2008

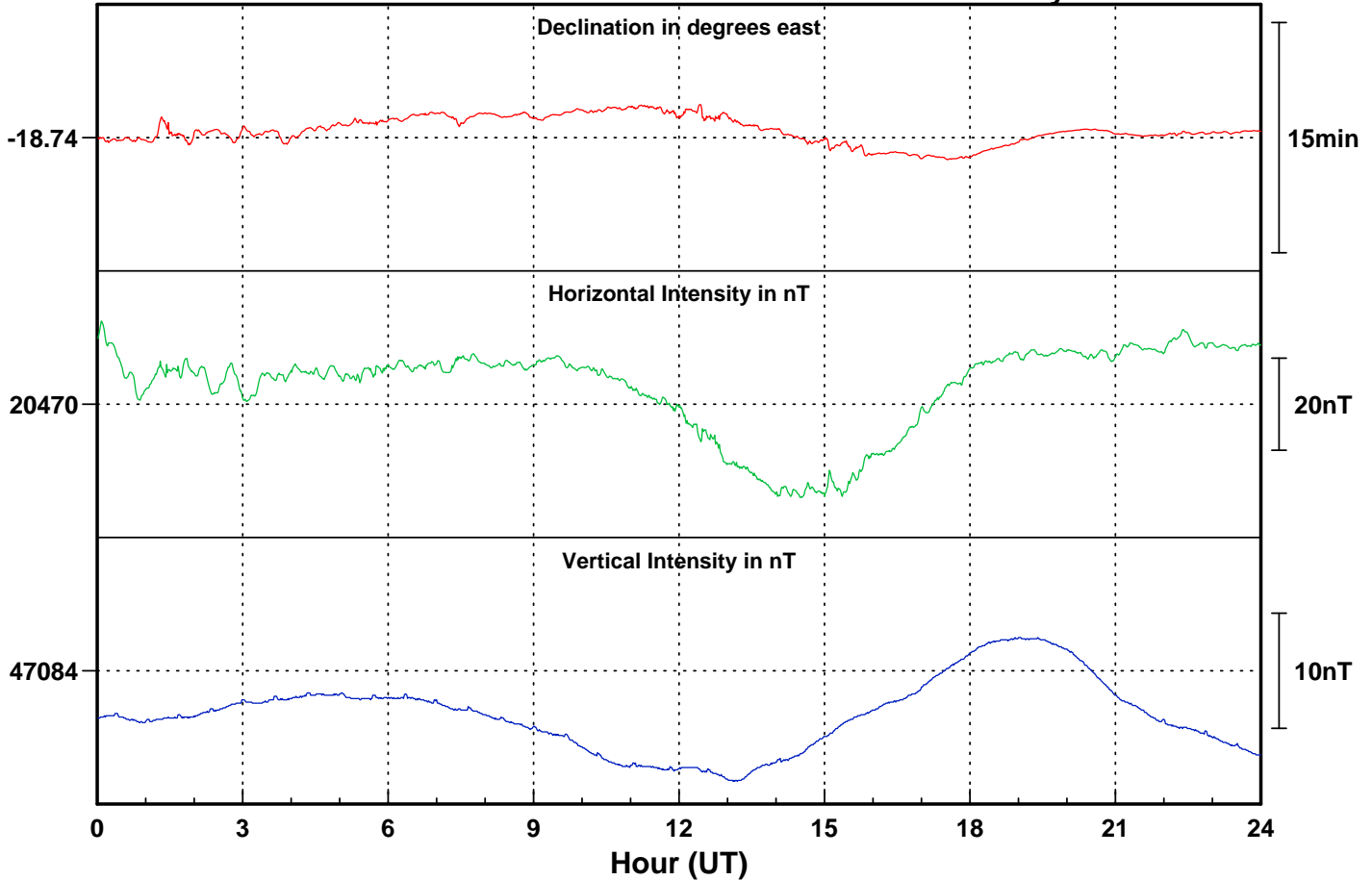
# Sable Island

Day number: 269



Date: 26-09-2008

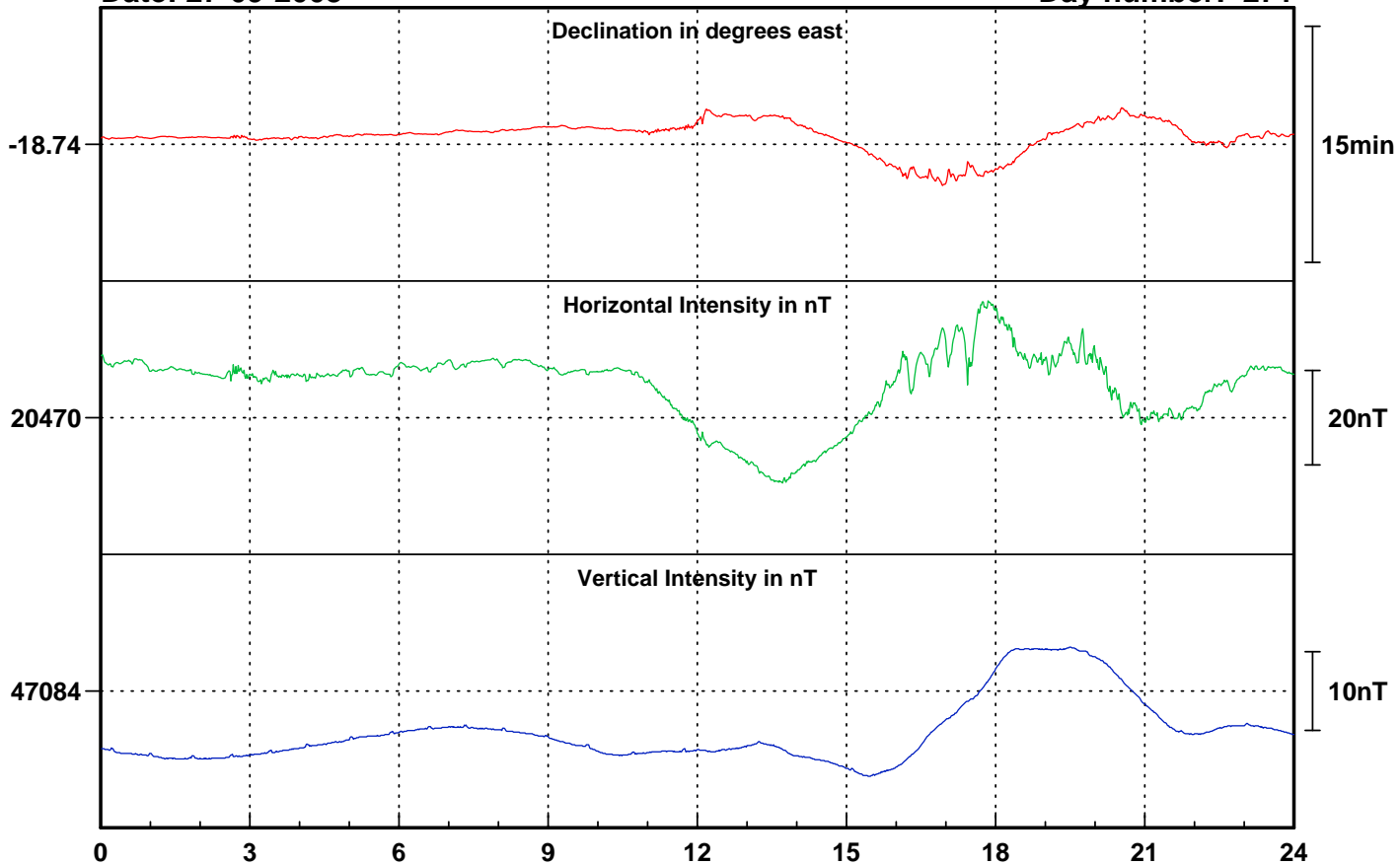
Day number: 270



Date: 27-09-2008

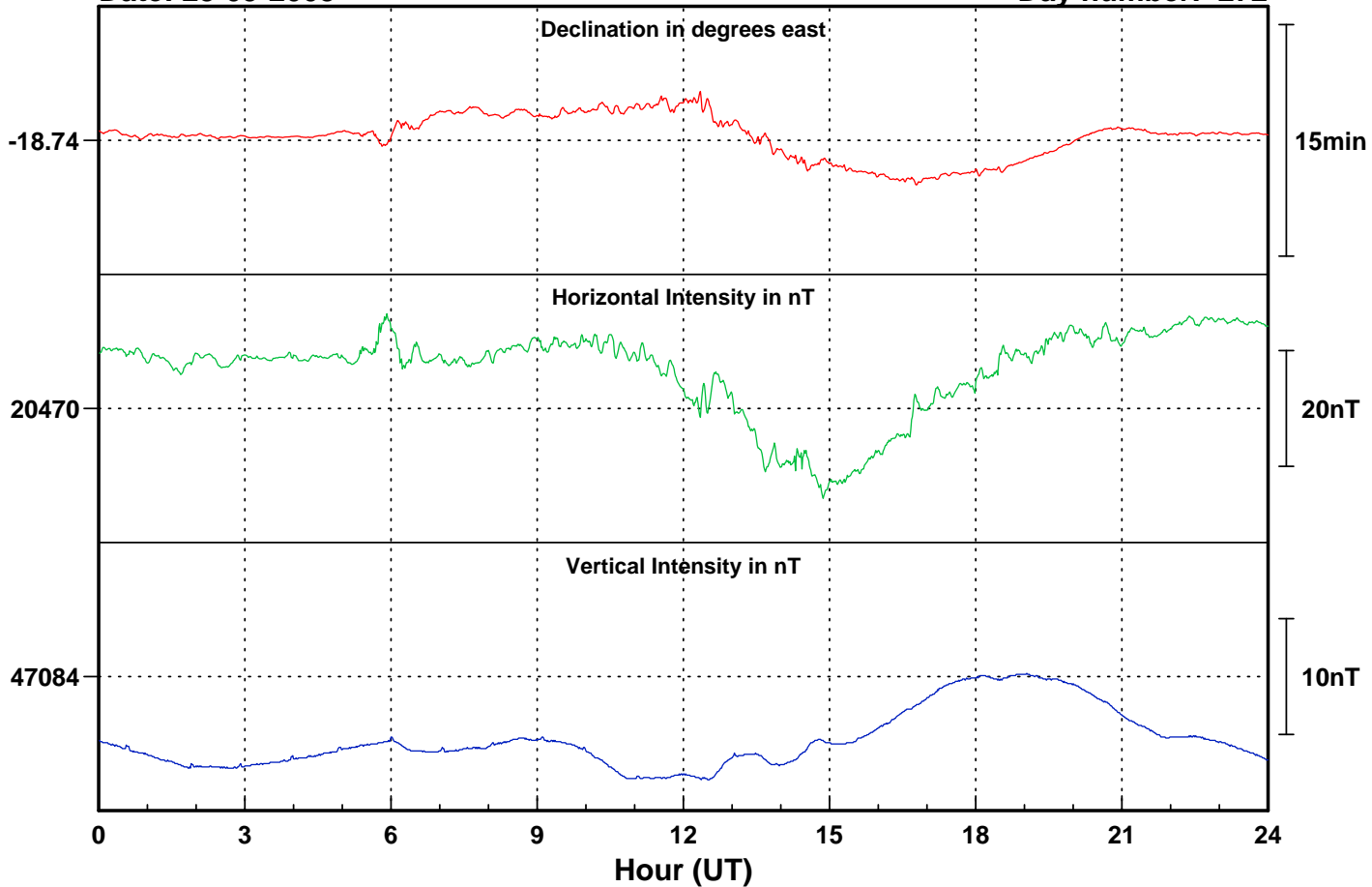
# Sable Island

Day number: 271



Date: 28-09-2008

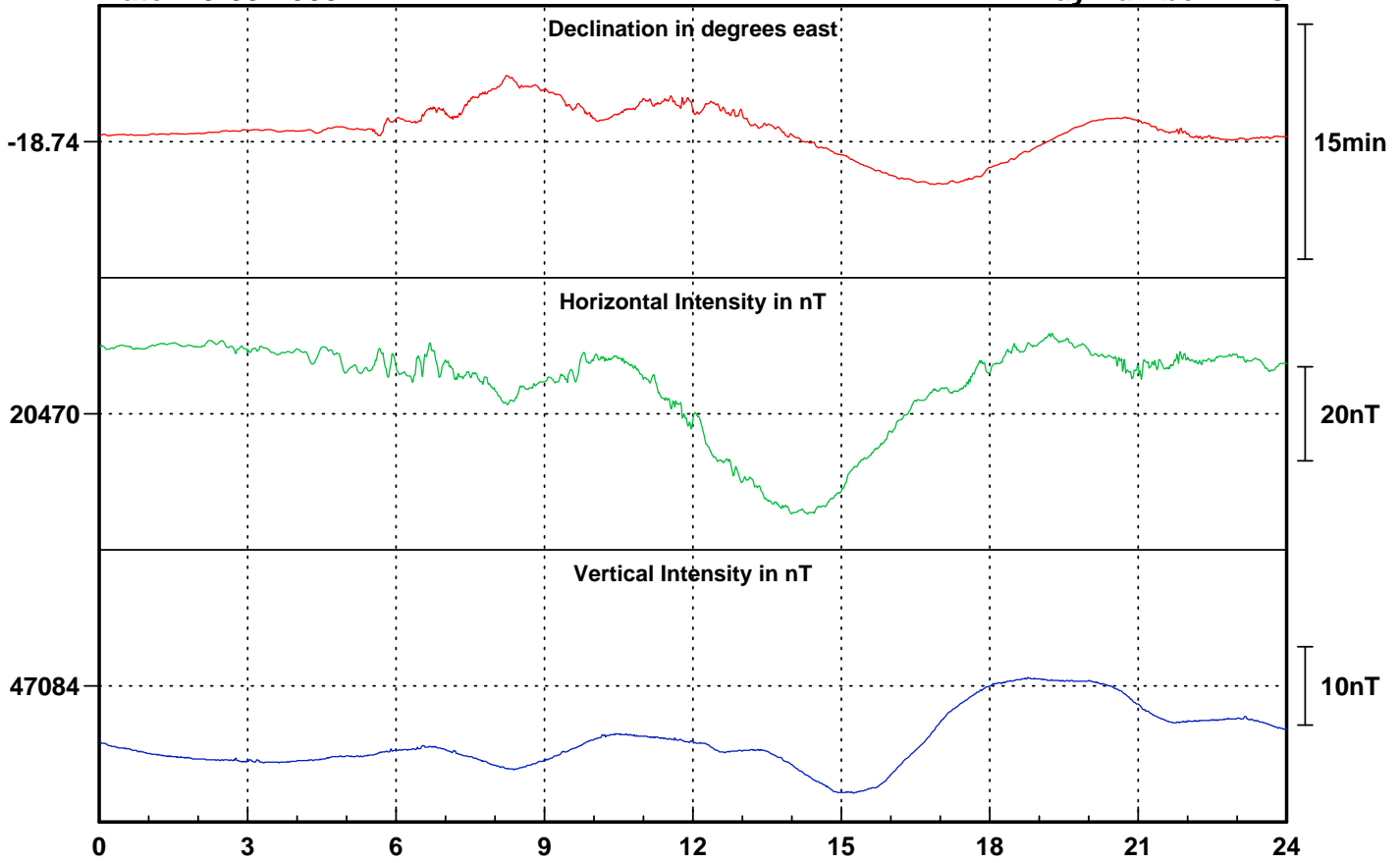
Day number: 272



Date: 29-09-2008

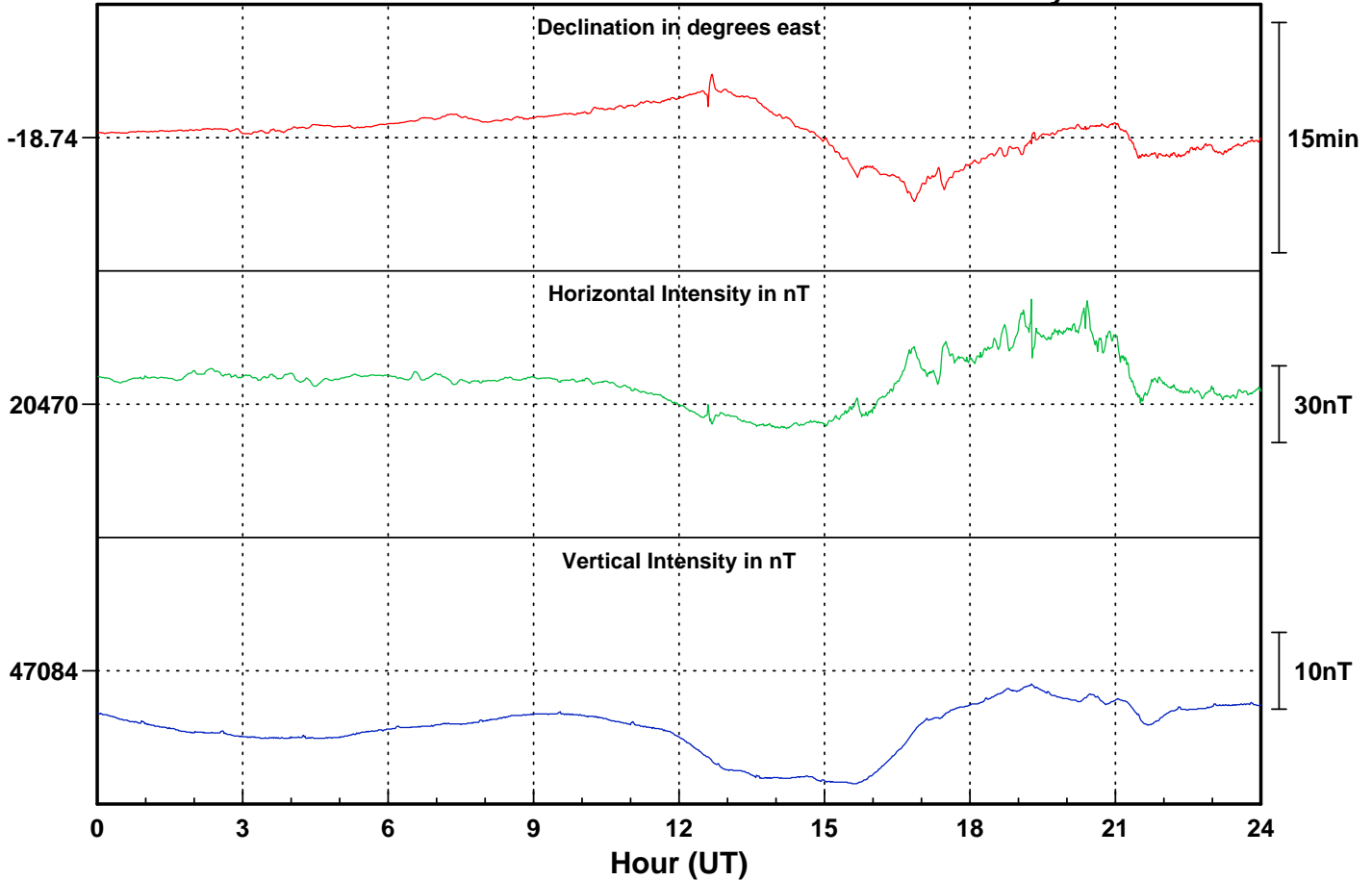
# Sable Island

Day number: 273

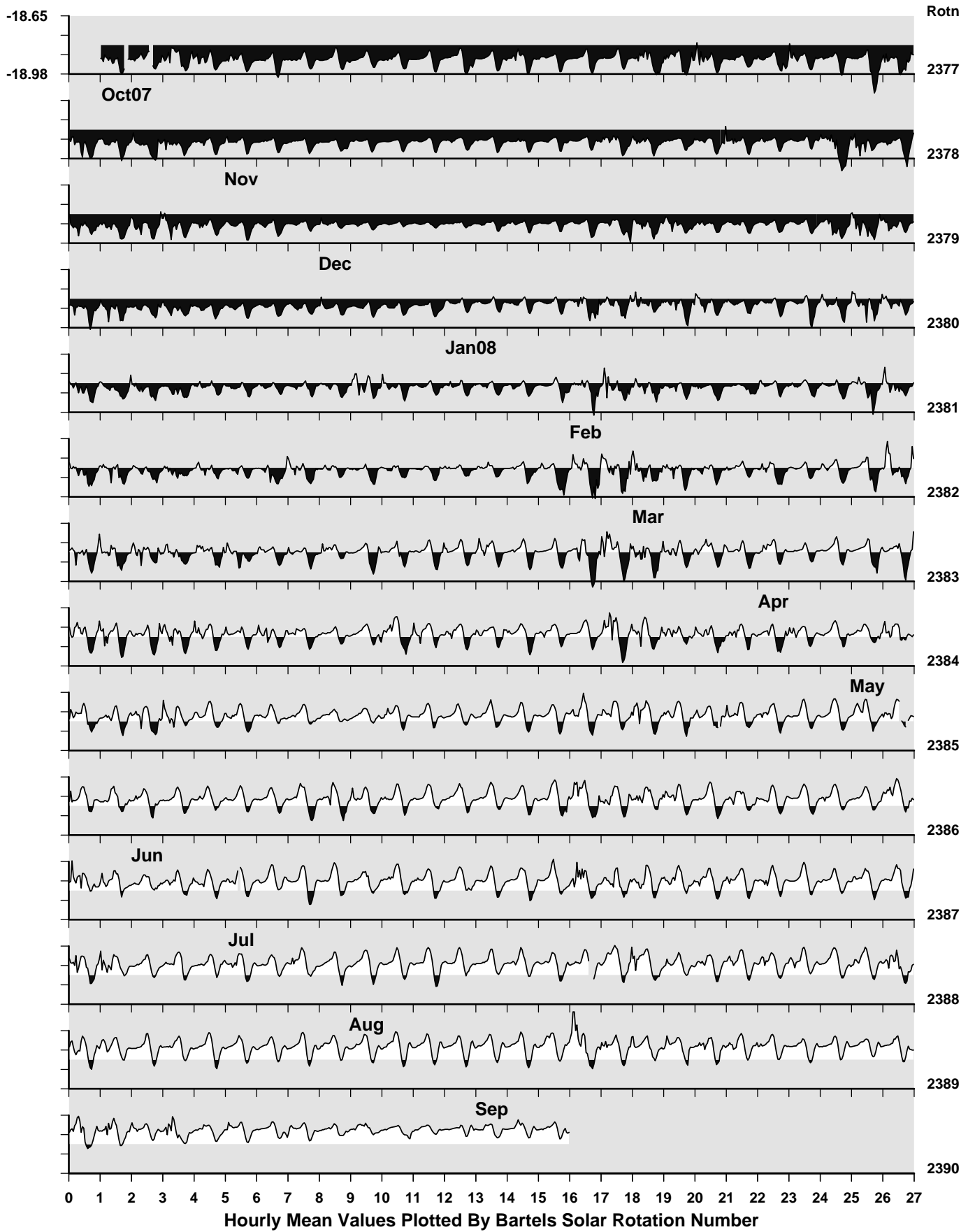


Date: 30-09-2008

Day number: 274

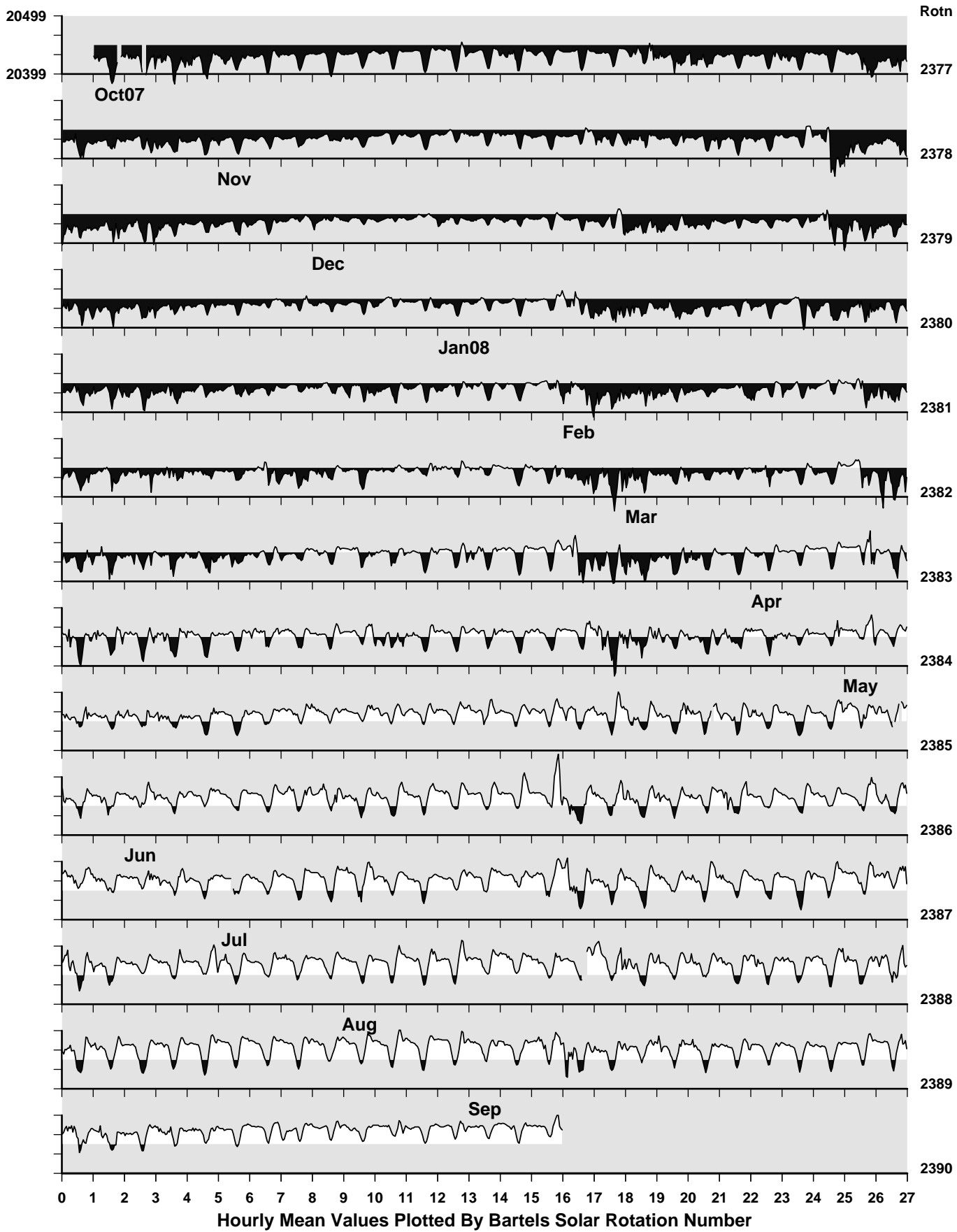


# Sable Island Observatory: Declination (degrees)

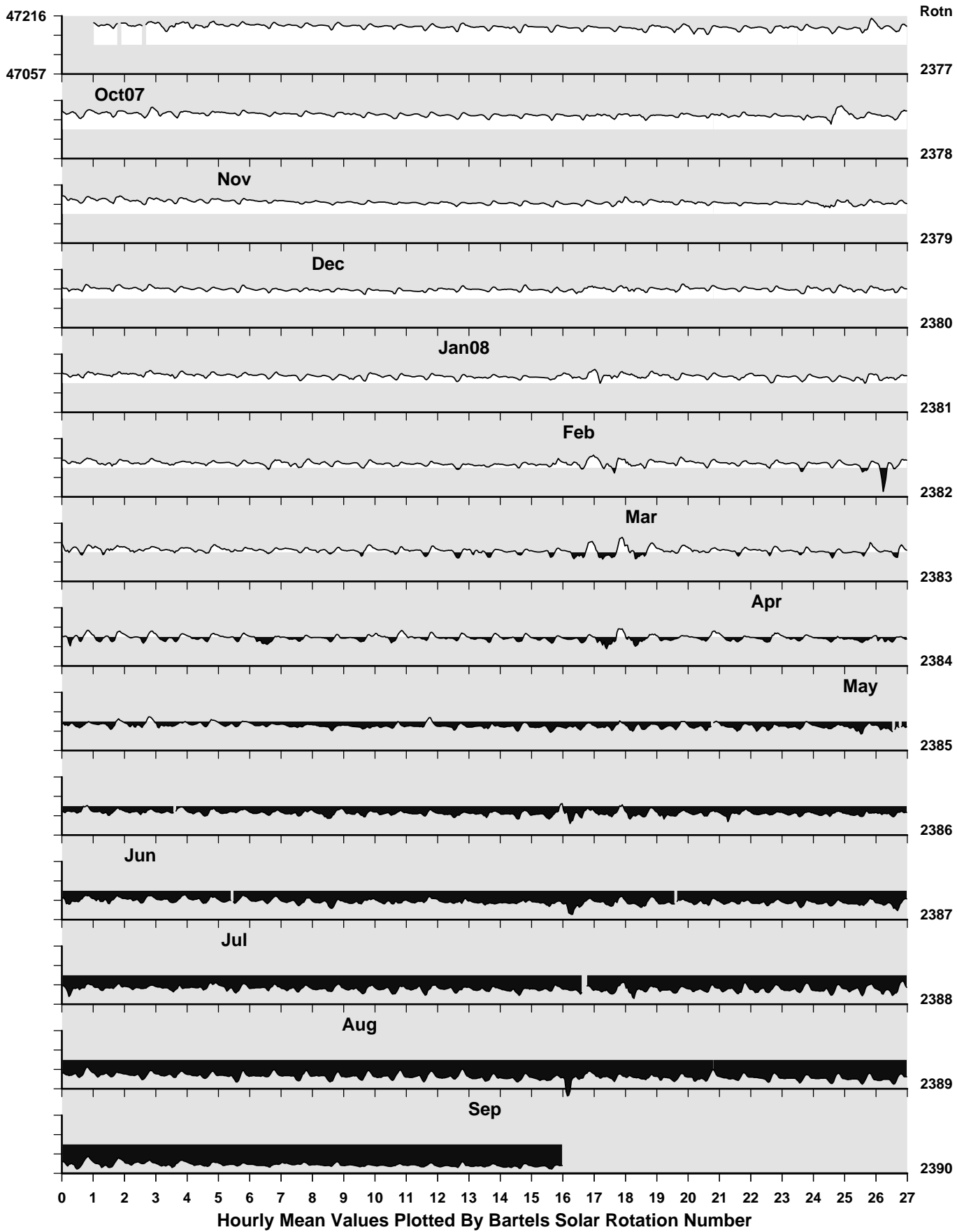




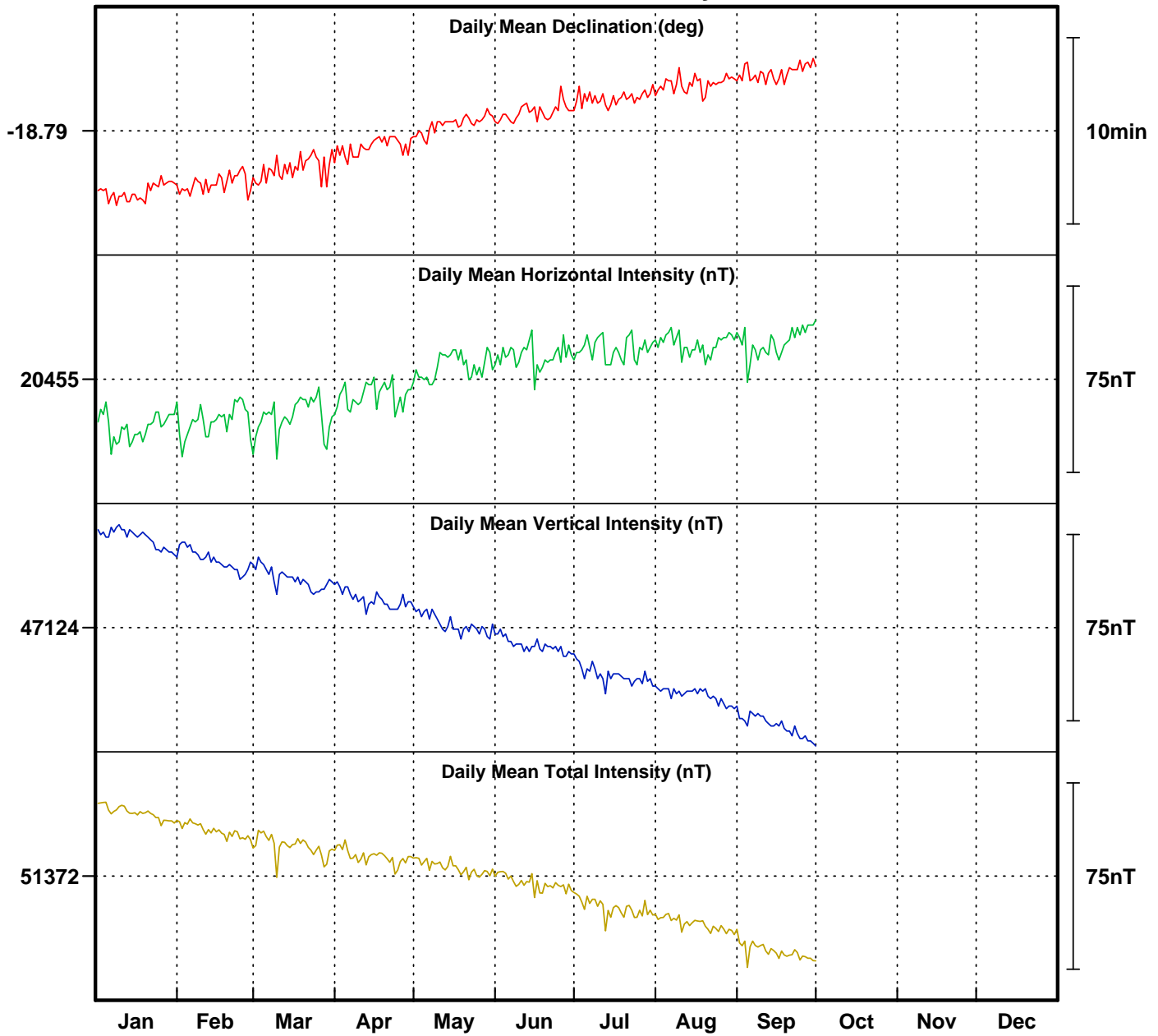
# Sable Island Observatory: Horizontal Intensity (nT)



# Sable Island Observatory: Vertical Intensity (nT)



# Sable Island Observatory 2008



### Monthly Mean Values for Sable Island Observatory 2008

Month	<i>D</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Y</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>F</i>
January	-18° 50.7′	20436 nT	66° 34.2′	19341 nT	-6601 nT	47159 nT	51397 nT
February	-18° 50.3′	20438 nT	66° 33.9′	19343 nT	-6599 nT	47151 nT	51390 nT
March	-18° 49.5′	20440 nT	66° 33.6′	19347 nT	-6596 nT	47143 nT	51384 nT
April	-18° 48.3′	20449 nT	66° 32.8′	19357 nT	-6592 nT	47135 nT	51379 nT
May	-18° 47.1′	20460 nT	66° 31.8′	19371 nT	-6589 nT	47125 nT	51375 nT
June	-18° 46.5′	20465 nT	66° 31.4′	19376 nT	-6587 nT	47116 nT	51369 nT
July	-18° 45.7′	20467 nT	66° 30.9′	19380 nT	-6583 nT	47104 nT	51359 nT
August	-18° 45.0′	20470 nT	66° 30.5′	19383 nT	-6579 nT	47096 nT	51352 nT
September	-18° 44.3′	20470 nT	66° 30.1′	19385 nT	-6576 nT	47084 nT	51341 nT

#### Note

i. The values shown here are provisional.