

RECORDINGS OF POTENTIAL DIFFERENCE ACROSS THE PORT PATRICK-DONAGHADEE SUBMARINE CABLE

D. PRANDLE AND A. J. HARRISON

REPORT NO. 21

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INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHIC SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

Potential gradients generated by the flow of water through the North Channel of the Irish Sea were recorded for the period January to April 1974 using a submarine cable. recordings formed part of an observational programme in the Irish Sea carried out by I.O.S. Bidston. A tidal analysis of the recordings showed that the magnitude of the induced voltage was in good agreement with earlier measurements of BOWDEN and HUGHES (1961). An examination was made of the correlation between the non-tidal flow indicated by the cable measurements and the wind as recorded at four stations in the Irish Sea. The various parameters in the equation relating wind induced flow to the wind stress were adjusted so as to maximise the correlation between the phenomena. By this means some features of the wind effects were identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

Potential gradients generated by the flow of water through the North Channel of the Irish Sea were measured by use of the Portpatrick-Donaghadee submarine cable (figure 1). The voltages were recorded at ten minute intervals and were later reduced to hourly values. This report includes a complete tabulation of these hourly values and plots of both the ten minute and hourly values.

A harmonic analysis of the data was made by separating it into 3 blocks, each of 29 days duration. The results of this analysis are compared with the corresponding values shown by BOWDEN and HUGHES (1961) which they obtained from recordings of the same cable in 1955. In addition, the correlation between the non-tidal component of cable voltage and the wind field over the Irish Sea is examined.

The data contained in this report forms part of an observational programme carried out in the Irish Sea during the early part of 1974. When all of the relevant data obtained during this exercise is available, a more exhaustive examination of the flow conditions throughout the area will be possible. The present data set should be of particular use in any future modelling of this period.

2. INSTRUMENTATION

The potential difference across the submarine cable was recorded on an analogue/digital battery-operated data logger kindly loaned by the Oceanography Department of the University of Liverpool. The instrument recorded 12 channels of data on quarter-inch magnetic tape at ten minute intervals. A 10 inch chart recorder was also used to monitor the signal, this was useful in providing a continuous check on the recording system and also enabled "noisy" periods to be readily identified (figure 2). The electrical circuit used to isolate the potential difference due to the flow of water from the high frequency communications signals on the submarine cable was similar to that shown by HUGHES (1969).

3. DATA PROCESSING

The cable recordings extended from 17 January to 17 April 1974. The format of the data, as originally recorded by the data logger, was incompatible with the IBM 1130 computer of IOS Bidston. An intermediate process was used in which the data on the original magnetic tapes was transferred to punched paper tape. The process introduced some spurious values and caused some loss of data: a full description of this problem has been given by PRANDLE and HARRISON (1975a).

The recordings, made at 10 minute intervals, were converted to hourly values using the filter $\omega_6^2 \omega_7/6.7$ described by QURAISHEE (1967), where ω_n is a filter involving the summation of n consecutive observations of a time series. This filter incorporates all values up to 8 time increments (80 minutes) on either side of the central observation. The filter eliminates the contribution from frequencies above 1 cycle per hour, however it also leads to a reduction in the amplitude of the tidal constituents amounting to (a) 0.86% of species 1, (b) 3.69% of species 2 and (c) 14.07% of species 4. The application of the filter reduced the variance of the original time series by about 11%.

A final visual check on the data was made by plotting both the original 10 minute values and the computed hourly values together with the observed vertical tide at Portpatrick (figures 3a,b,c). This enabled a few spurious values to be corrected. The final list of hourly values, as used in the subsequent analysis is shown in tables 1a,b,c. The sign convention is such that flow towards the north-west produces a positive voltage. The precise timing of the values shown in this table are in error due to the inaccuracy of the data $1 \log er$ clock. Periodic checks on the timing error showed that it was a linear function given by $T = 2.28 \ (N - 14)$ where T is the number of seconds early at which recordings were $\log er$ on day number N.

4. TIDAL ANALYSIS

The hourly values of voltage, shown in table 1, were divided into 3 sets each of 29 days duration. A tidal analysis of each set was then completed by using the standard "TIFA" programme of 1.0.S. Bidston. The separation of the close frequency constituents was facilitated by reference to the values of the vertical tide at Portpatrick. Table 3 shows the values for the principal constituents obtained from this analysis together with the corresponding results obtained by BOWDEN and HUGHES (1961). The phase values shown in table 3 include corrections for the timing error in the hourly values of table 1. Similarly the values of amplitude in table 3 include corrections for the reduction in amplitude introduced by the initial filtering (§ 3).

The noise: signal ratio for each tidal frequency band was calculated from a spectral analysis of (a) the time series predicted from harmonic constants and (b) the time series of the residual values obtained by removing this predicted tide from the actual recordings. The harmonic constants used to derive the first time series consisted of the values for 36 constituents derived from an analysis of 87 days of data. The variance in the appropriate frequency band of time series (a) reflects the power of the signal and that of (b) the noise. For a bandwidth of 9 cycles per month centred on the diurnal species the noise:signal ratio was 37.8%. Over the same bandwidth for the semi-diurnal species the ratio was 0.4%. Over a bandwidth of 11 cycles per month for the guarter-diurnal species the ratio was 59.0%. large noise:signal values for the diurnal and quarter-diurnal species is reflected in the month to month variation of both the phase and amplitude of the corresponding constituents. contrast the semi-diurnal constituents, with the exception of L2, are extremely consistent. The high noise value for the diurnal species could be partly attributed to electro-magnetic noise at the solar diurnal frequency. A significant contribution to the noise level might also be expected due to the inadequacy of the method of tidal analysis for a 29 day data set. However, the major reason is almost certainly due to the small magnitude of

the energy in these bands - the diurnal:semi-diurnal energy ratio is less than 0.2% while the quarter-diurnal:semi-diurnal ratio is less than 0.1%.

A comparison of the present results with those of BOWDEN and HUGHES indicates good agreement for the semi-diurnal constituents. Manifestly, there is a discrepancy for the other frequencies of the same order as the month to month variations in the present results. However, the values for Kl are completely incompatible. The actual value for M_2 deduced from BOWDEN and HUGHES is $0.575\mathrm{v}$ (assuming a calibration factor of $lv = 1.35ms^{-1}$), the present study gives 0.502v. However, the former value was based on recordings made in July and August while the latter value applies to the period January to April. HUGHES (1969, Figure 5) shows that these two periods are at opposite extremes of the range of variation of the conversion factor c_1 , relating induced voltage to mean velocity. This variation in \mathbf{C}_1 is mainly a result of the annual variation in the conductivity, \mathbf{K}_1 , of the sea. LONGUET-HIGGINS (1949) showed that for a uniform stream of water flowing in a long straight channel of semi-elliptical crosssection the value of ${\tt C}_1$ will be given by

$$C_1 = H_2 L / (1 + K_o L / 2 K_i D)$$
 (1)

where $H_{\rm M}$ is the vertical component of the earth's magnetic field, L is the channel breadth or length of the major axis of the ellipse. Ko is the conductivity of the sea bed and D is the channel depth or half the length of the minor axis of the ellipse. The extremes of the range of values of K_1 are, according to HUGHES (1969, Figure 6), 3.4 Ω^{-1} m⁻¹ and 4.1 Ω^{-1} m⁻¹. By inserting these values into equation (1) together with the values $K_0 = 0.034$ Ω^{-1} m⁻¹, L = 34600m and D = 138.4m, as given by BOWDEN and HUGHES (1961), it is possible to adjust the value of M_2 to take account of the annual variation. By this means, the value of M_2 found in the present study was modified from the original January to April value of 0.502v to a July-August value of 0.554v. The latter value is within 4% of the value of BOWDEN and HUGHES. Preliminary results from a study

presently being conducted at I.O.S. Bidston involving an analysis of a long term recording of the voltage on the Dover-Sangatte cable suggest that this figure of 4% is within the range of variability to be expected.

5. CORRELATION OF NON-TIDAL CABLE VOLTAGE WITH WIND DATA

The non-tidal or residual component of the cable voltage was obtained by removing the tidal component from the hourly values of recorded voltage shown in table 1. For the residual voltages shown in table 2 the tidal component was calculated using the technique of complex demodulation, HOWARTH (1975). In this way most of the energy in the main tidal frequency bands was removed from the recorded signal. The central frequency adopted for method of removing the tidal component has an advantage over the technique of simply removing the tide computed by harmonic prediction in so far as it is able to take some account of small phase shifts in the tidal motions. Similarly it is preferable to the use of a "tide-killer" such as Doodson's Xo filter. These filters substantially reduce the residuals due to the fact that the duration of the residual flow is often of the same order as that of the principal tidal constituents.

The recorded potential on a submarine cable includes contributions from several sources (PRANDLE and HARRISON 1975b). Thus, the recorded potential at any time $\,t$, denoted by $\,E(\,t)$, can be represented by

$$E(t) = E_0 + E_1(t) + C_1 U(t) + C_2 UR(t)$$
 (2)

where Eo is a constant independent of water movements, $E_1(t)$ is a potential due to variable electro-magnetic effects, U(t) is the tidal flow, UR(t) is the non-tidal or residual flow and C_2 is the conversion factor, relating voltage to velocity for residual flows. The value of $E_1(t)$ can be disregarded, except during magnetic storms. Hence removing the tidal components from both sides of equation (2), as outlined above, the expression becomes

$$ER(t) = E_c + C_2 UR(t)$$
 (3)

The constant Eo can only be accurately determined by reference to an independent measurement of the flow in the channel. It is useful to obtain some estimate for Eo so that absolute values of residual flow can be calculated.

If it were assumed that, over the period of the exercise, the residual flow was negligible then Eo \pm 0.137 volts, i.e. the time averaged value of ER(t).

BOWDEN and HUGHES (1961) used cable measurements to make estimates of the flow of water through the North Channel due to wind over the Irish Sea. This procedure was repeated for the present exercise. Wind speeds and directions were obtained at six hourly intervals from the Daily Weather Reports of the British Meteorological Office. The wind stations chosen were Mull of Galloway, Ronaldsway, Valley and Aberporth, the locations of these stations are shown in Figure 1. Since the surface stress exerted by wind blowing over water may be expressed as a function of the square of the wind speed, it is appropriate to work in terms of W². Figure 4 shows the components of W² in two perpendicular directions, NW and NE, the former being aligned with the axis of the North Channel. The figure also shows the residual voltages as listed in table 2.

A relationship between wind stress and residual flow was assumed as follows

$$UR(t + \Delta t) = AW(t)\cos(\theta(t) - \lambda) + UR_c$$
 (4)

where Δ t is the time lag between the wind stress and the resulting residual flow, A is a coefficient, Θ (t) is the direction towards which the wind is blowing, ω is the direction for which the wind is most effective in producing residual flows and URo is a residual flow not dependent on direct wind forcing. Equations (3) and (4) give

$$ER(t + \Delta t) = C_{\lambda}AW(t)\cos(\theta(t) - \omega) + C_{\lambda}UR_{c} + E_{c}$$
 (5)

The four parameters Δ t, α , (C_2A) and $(C_2URo + Eo)$ were estimated by maximising the correlation between the time series represented by the two sides of equation 5. The method adopted was to first assume Δ t and α were known constants. Hence (C_2A) and $(C_2URo + Eo)$ could be calculated directly from a least squares fit for the two time series. The initial values Δ t = 0 and α = 315° were used. The value of α was then adjusted by using the Newton-Raphson technique to increase the correlation, α , between the time series. For the value of α corresponding to maximum correlation, α hence a modified value, α , could be obtained from the expression

$$\dot{\lambda} = \lambda - \frac{dr/dx}{d^2r/dx^2} \tag{6}$$

The derivatives were obtained by finite difference approximations using values of r corresponding to $x - S_{-}$, x and $x + S_{-}$ The value of Δ t was then adjusted in the same manner as for \star . The whole procedure was then repeated successively, using the adjusted values of Δ t and $oldsymbol{oldsymbol{arepsilon}}$ as the known constants, until the values for all four constants converged. In order to test this procedure it was repeated with different values for ξ_{∞} and Σt In the first case the values & = 0.01rad and &t = 0.1h were used and convergence to the precision shown in table 4 was obtained after about 5 iterations. In the second case the values $5 \approx = 0.002 \text{rad}$ and \$t = 0.02 h were used and convergence (to the same values as in case 1) was obtained after about 10 iterations. The results are shown in table 4. The value of the correlation coefficient, r , has the largest value, 0.67, at Ronaldsway. However, the results shown in the table are based on the application of equation (5) over the complete period of 3 months. When the above procedure was repeated for each month's data separately, the correlation coefficient reached a maximum of $0.78\,$ at Ronaldsway. The largest correlations were found in the first month when the winds were strongest. By contrast, during the last month when the winds were extremely moderate the correlation coefficient was as little as 0.23. Better correlations might be expected for shorter periods of strong winds for two reasons: (a) for shorter periods the value of URo should be less variable

and (b) the larger residuals due to strong winds should be more distinct in relation to flows arising from tidal interactions.

The value of ${\tt C}_2,$ the conversion factor for residual flows, may well vary with the direction, strength and distribution of the residual flow in the North Channel. However, if it is assumed that $C_2 = C_1$ it is possible to determine the strength of the residual current as a percentage of the wind speed. BOWDEN and HUGHES (1961) used the calibration factor lv = 1.35ms-1 (ξ_1) , this corresponds to a value of $C_1 = 0.741 \text{vm}^{-1}\text{s}$. This value must be adjusted for the variation in the value of M_2 between their study, 0.575v, and the present study, 0.502v. The resulting value of C_4 for the present study is $0.647 \mathrm{vm}^{-1}\mathrm{s}$. Inserting this result into the value of $\mathrm{C}_2\mathrm{A}$ at Ronaldsway gives a value of A = 0.00100m⁻¹s, in close agreement with the value A = 0.000922m⁻¹s found by BOWDEN and HUGHES. On using this value of A in equation (1) the wind-induced residual velocity is given as W/10 per cent of the wind speed. Hence for a wind speed of 10ms-1 the flow is 1% of the wind speed and at 20ms^{-1} it is 2%.

The consistency of the values of (C $_2$ Uo + Eo) derived for all four wind stations suggests that the method used to determine the parameters in equation (5) was valid. By inserting the mean value of (C $_2$ Uo + Eo), namely 0.126v, into equation (5) together with the time-averaged value of ER(t), 0.137v, produces an estimate of the time-averaged wind induced flow. obtained is 0.011/C₂, so that assuming $C_2 = C_1 = 0.647 \text{vm}^{-1}\text{s}$ the mean wind-induced flow is $0.017 \mathrm{m}^{-1}\mathrm{s}$ out of the Irish Sea. The same procedure may be applied to each month of the data separately. The mean value of (C $_2$ Uo + Eo) for all four wind stations in each month respectively was calculated as 0.135v, 0.121v and 0.125v. The time-averaged values of ER(t) are shown in table 3 as 0.158v, 0.121v and 0.130v. Hence the value of wind-induced flow, calculated for each month separately, is $0.035 \text{m}^{-1} \text{s},~0.000$ and $0.008 \text{m}^{-1} \text{s}$ respectively. By applying the equation of conservation of salt BOWDEN (1950) gave a value of $0.006 \mathrm{m}^{-1}\mathrm{s}$ for the residual flow in the North Channel. have been several other estimates, all of the same order of

magnitude as the above results. It is difficult to ascertain the extent to which a particular observed residual flow is the result of wind forcing, either direct or indirect. A possible interpretation of the monthly figures is that the large outflow during the first month, due to strong winds, was partly compensated in the second month, subsequently returning to "normal" in the last month.

The parameter pprox shows a consistent change from 314^{0} at Mull of Galloway to 337^{0} at Aberporth. The direction at Mull of Galloway corresponds to the alignment of the Channel while the other values correspond to the change in the direction of the effective fetch. The values of Δ t also vary in a systematic and logical manner. The values are much smaller than the figure of 2 hours given by BOWDEN and HUGHES (1961). However examination of their Figure 13, from which they obtained this value, suggests that the present values are almost equally valid. The indication that, for winds at Mull of Galloway, the residual flow is virtually coincident with the wind forcing is at first difficult to comprehend. A possible explanation may be derived by consideration of the effect on residual flows of atmospheric pressure disturbances which could precede the onset of the wind field (LENNON 1973). In addition, it is recognised that the resolution in time of the wind data, (values every 6 hours), is insufficient for an accurate determination of Δ t. It is interesting to note that the values of Δ t calculated for just the first month's data ranged from 19 minutes at Mull of Galloway to 92 minutes at Aberporth. In this case, the extreme values of both the residual flow and the winds were sufficiently large and continuous to enable the time lag to be more sensibly defined.

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and D. A. Bordouleau of Submarine Systems Branch, division NP5 of the GPO kindly dealt with administrative and logistical problems. Hansen Munro of the Portpatrick repeater station maintained a continuous check on the recording equipment and made a significant contribution to the whole recording programme.

Notation

- A coefficient relating wind-induced current to W2,
- conversion factor relating voltage to velocity for the tidal component,
- C₂ conversion factor relating voltage to velocity for the non-tidal component,
- D channel depth or half the length of the minor axis of the ellipse,
- E recorded e.m.f.
- Eo constant potential or back e.m.f.
- E₁ potential due to electro-magnetic effects,
- ER non-tidal potential,
- Hy vertical component of the earth's magnetic field,
- Ko specific conductivity of the channel bed,
- K₁ specific conductivity of sea water,
- L channel breadth or length of the major axis of the ellipse,
- r correlation coefficient,
- U channel velocity,
- UR non-tidal velocity,
- URo component of non-tidal velocity,
- W wind speed,
 - direction for which the wind is most effective in producing residual flows,
 - a filter involving the summation of n consecutive observations of a time series,
 - Δt time lag between the wind stress and the resulting residual flow,
 - direction towards which the wind blows, relative to true north.

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0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 DAY 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 NO.

****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	18
****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	10
****	***	****	****	****	***	****	****	****	****	****	****	19
****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	****	***	
***	****	99	110	145	141	132	132	111	97	82	88	20
103	127	127	132	138	148	143	176	122	91	97	104	
80	76	106	96	115	130	93	70	77	86	77	81	21
82	98	107	121	135	137	140	134	121	107	104	112	
118	127	143	146	151	157	161	158	151	142	130	126	22
126	128	139	154	161	161	152	138	133	112	111	82	23
114	111	114 94	128 89	142 91	152 89	153 94	147 101	142 106	140 116	121 121	115 123	23
126	119	98	94	91	104	112	98	90	92	91	98	24
114	129	127	121	108	113	132	142	148	134	107	137	2.4
126	101	113	111	139	157	118	96	139	143	159	183	25
139	118	112	147	195	138	219	158	146	210	216	136	
161	226	164	202	195	195	232	244	251	245	251	226	26
229	232	215	229	206	171	198	187	198	118	87	85	
110	110	23	139	116	90	124	133	129	103	117	156	27
143	138	149	163	151	152	234	144	174	285	386	377	
393	419	420	392	346	265	238	237	234	220	209	242	28
270	252	228	219	202	167	174	126	62	101	117	90	
9	51	76	57	89	90	69	96	130	115	136	162	29
158	203	208	156	196	183	195	269	284	289	311	3 23	
332	334	307	317	335	329	299	281	286	316	331	326	30
306	310	312	321	293	251	219	196	198	96	101	121	
96	131	151	131	136	114	109	95	90	104	101	131	31
139	132	160	221	167	155	195	193	155	232	226	277	~ ~
317	345	344	352	363	326	327	294	260	286	276	287	32
290	295	326	308	343	291	287	309	281	214	285	253	2.3
179	263	262 230	251	249	230	211	181	201	174	177	191	33
161 145	195 182	145	214 142	215 154	196 142	210	172 155	121	127	134	103	2.7.
168	158	177	195	208	168	147 141	113	97 123	120 139	115 114	106 132	34
147	162	189	210	228	215	198	182	143	120	148	121	35
116	140	138	120	76	61	108	116	89	90	89	80	3.7
119	84	111	131	124	116	84	84	77	107	95	65	36
77	107	107	87	156	213	218	143	145	99	70	94	
90	78	87	99	108	118	97	128	107	95	66	87	37
61	6	48	94	114	37	49	51	88	76	77	73	
42	46	87	59	55	71	105	111	78	122	155	87	38
132	167	139	143	171	170	142	166	177	159	139	151	
130	142	181	178	182	194	180	186	214	176	182	140	39
160	151	161	171	117	111	135	160	147	172	156	163	
222	214	138	139	142	155	151	139	134	123	127	171	40
146	96	140	176	173	136	133	168	147	151	170	151	
142	147	171	182	186	197	205	197	211	248	248	213	4]
190 222	207	234	205	153	163	191	173	252	234	144	249	
132	183 126	129 131	118	114	126	101	81	63	84	98	126	42
38	81	88	146 113	121 123	120 36	132	170	52	119	119	54	, 3
93	141	115	94	101	105	84 51	135 79	101	143	91	109	43
180	197	213	204	193	179	176	135	86 130	111 148	101 136	143 153	44
138	128	161	148	129	90	101	84	81	119	119	108	7
163	201	169	145	152	151	138	138	116	121	138	222	45
251	281	276	285	318	292	297	318	272	239	265	257	**
251	257	269	268	264	266	248	263	251	260	270	256	46
276	276	256	212	240	218	219	207	162	199	205	231	- 47
243	221	239	245	237	226	146	143	127	137	148	137	47
102	117	140	172	170	132	105	101	91	16	72	51	

		AMP	PLITUDE	(rl)				Hd.	PHASE		
Const.	F	2	3	4	4	2	-	2	က	4	വ
Mean	158	121	130	137							
01	12	9	10	œ	~	 1	102	148	121	118	155
K1	16	28	16	19	က	-	302	331	347	327	205
N 2	93	66	103	86	19	22	14	16	14	14	13
\$ 5	22	27	28	56	υ		28	30	28	28	
M2	202	202	503	502	100	100	43	43	43	43	42
L2	24	15	11	16	က		94	115	108	103	
S2	169	173	175	172	34	36	78	79	81	79	81
К2	48	50	50	49	6		78	79	81	79	
MN 4	ro	9	10	9	1		322	316	310	314	
M4	10	7	10	90	7	а	354	342	346	347	339
MS4	<u>-</u>	6	6	7	1	1	52.	7	10	19	354
	ш	millivol	t a		% of	f M2	Ω	Degrees			
				T		1					

1974 recordings:- 1 - days 19 to 47; 2 - days 48 to 76; 3 - days 77 to 105; 4 - vector mean; 5 - results of Bowden, K.F. and Hughes, P. (1961)

Tidal Analysis of voltages recorded on the Portpatrick - Donaghadee cable

	$\begin{array}{c} \text{C}_2\text{A} \times 10^4 \\ \text{(Vm}^{-2}\text{s}^2) \end{array}$	C ₂ UR ₀ + E ₀	d	△ t min	٢
Mull of Galloway	2.9	0.126	314 ⁰	2	0.59
Ronaldsway	6.5	0.125	324 ⁰	10	0.67
Valley	4.3	0.127	336 ⁰	22	0.64
Aberporth	4.6	0.126	337°	23	0.63

Table 4 Correlation between residual voltage and wind

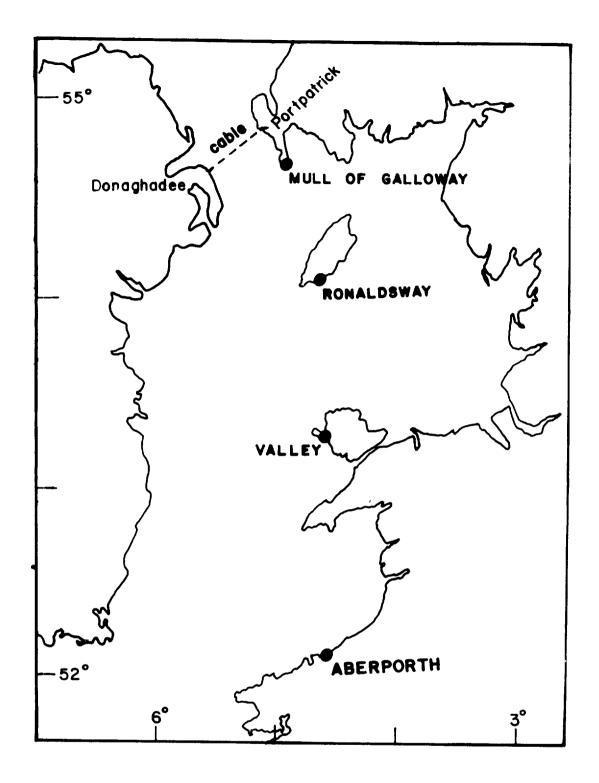
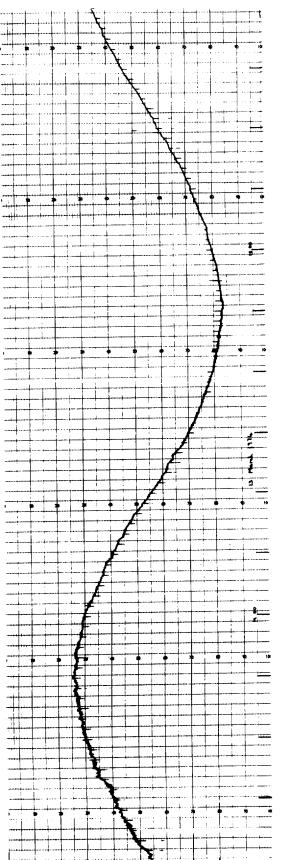
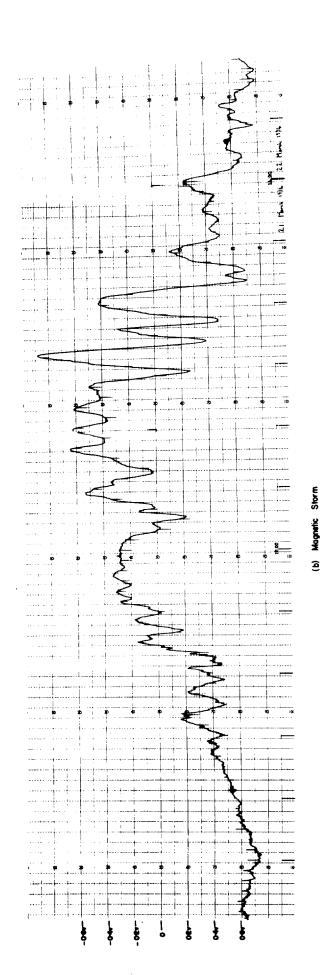


FIGURE 1 IRISH SEA



Pario 3 9



VOLTAGE CABLE

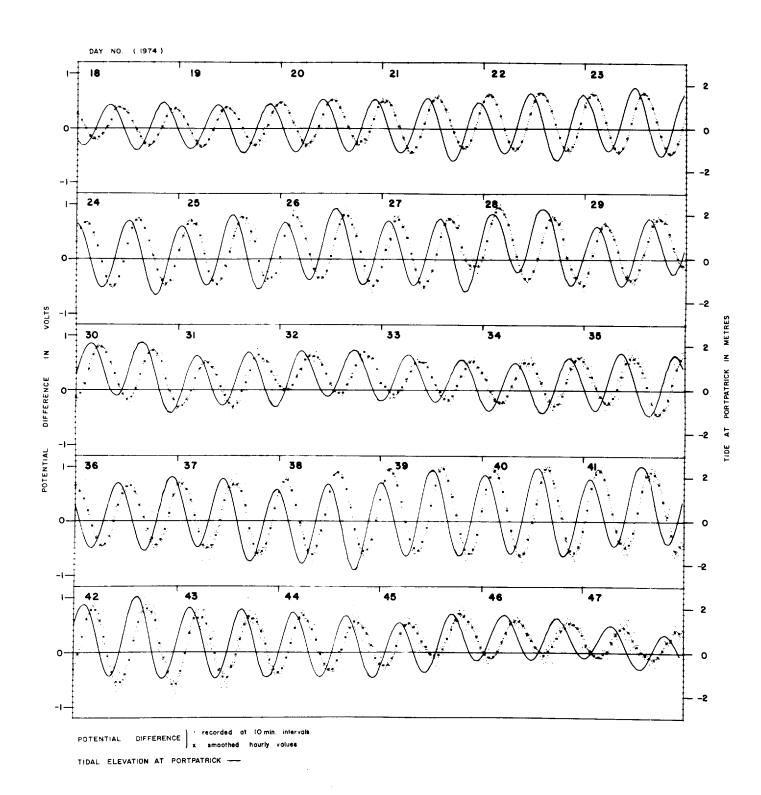


Figure 3d RECORDED CABLE VOLTAGES

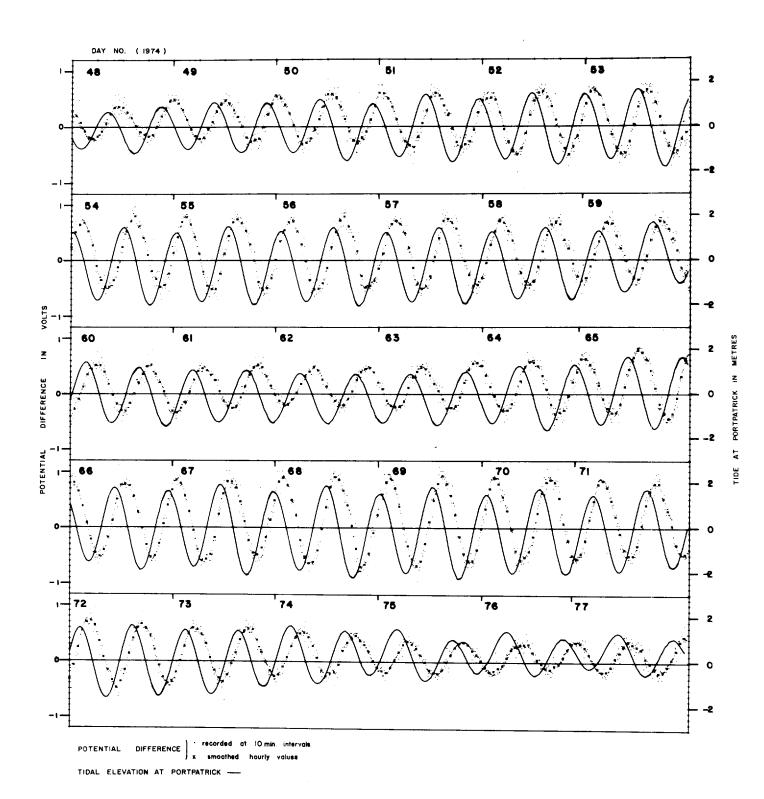


Figure 3b RECORDED CABLE VOLTAGES



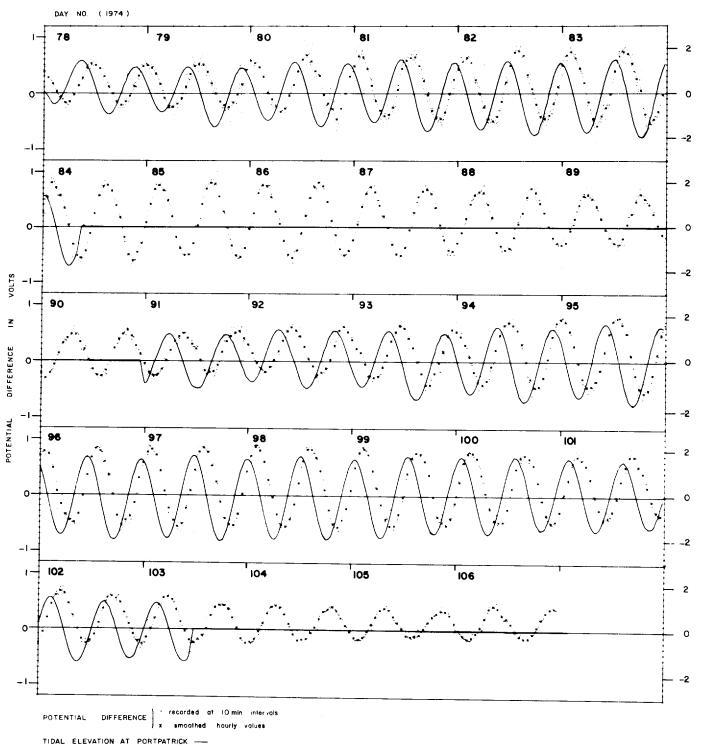


Figure 3c RECORDED CABLE VOLTAGES

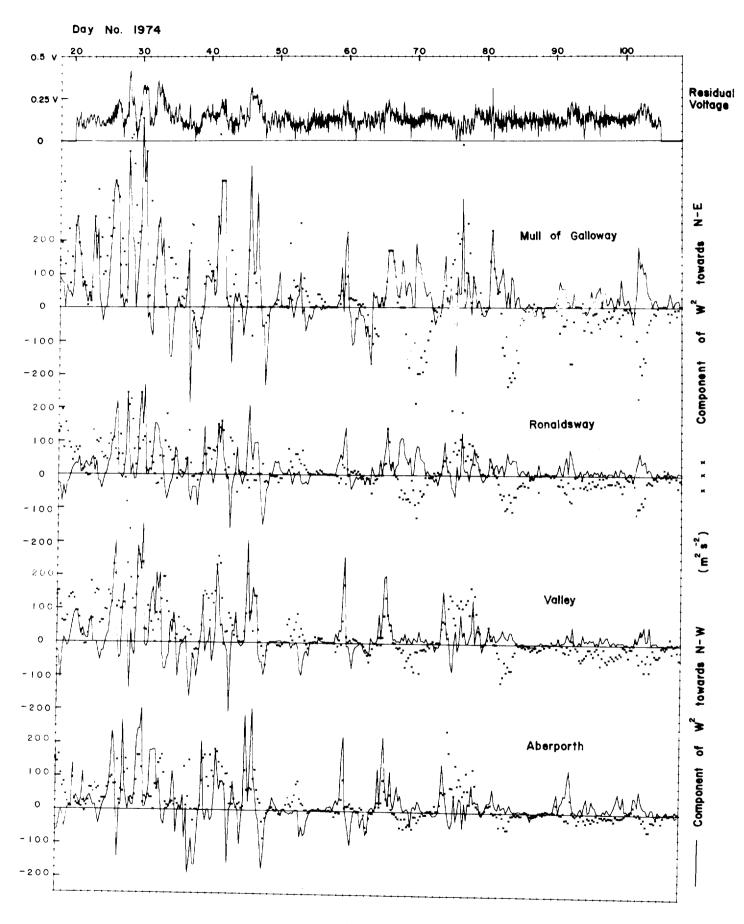


Figure 4 Residual Voltage and Wind