

**Report**  
**on**  
**STUDY OF RFI AMBIENCE IN AND AROUND**  
**GMRT**

by  
Vaibhav Savant, Shrikant Bhujbal  
Student Training Programme,  
GMRT.

Guided by  
Shri Pravin Raybole, Shri Suresh Kumar

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We express our deepest gratitude to our **Shri Suresh Kumar** and **Shri Pravin Raybole** for their invaluable guidance, blessings and constant encouragement and support.

We are very grateful to the **Center Director Shri Swarna K Ghosh** and **Dean Yashwant Gupta** for providing us with an environment to complete our project successfully.

We also thank all the staff members of GMRT for their help in making this project a successful one.

Finally, we take this opportunity to extend our deep appreciation to our **family** and **friends**, for all that they meant to us during the crucial times of the completion of our project.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	2
INDEX.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
METHODOLOGY.....	5
OBSERVATIONS.....	7
CONCLUSIONS.....	66
FUTURESCOPE.....	67

**Report on**  
**STUDY OF RFI AMBIENCE IN AND AROUND GMRT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A lot of work has been done on RFI at and around GMRT. Most surveys within GMRT relate to characterisation of RFI generated in-house by antenna motors, diesel generator sets, different modular cabinets, electric power transformers, etc.

A detailed RFI map of region in the vicinity of GMRT was desired as it is thought that it would aid radio astronomers at GMRT in selecting observing bands free from RFI. Also, if RFI is known to exist at a certain location or in certain direction then observers may avoid observing in that direction and allow the object of interest to rise up further and away from the horizon so as to avoid RFI from plaguing their observations. With this in mind a detailed RFI survey was undertaken.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The RFI survey was carried out using the following equipment; Spectrum Analyser, Log Periodic Dipole Array (LPDA), Sirenza amplifier for LPDA, GPS, etc.

Google Earth was used for marking out locations 1, 2, 4, 8 and 16 km away from GMRT's Central Complex in all four directions – North, South, East and West. The probable path to these locations was also charted out using Google Earth. Maps showing these details were printed and filed for future reference.

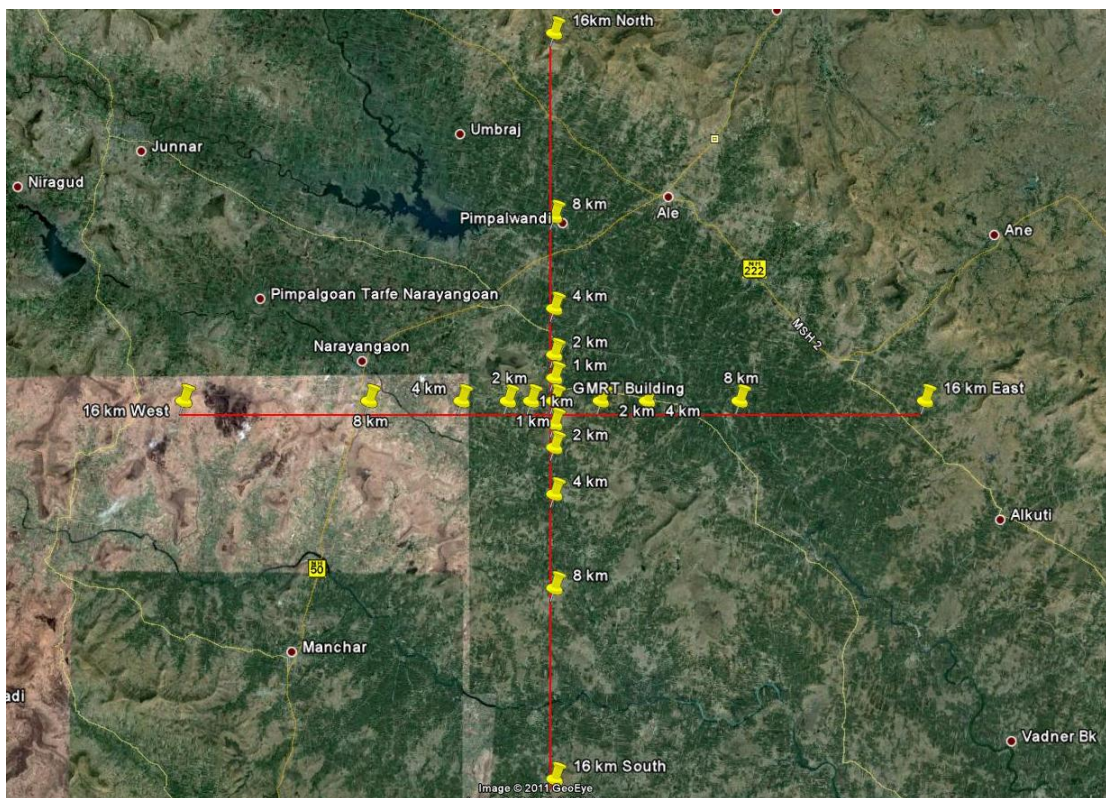


Fig. 1

At each location the LPDA was mounted on its tripod at least 5 feet away from the vehicle carrying the equipment. Efforts were taken to minimize RFI generated by sources like mobile phones (everyone in the vicinity was requested to switch off their mobiles), car (car radio and ignition was switched off), bikes (were allowed to pass away to at least 20 m away from LPDA),

portable petrol engines used while fumigating crops (farmers were requested to switch them off until after readings), etc.

The antenna was pointed in each direction and four sets of readings (0-500 MHz, 500-1000 MHz, 1000-2000 MHz and 0-2000 MHz. 10,000 points were taken for each reading to) were taken on spectrum analyser using average mode. Average mode was used to obtain only those RFI that are always present. This way spurious RFI which is spontaneous was avoided. This procedure was followed at all locations during the survey. Each location was tracked using GPS which enabled us to narrow down the location point to within  $\pm 3$  meters. Locations which were not approachable due to difficult terrain or if they were in the middle of a field where the vehicle could not negotiate a path were substituted by another alternate location as close as possible to the actual location. The GPS coordinates of all the locations where the RFI reading was taken were logged and these details have been included in the map printouts. The readings were stored on a pendrive since the spectrum analyzer had a facility to allow data to be stored on a USB pendrive. The data was further processed in MS Excel to obtain superimposed graphs of different locations with LPDA pointing in each direction.

The following nomenclature was used in the maps. "1 km East of GMRT Complex" denotes the location where RFI should be measured. It is represented of map by yellow pin. "RFI 8kmE" denotes the location where RFI readings were taken. Thus "RFI 8kmE" refers to that location which is 8 km East of GMRT Building and is represented on map by a blue star. Same nomenclature is used for all four directions.

Since the graph show the power level inclusive of the 20 dB gain offered by the Amplifier it should be read as 20 dB less than the represented reading.

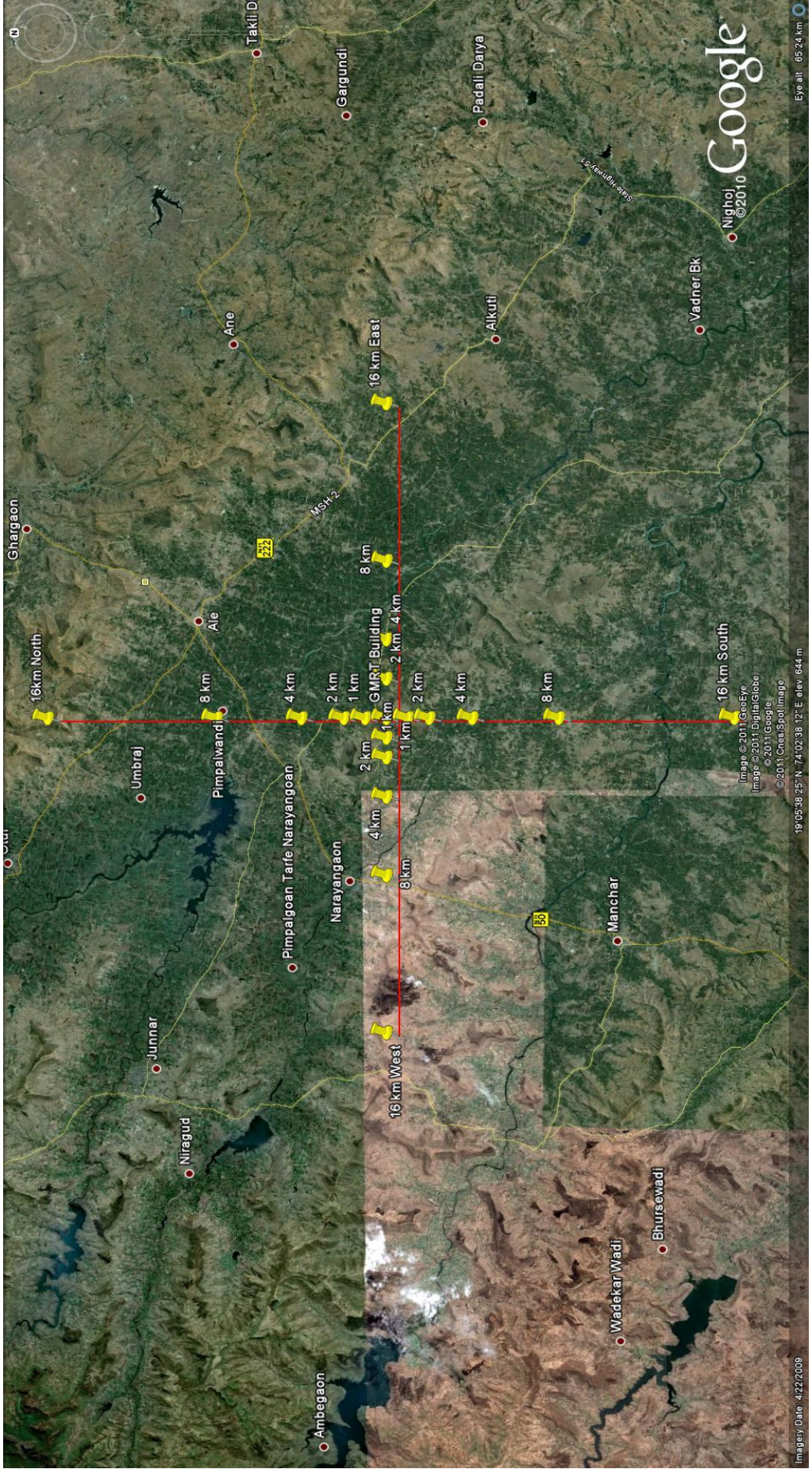
Changes in noise floor on some graphs may be attributed to different averaging times.

### **III. OBSERVATIONS**

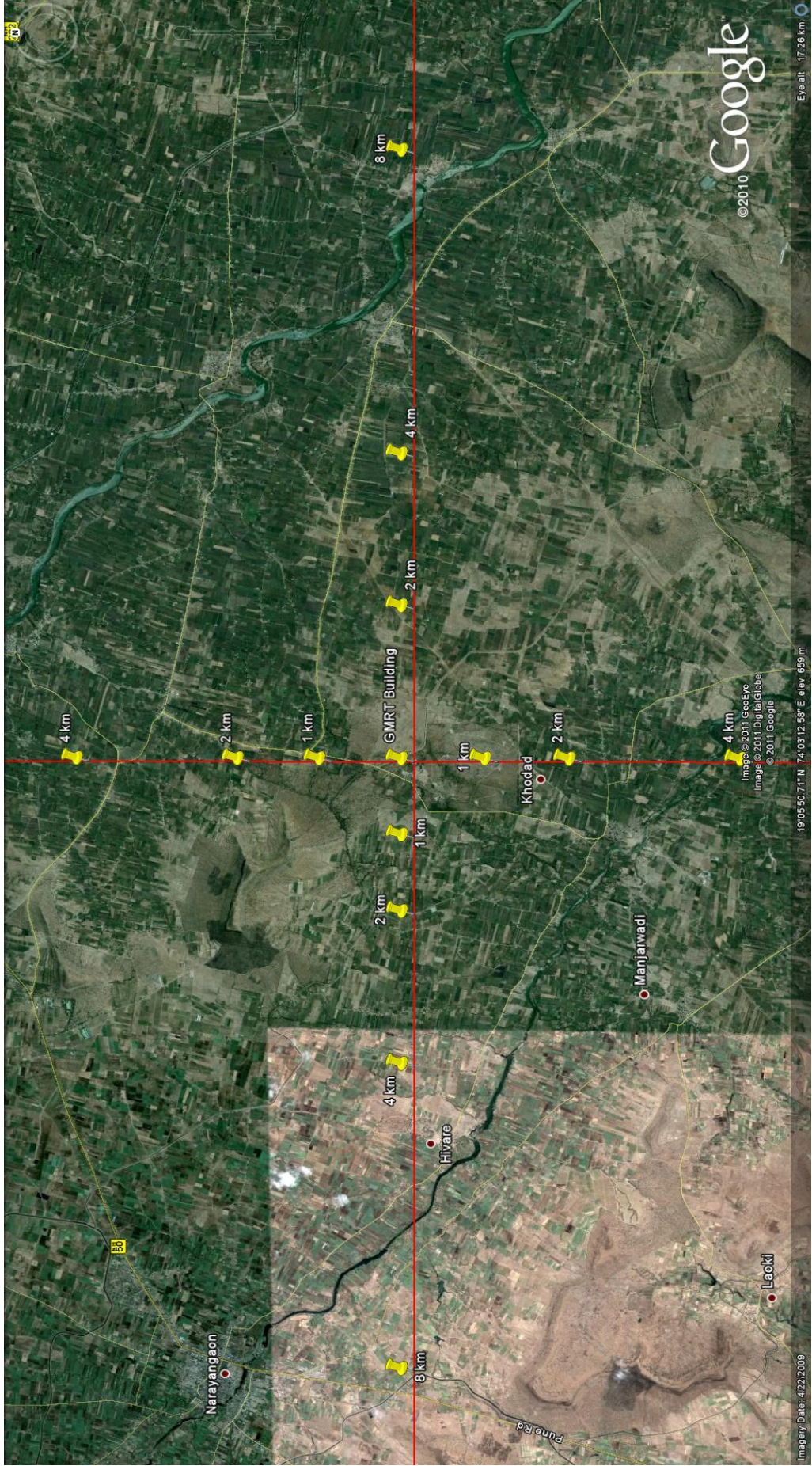
The region around GMRT where readings were taken is shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 below.

Graphs for each frequency are then shown below in the following order – East, North, South and West. Graphs for 0-2000 MHz, 150 MHz, 235 MHz, 327 MHz, 610 MHz, 1060 MHz, 1170 MHz, 1280 MHz and 1390 MHz frequencies are plotted.

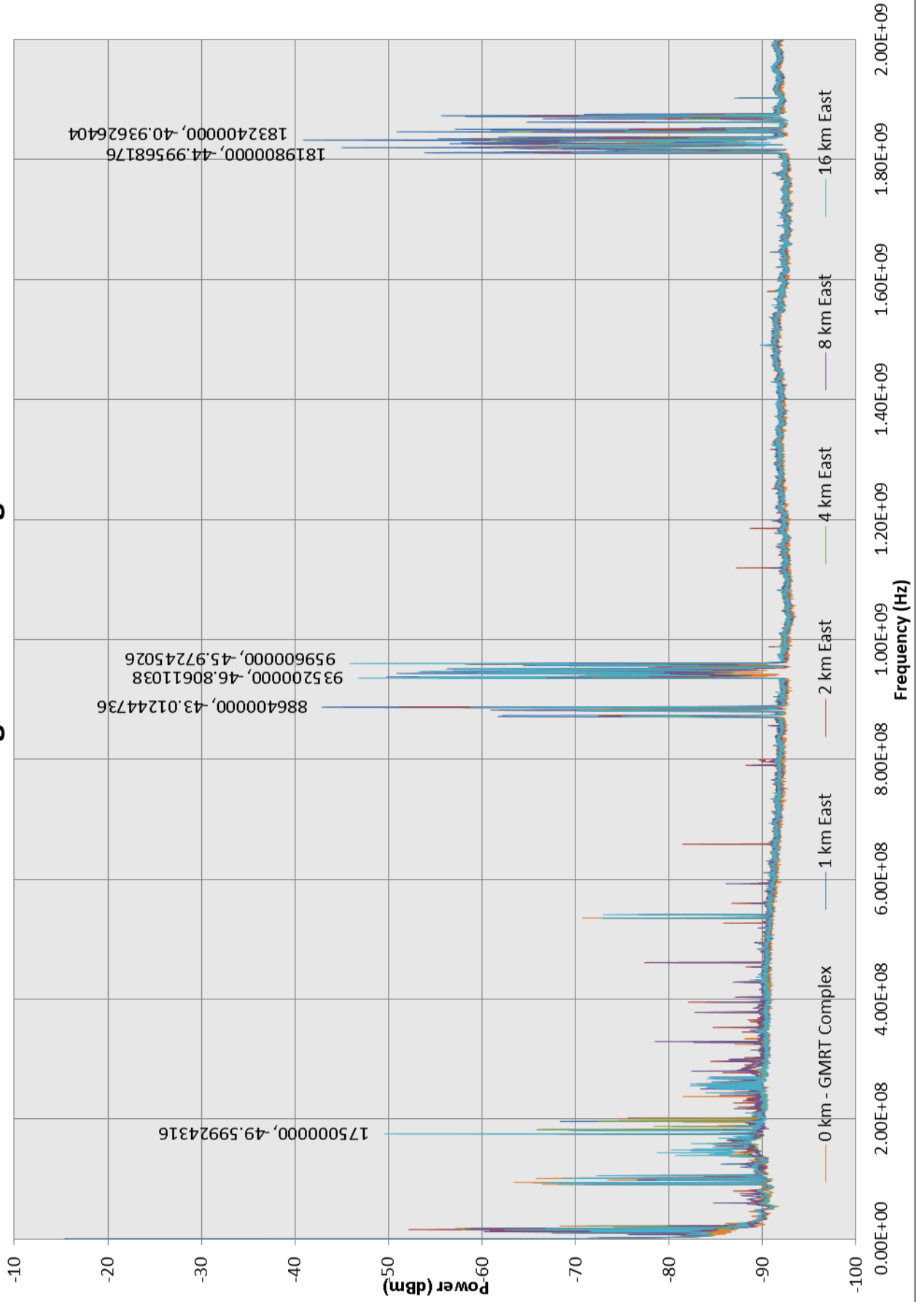
Also given is the path taken to reach each location by car using guide points for easy navigation using GPS.



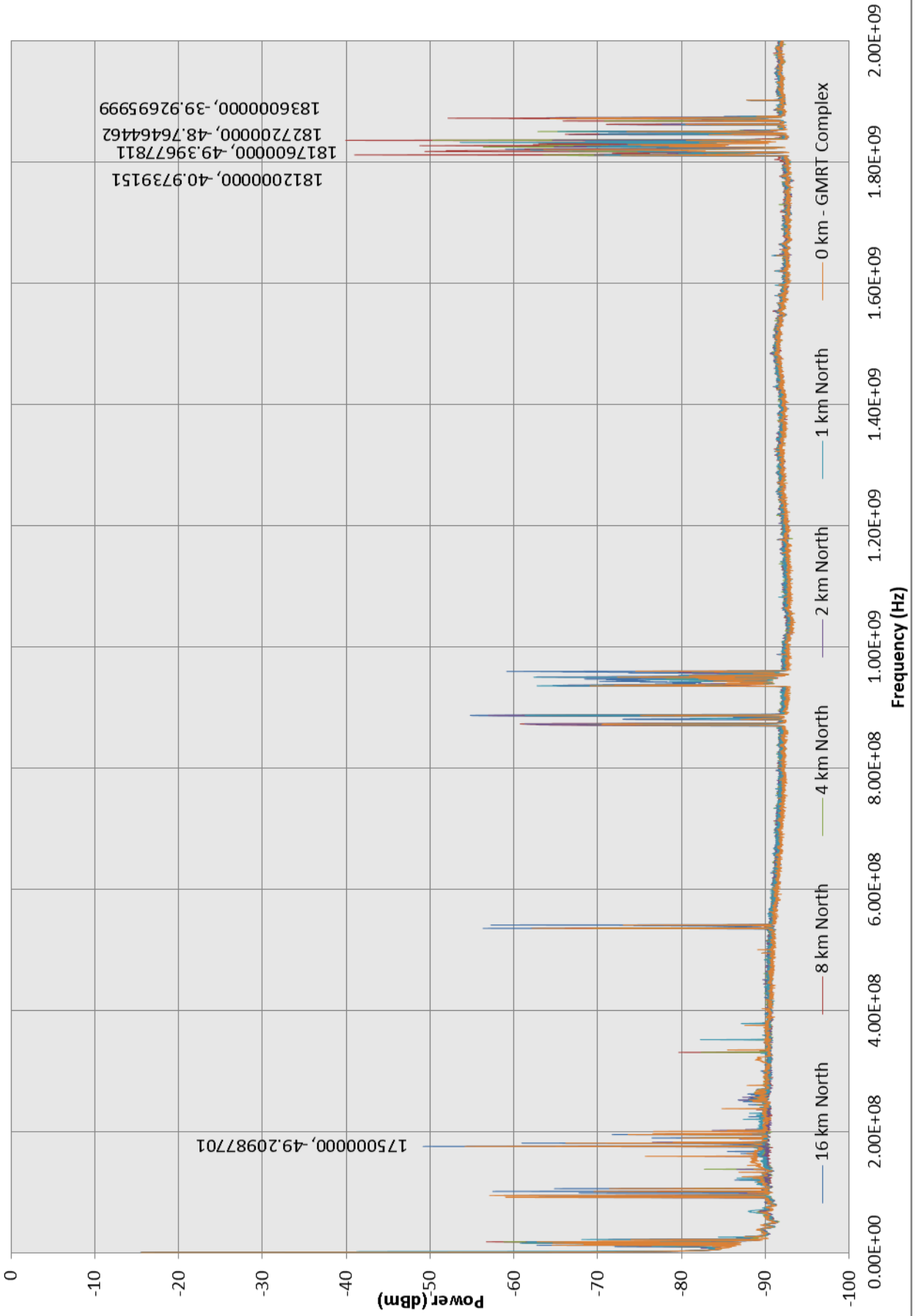




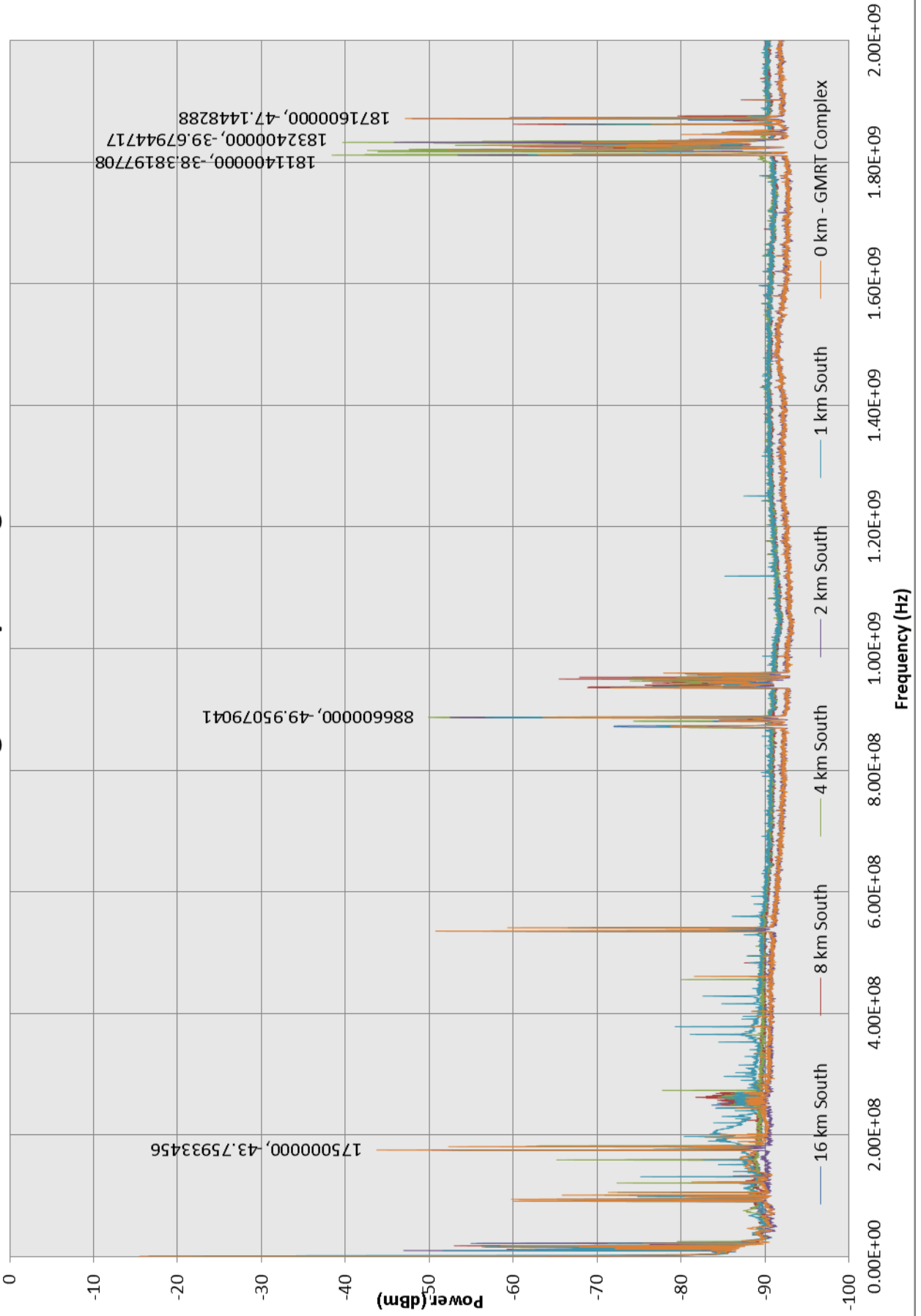
# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East. 0-2000 MHz.



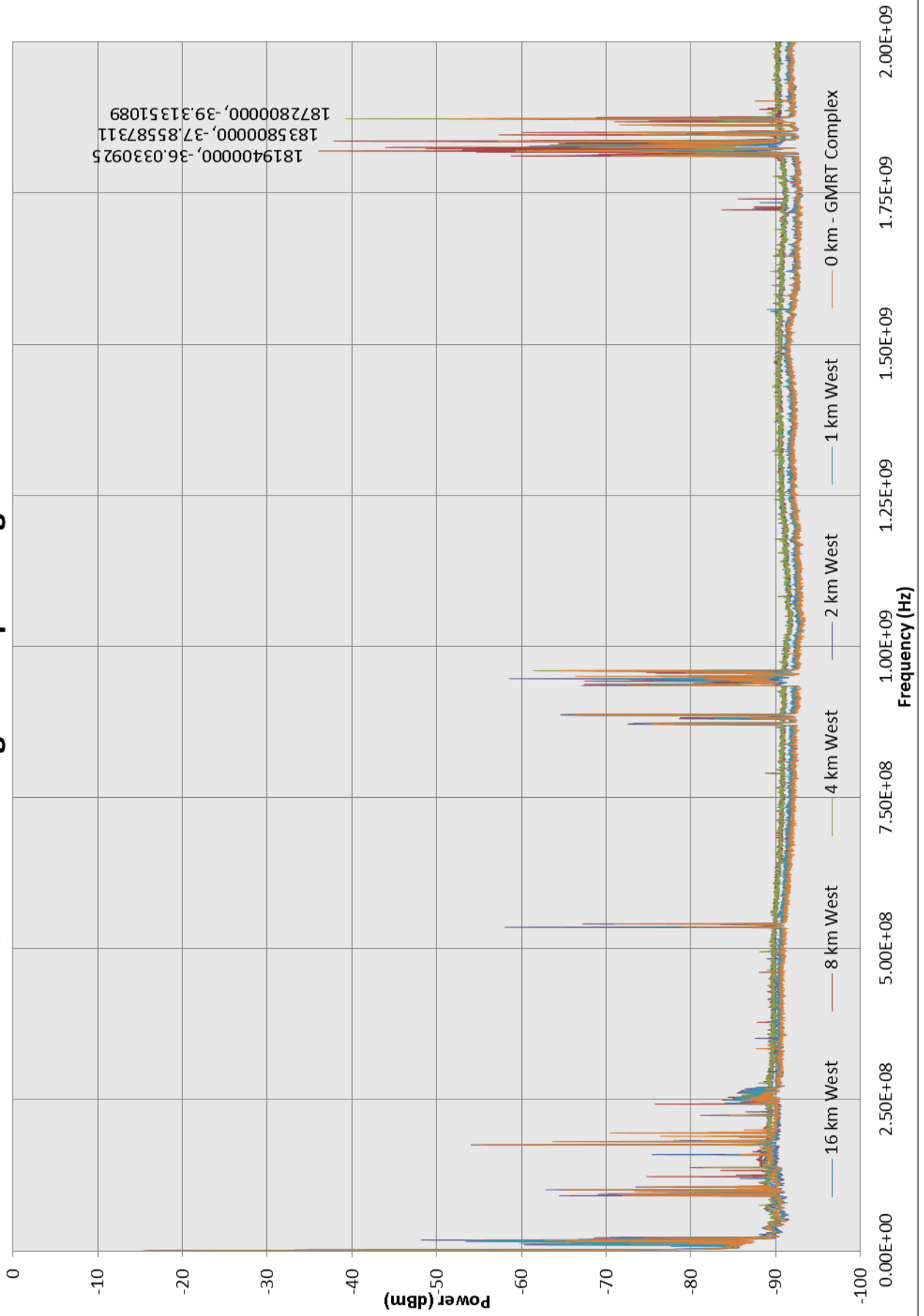
# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North. 0-2000 MHz.



# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South. 0-2000 MHz.

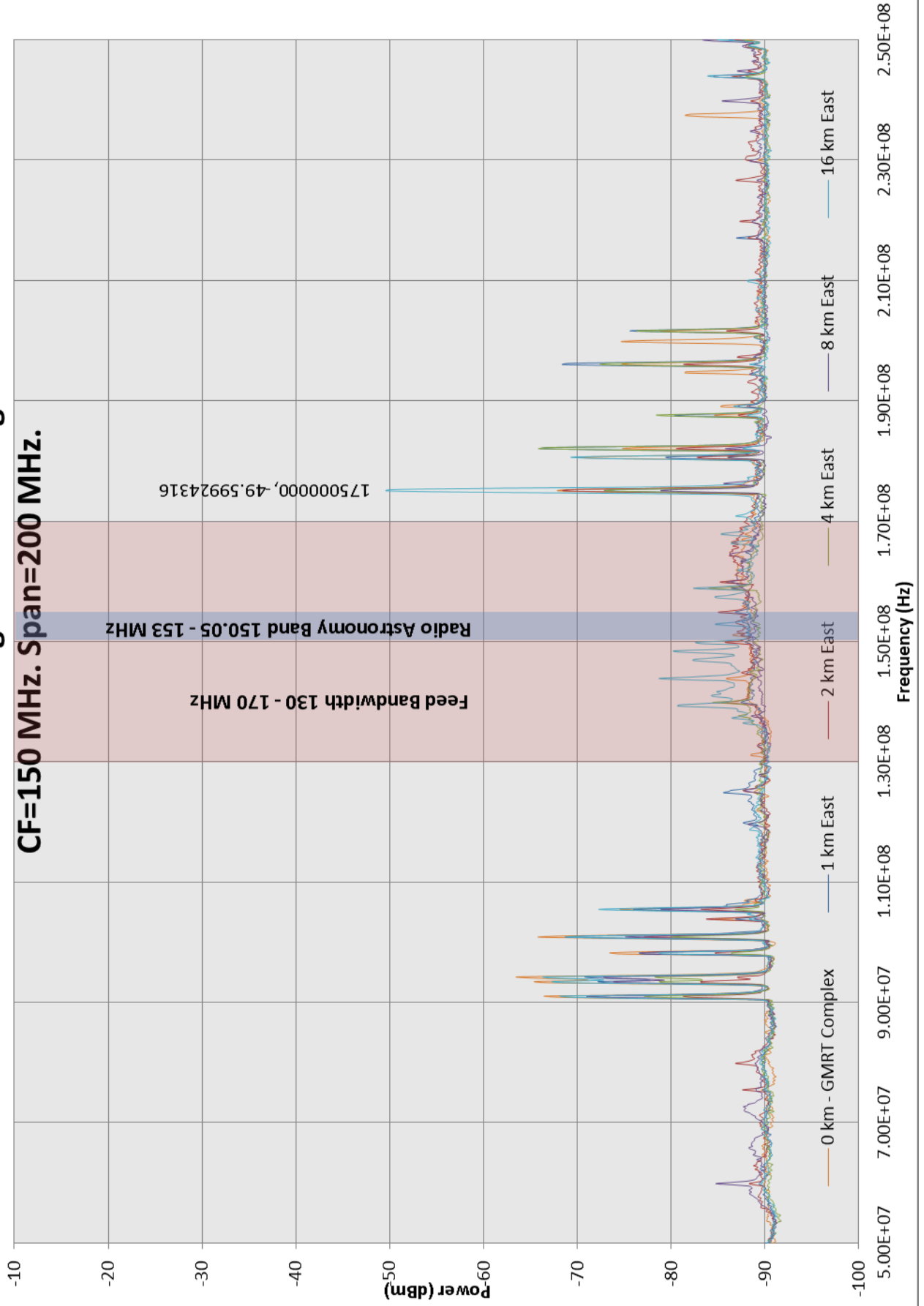


# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West. 0-2000 MHz.



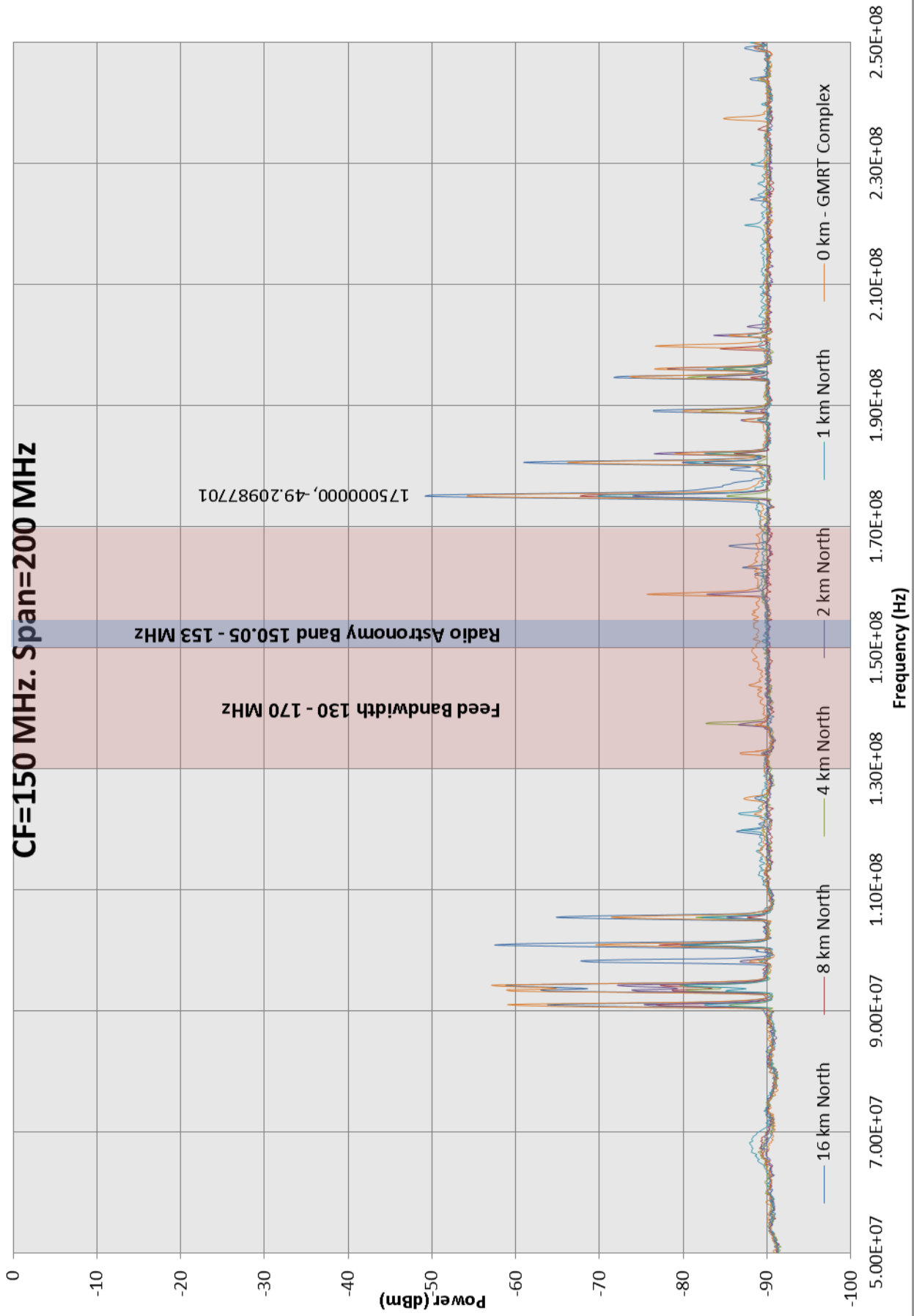
# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.

CF=150 MHz. Span=200 MHz.

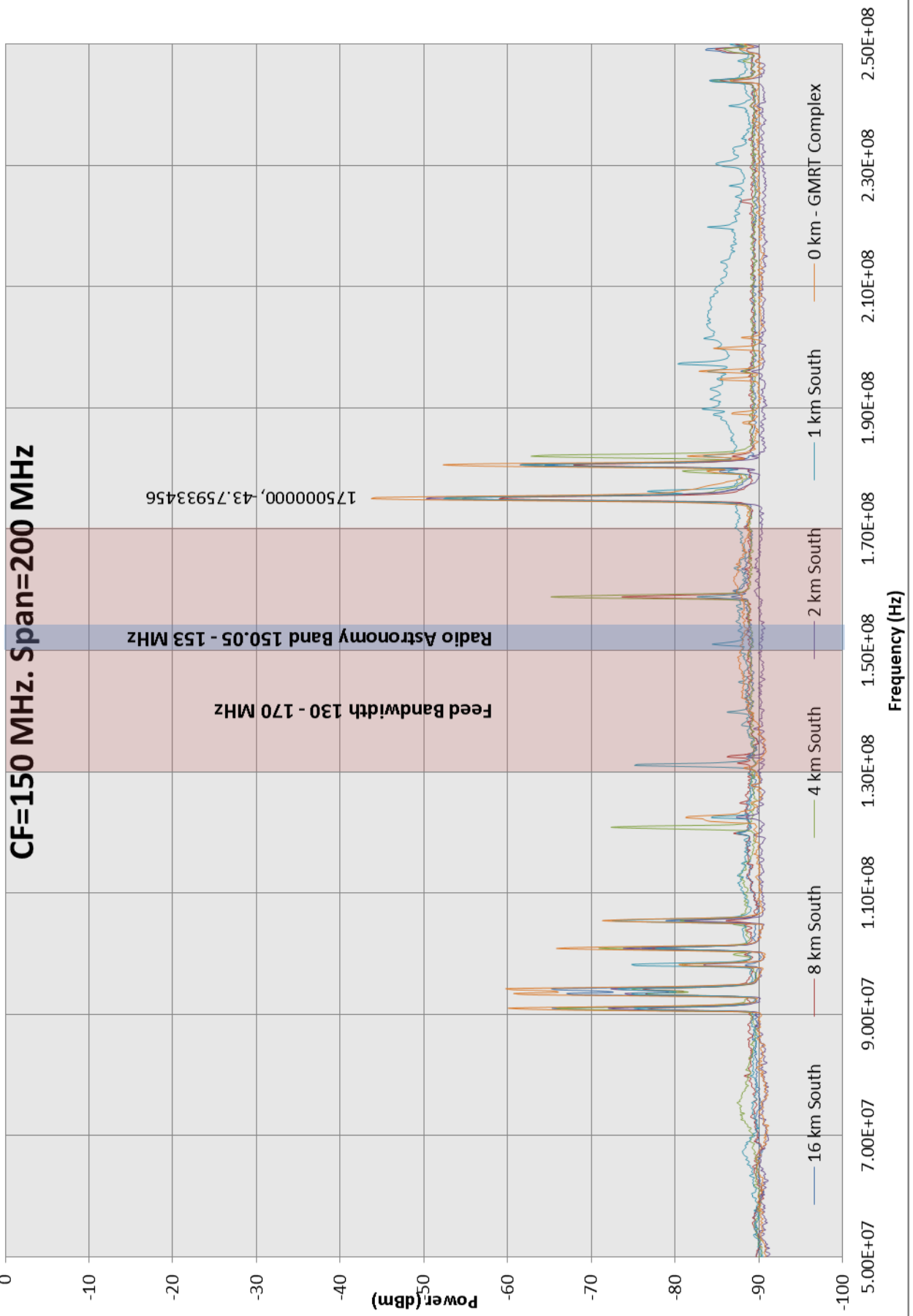


# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North.

CF=150 MHz. Span=200 MHz

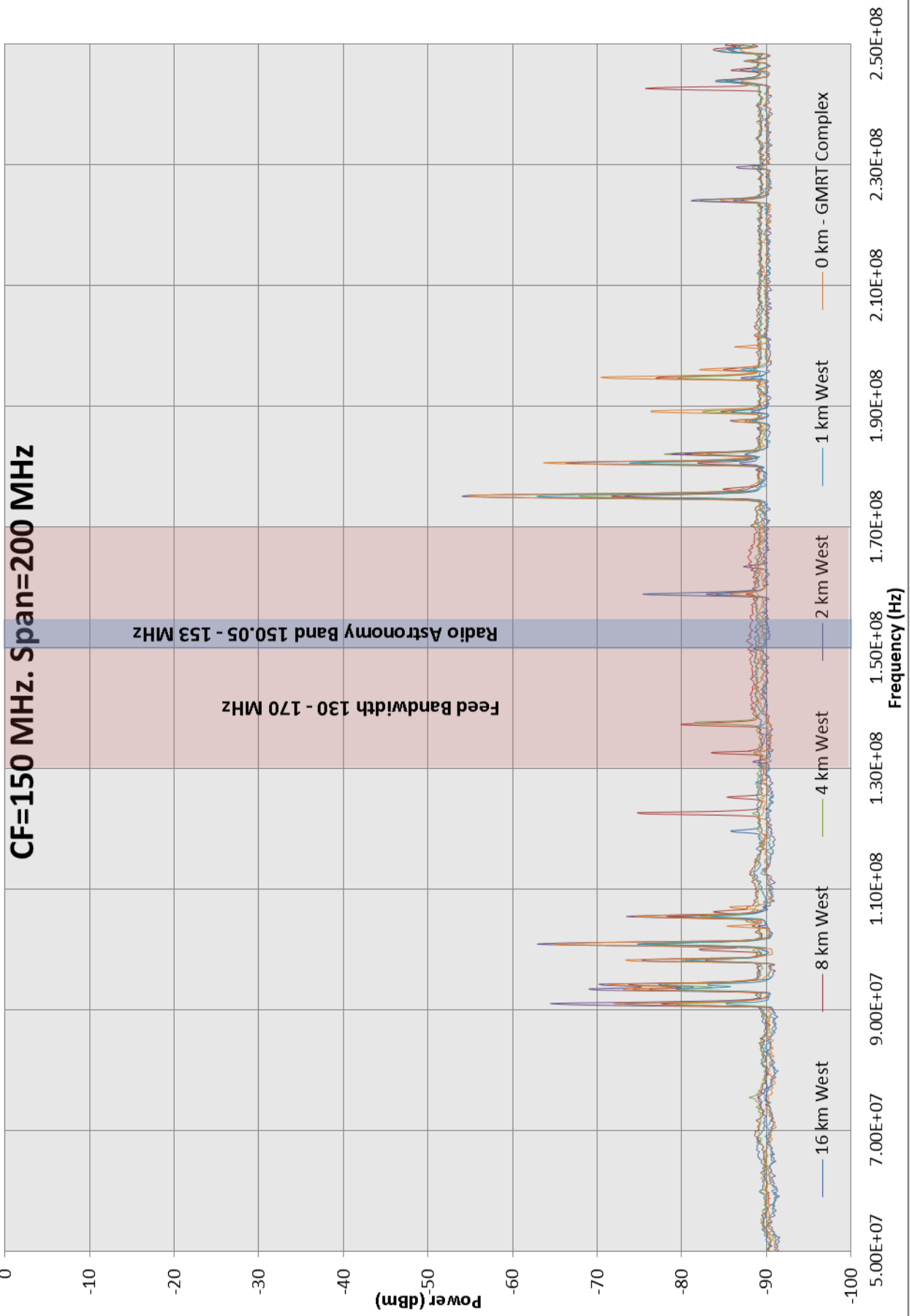


# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.

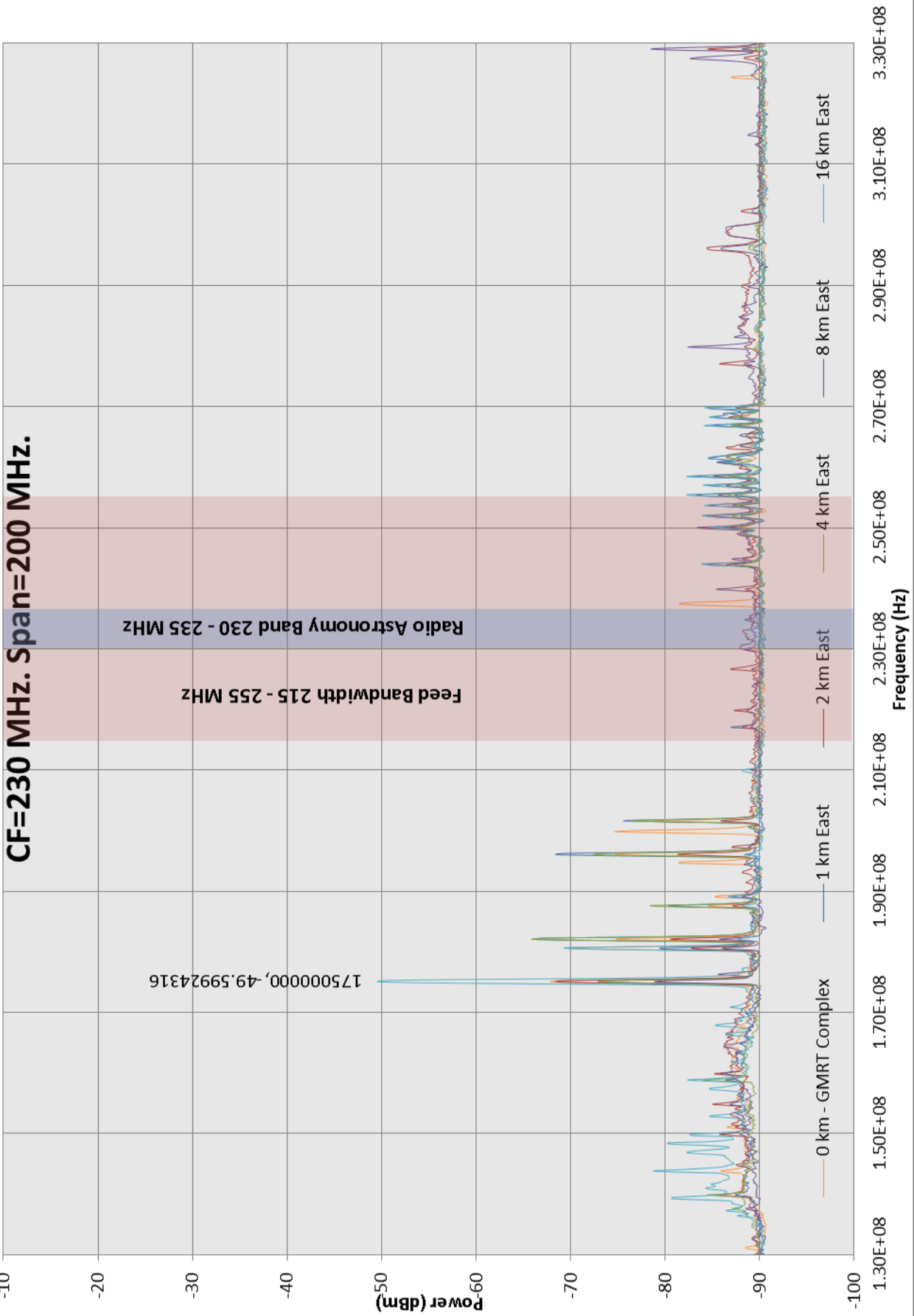




# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.

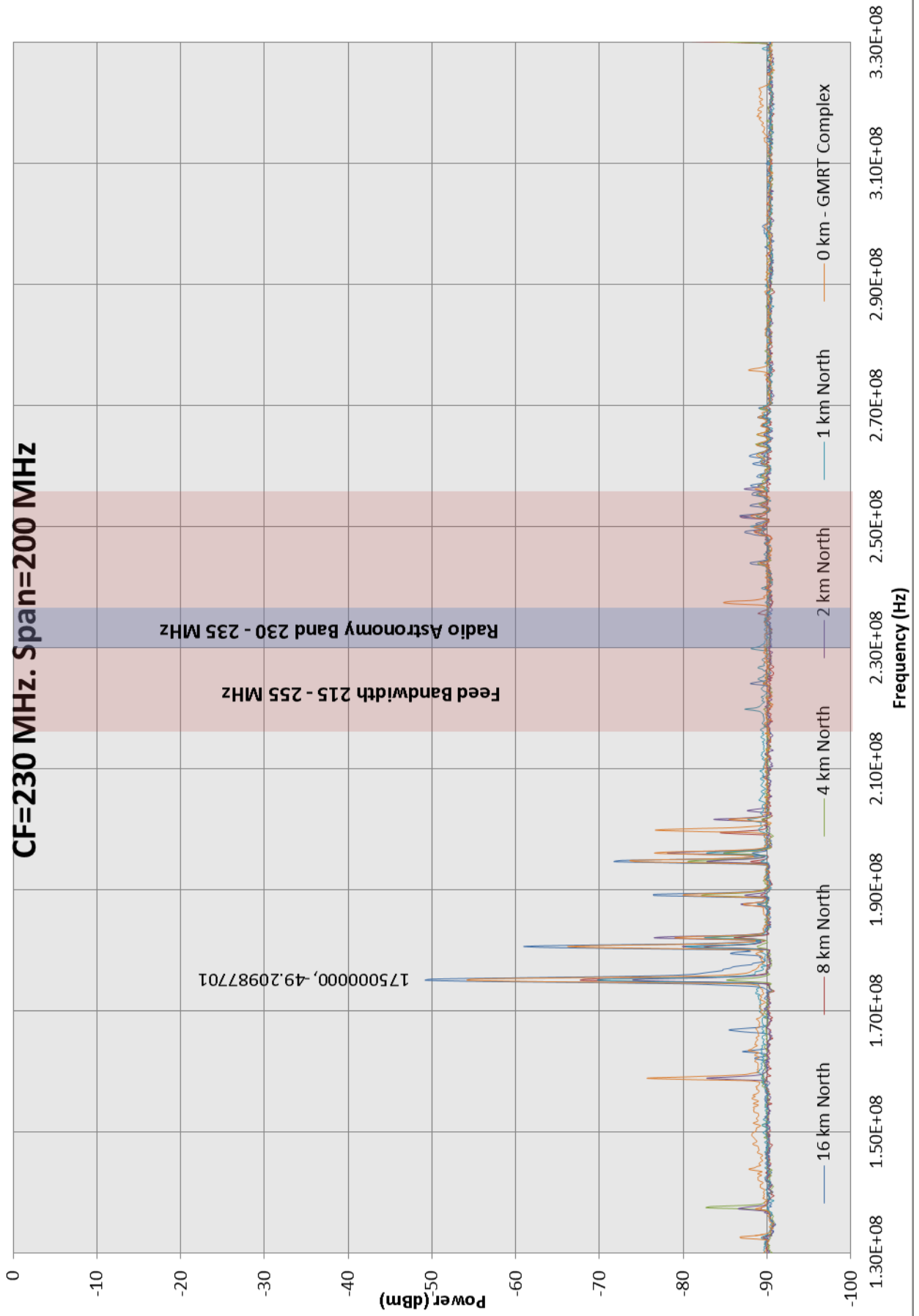


# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.

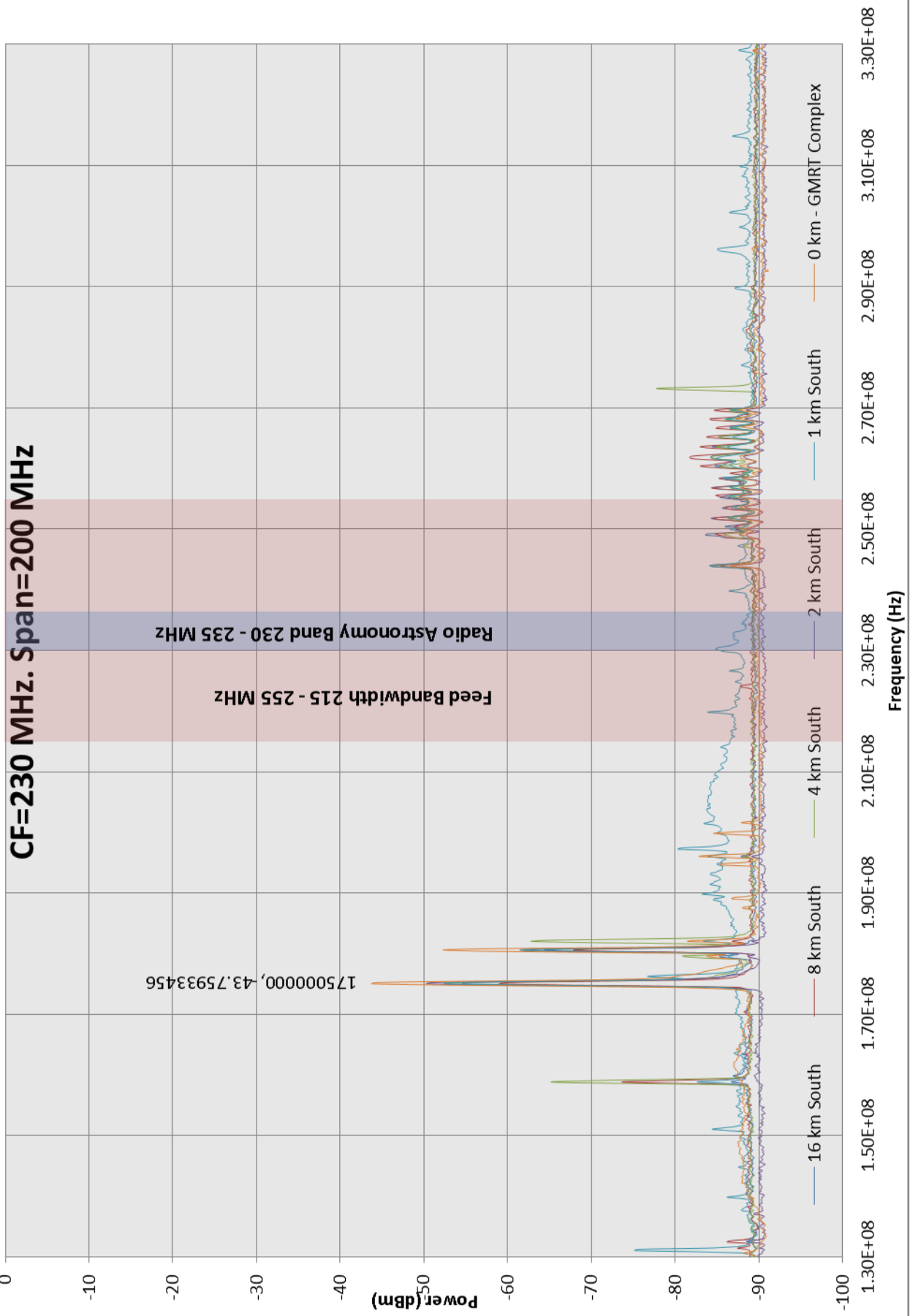


# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North.

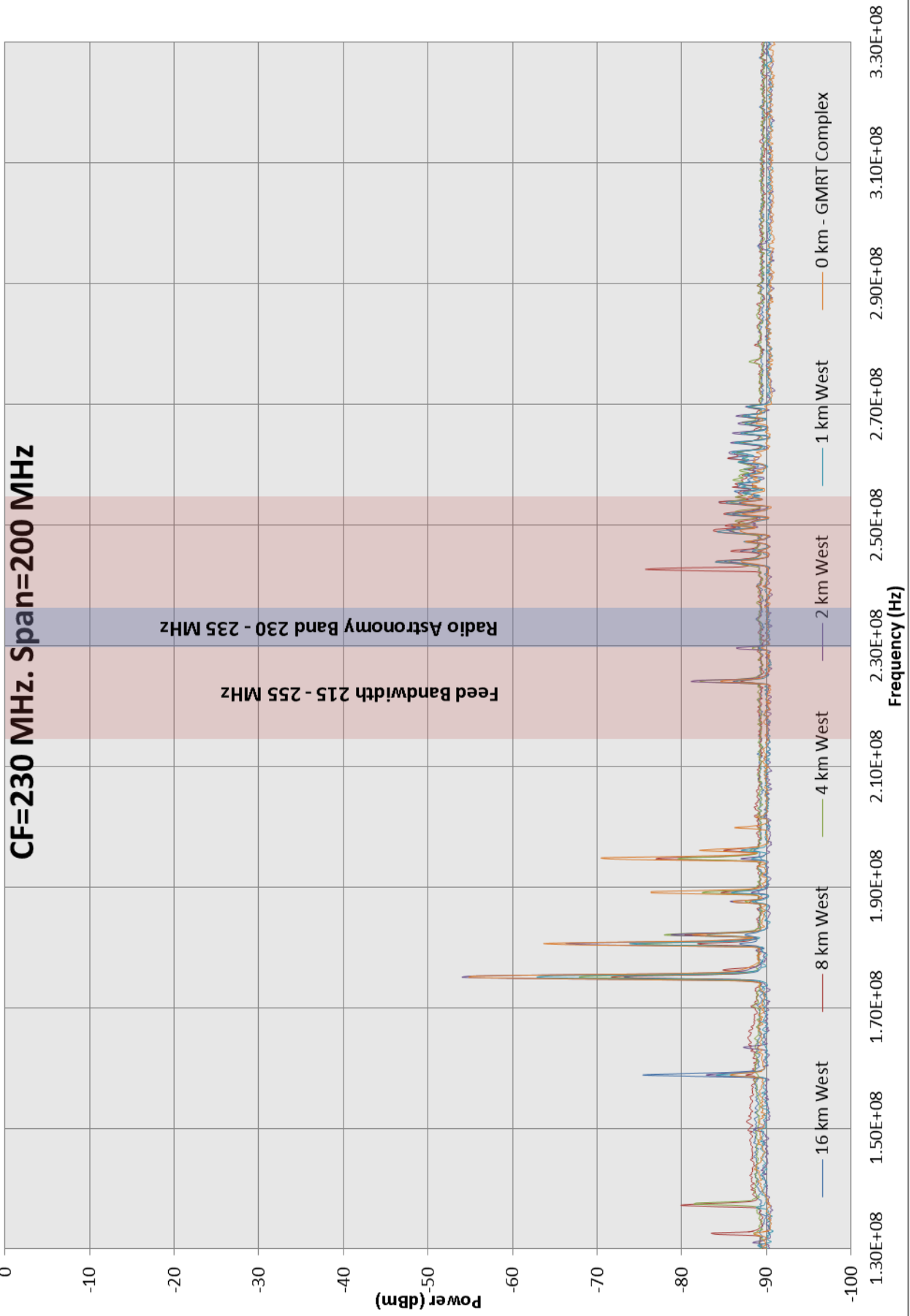
CF=230 MHz. Span=200 MHz



# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.

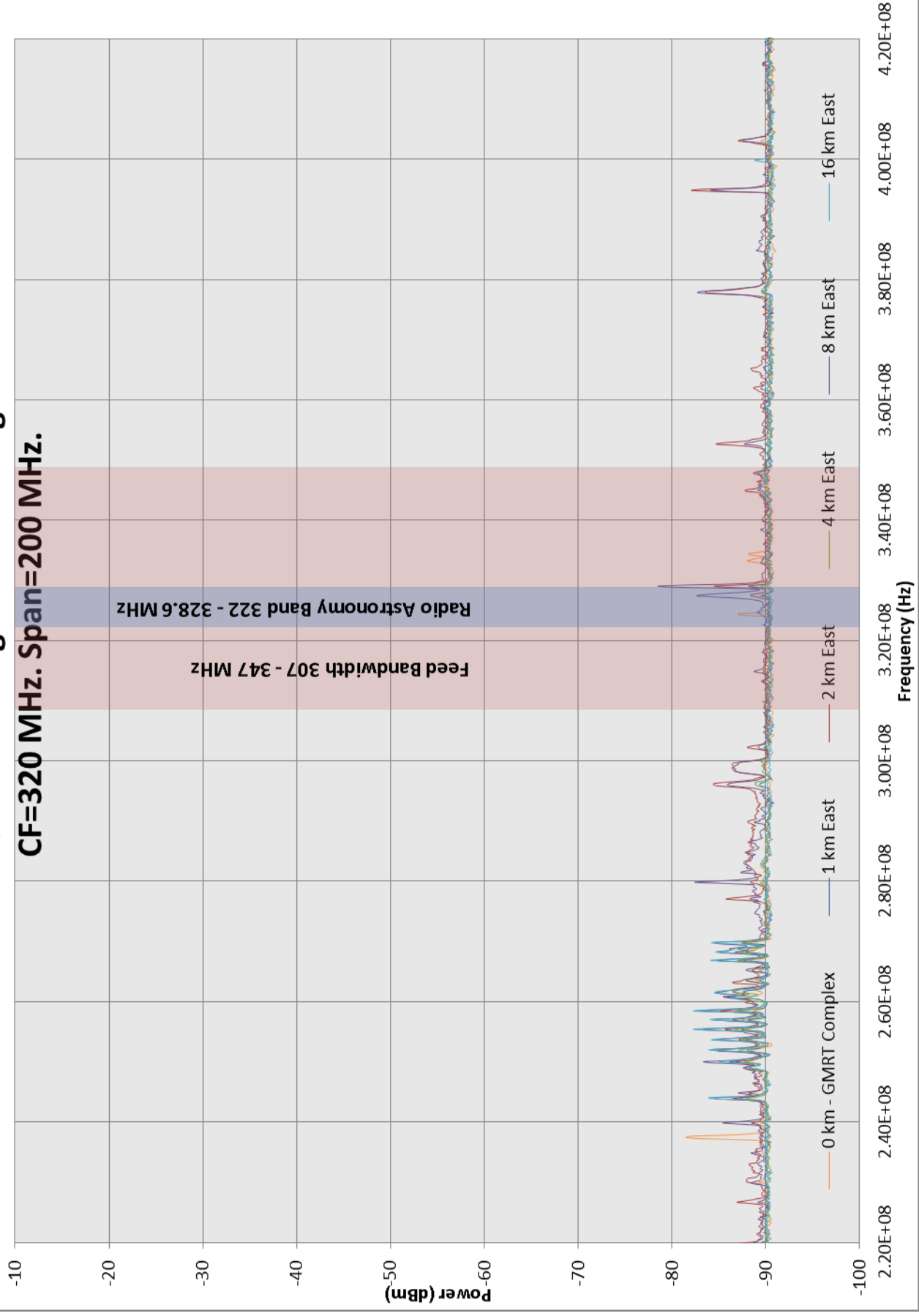


# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.



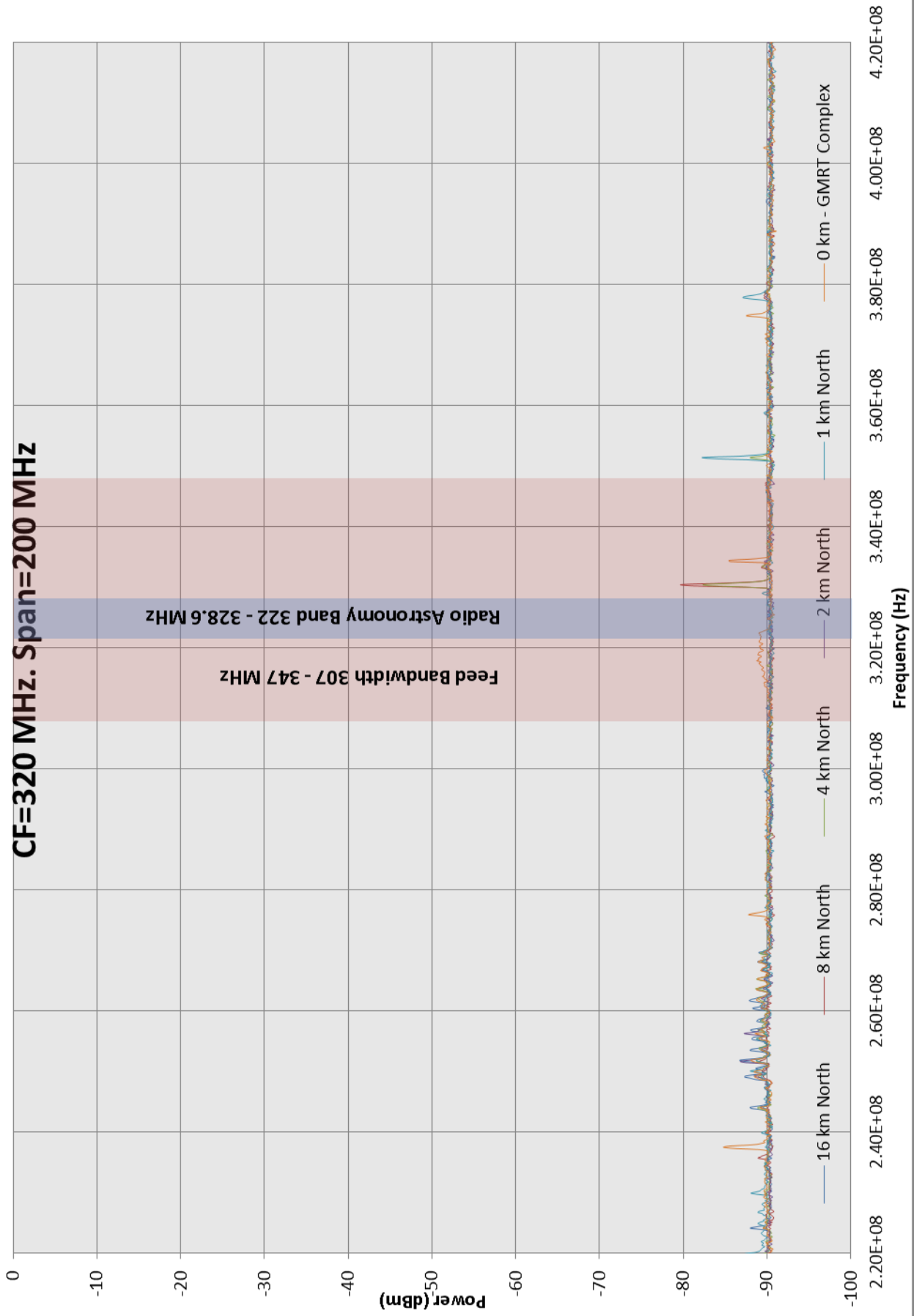
# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.

CF=320 MHz. Span=200 MHz.

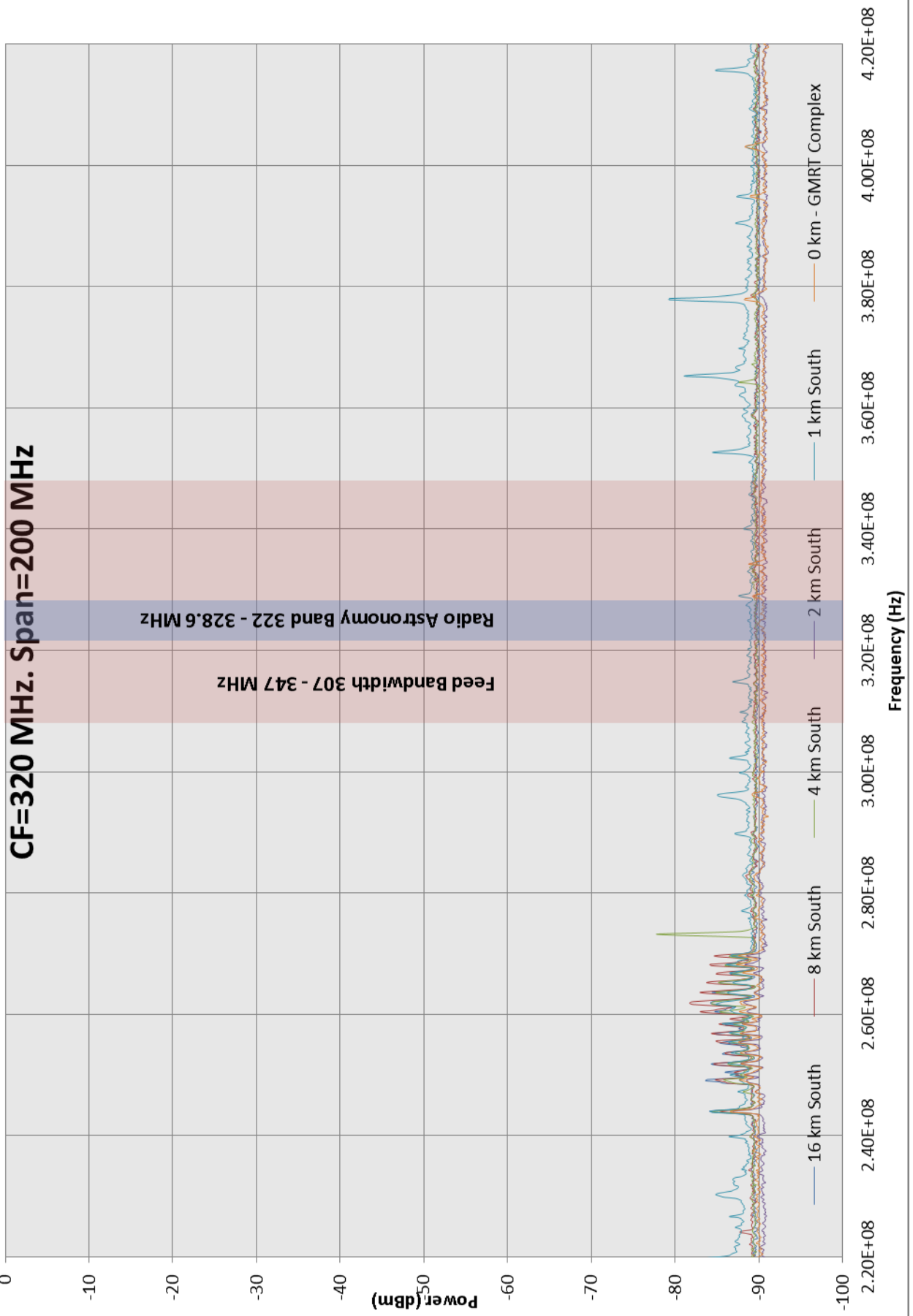


# North of GMRT building. LPDA pointing North.

CF=320 MHz. Span=200 MHz



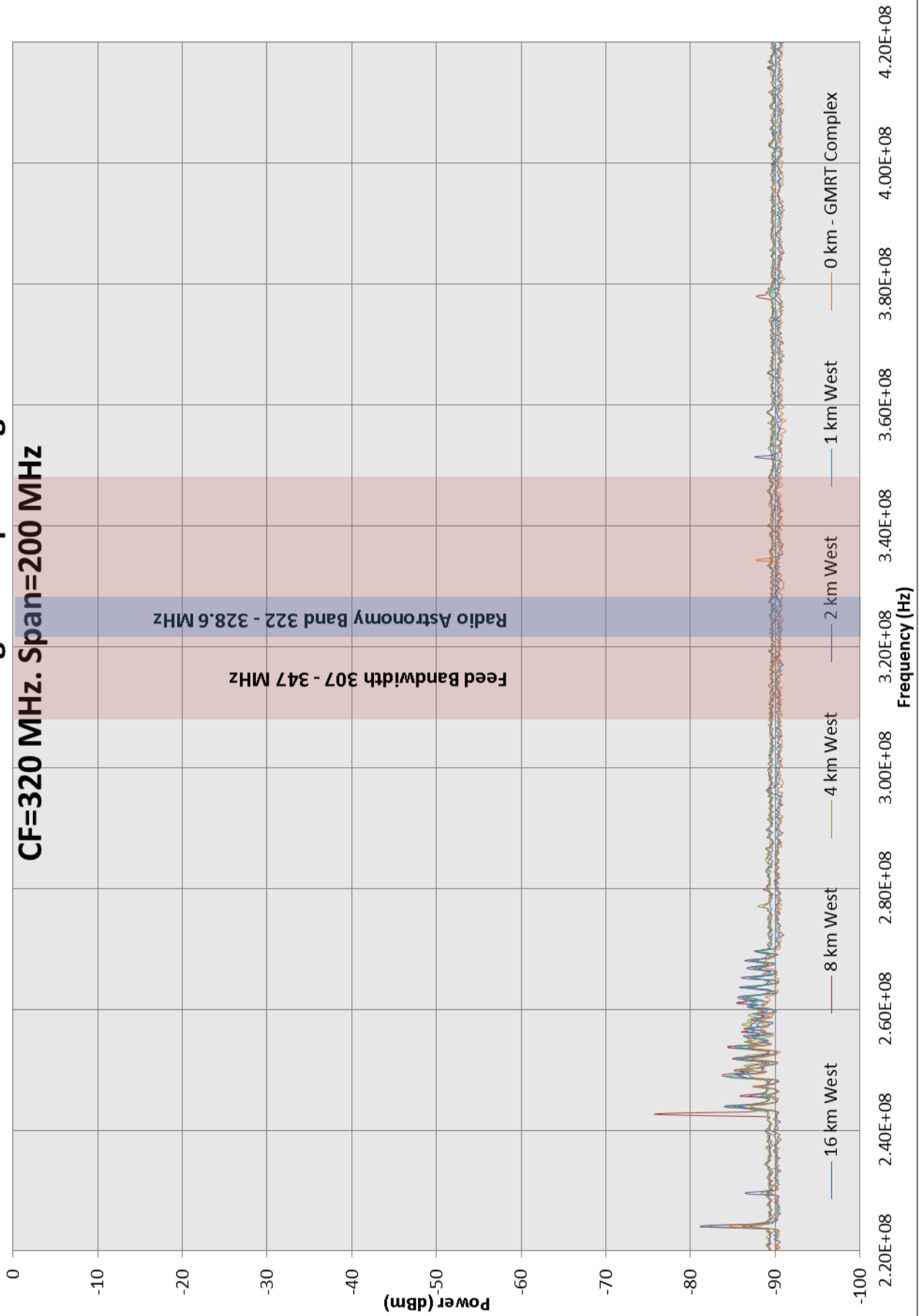
# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.





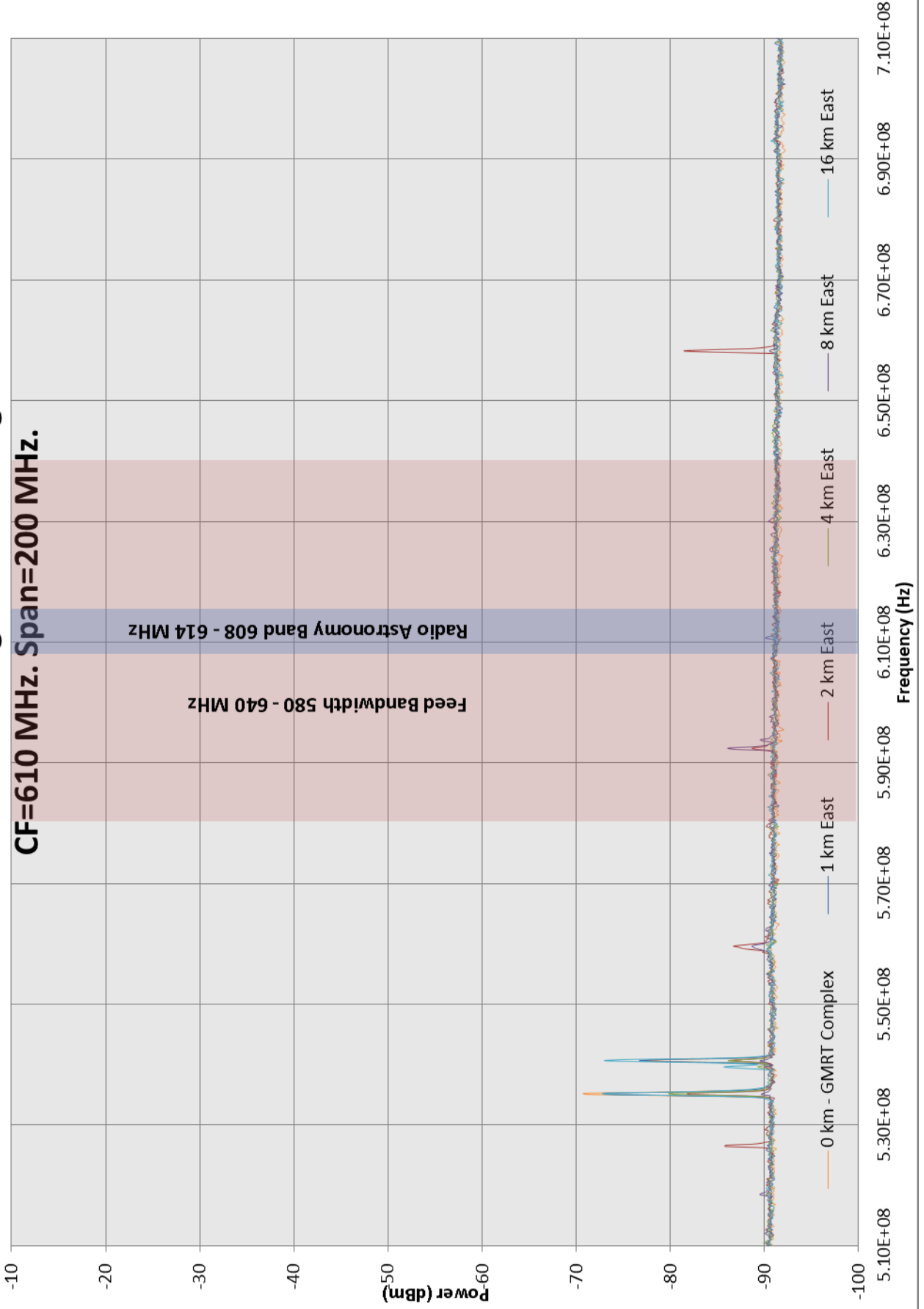
# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.

CF=320 MHz. Span=200 MHz



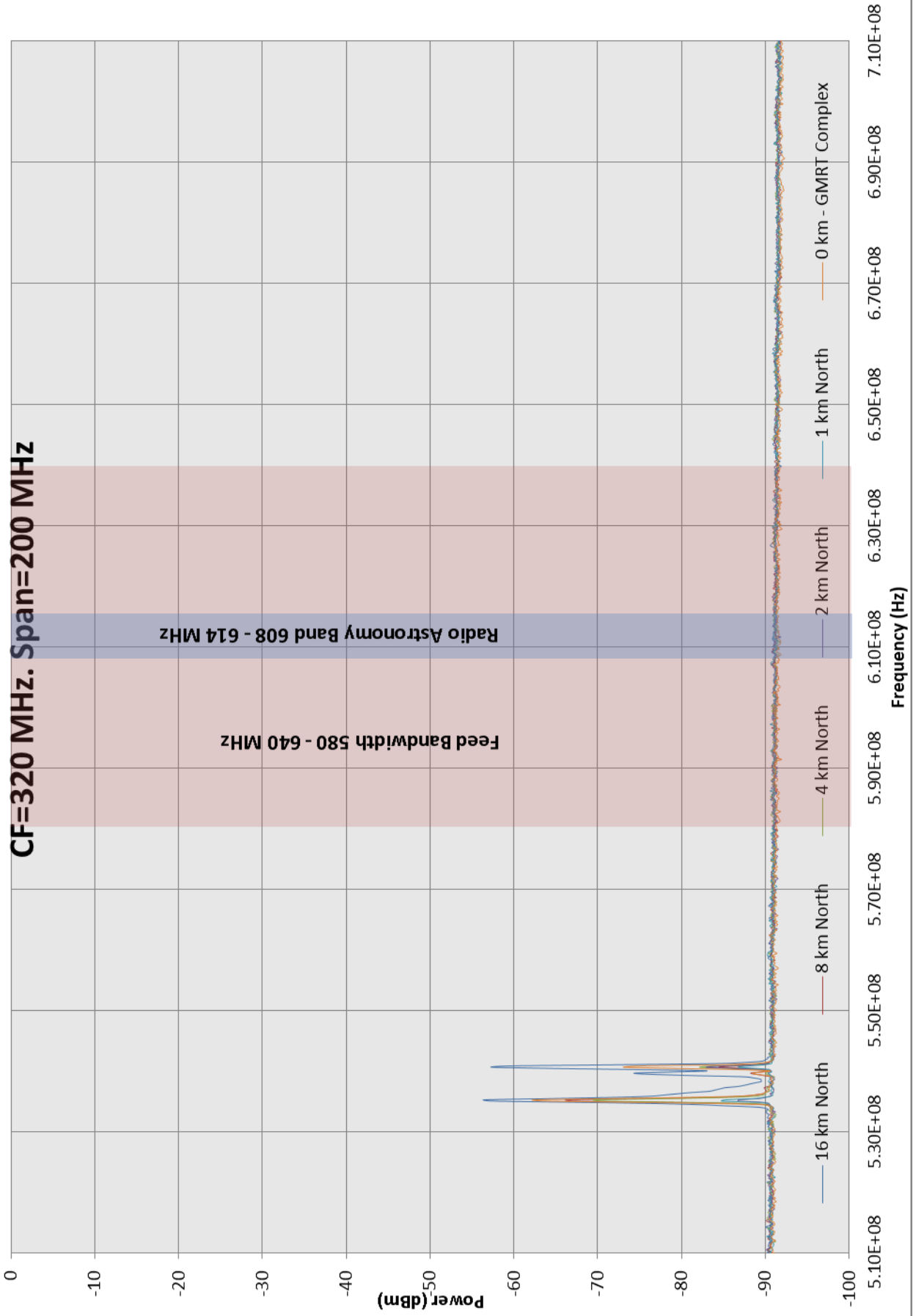
# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.

CF=610 MHz. Span=200 MHz.

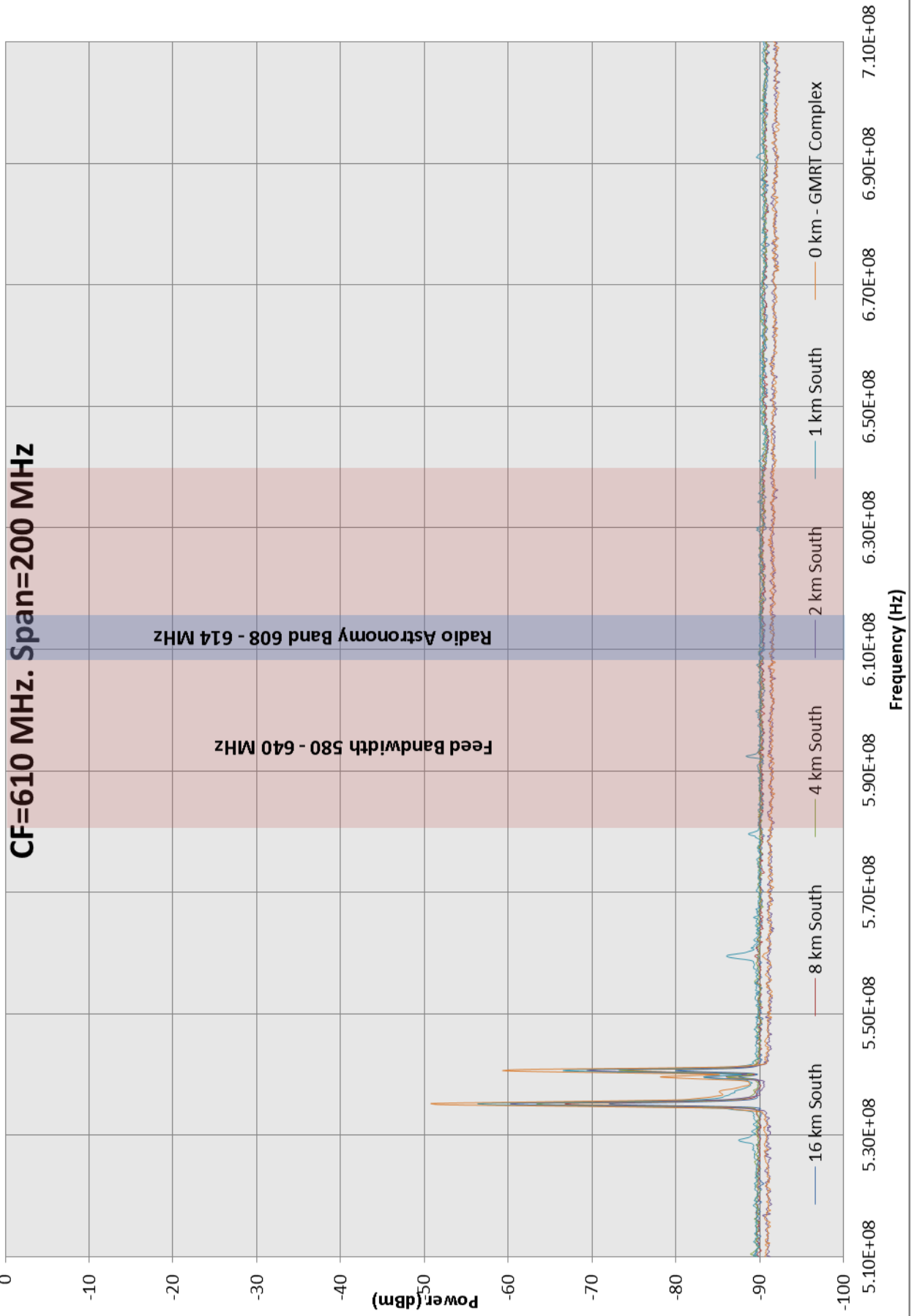


# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North.

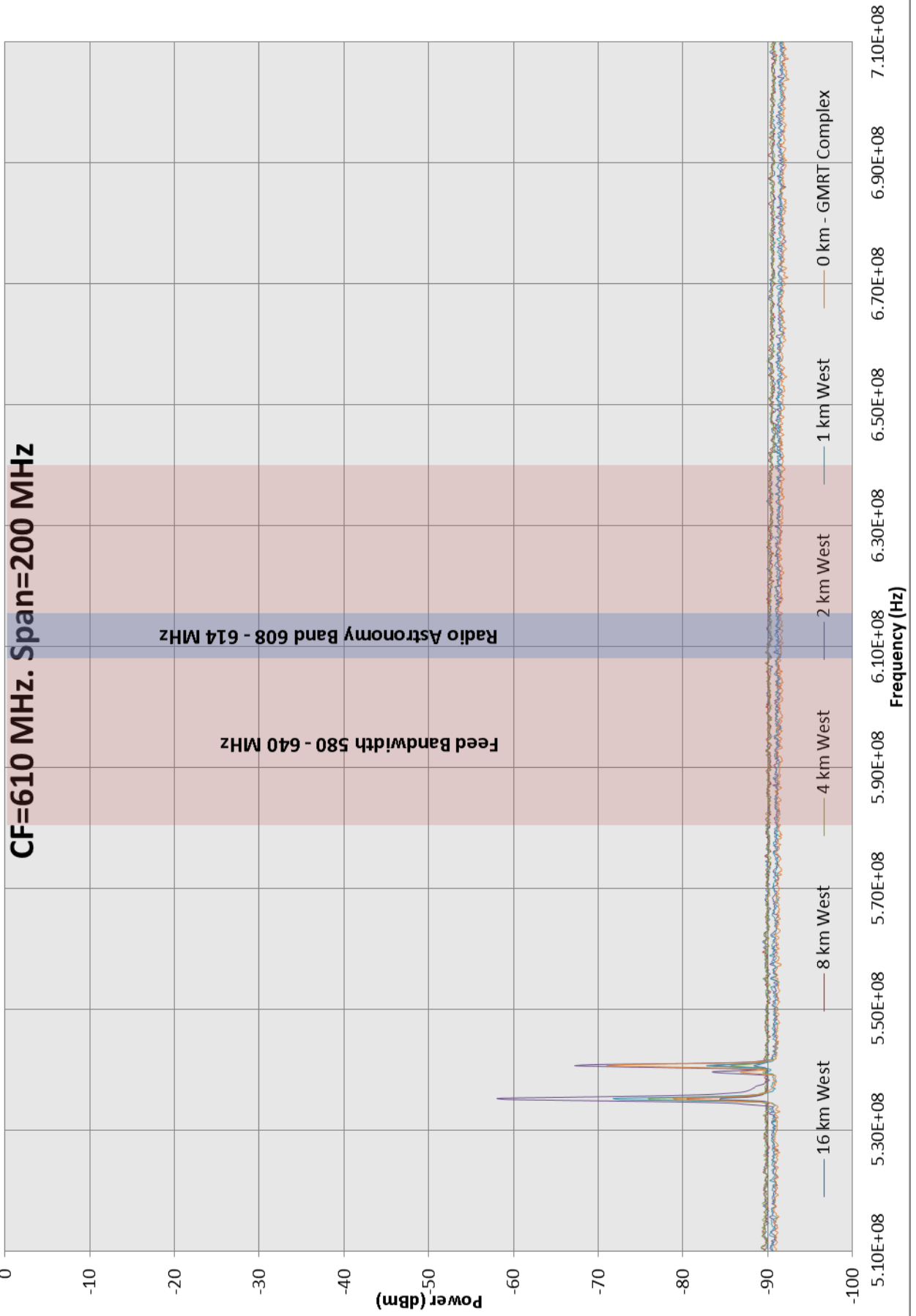
CF=320 MHz. Span=200 MHz



# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.

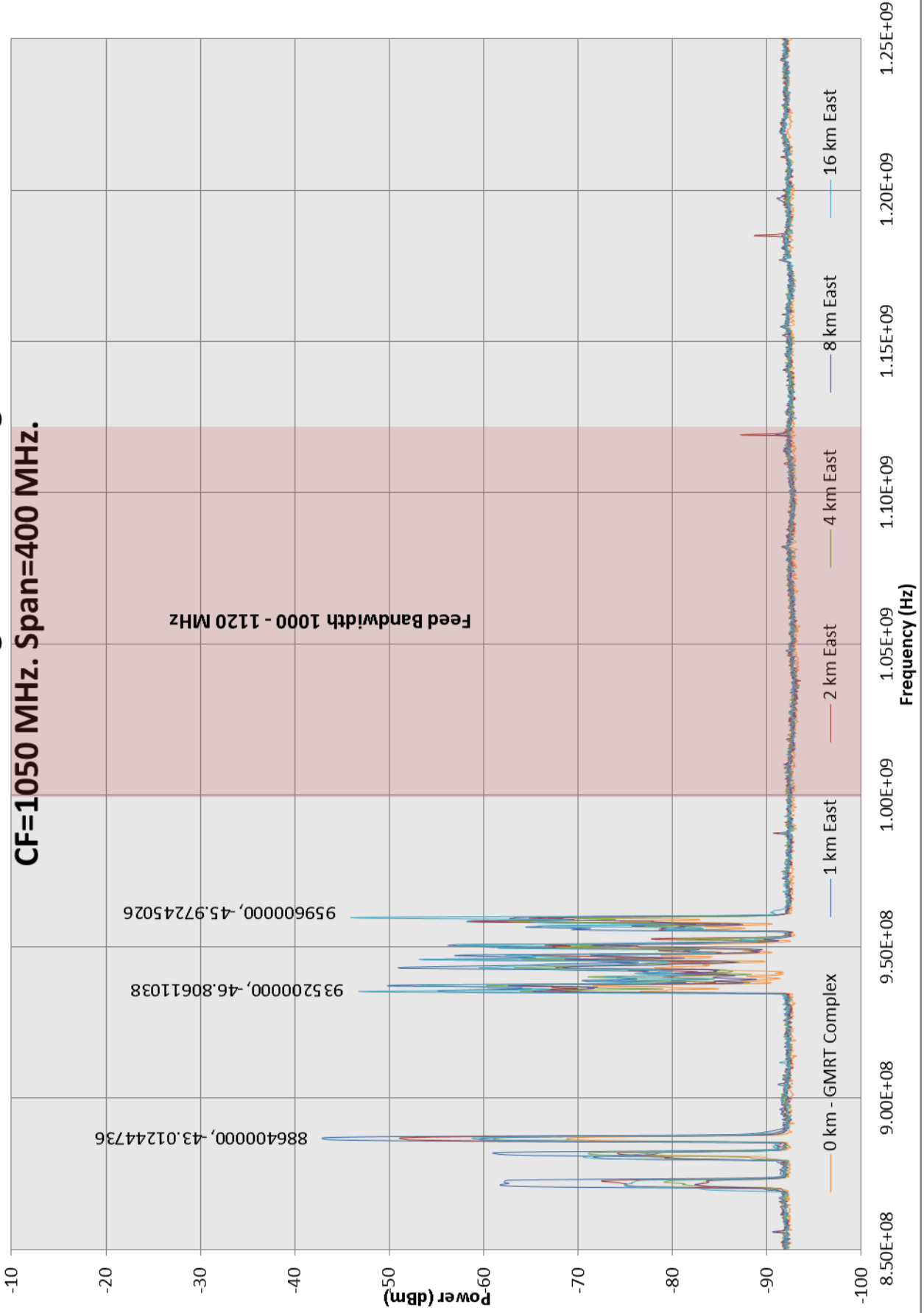


# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.



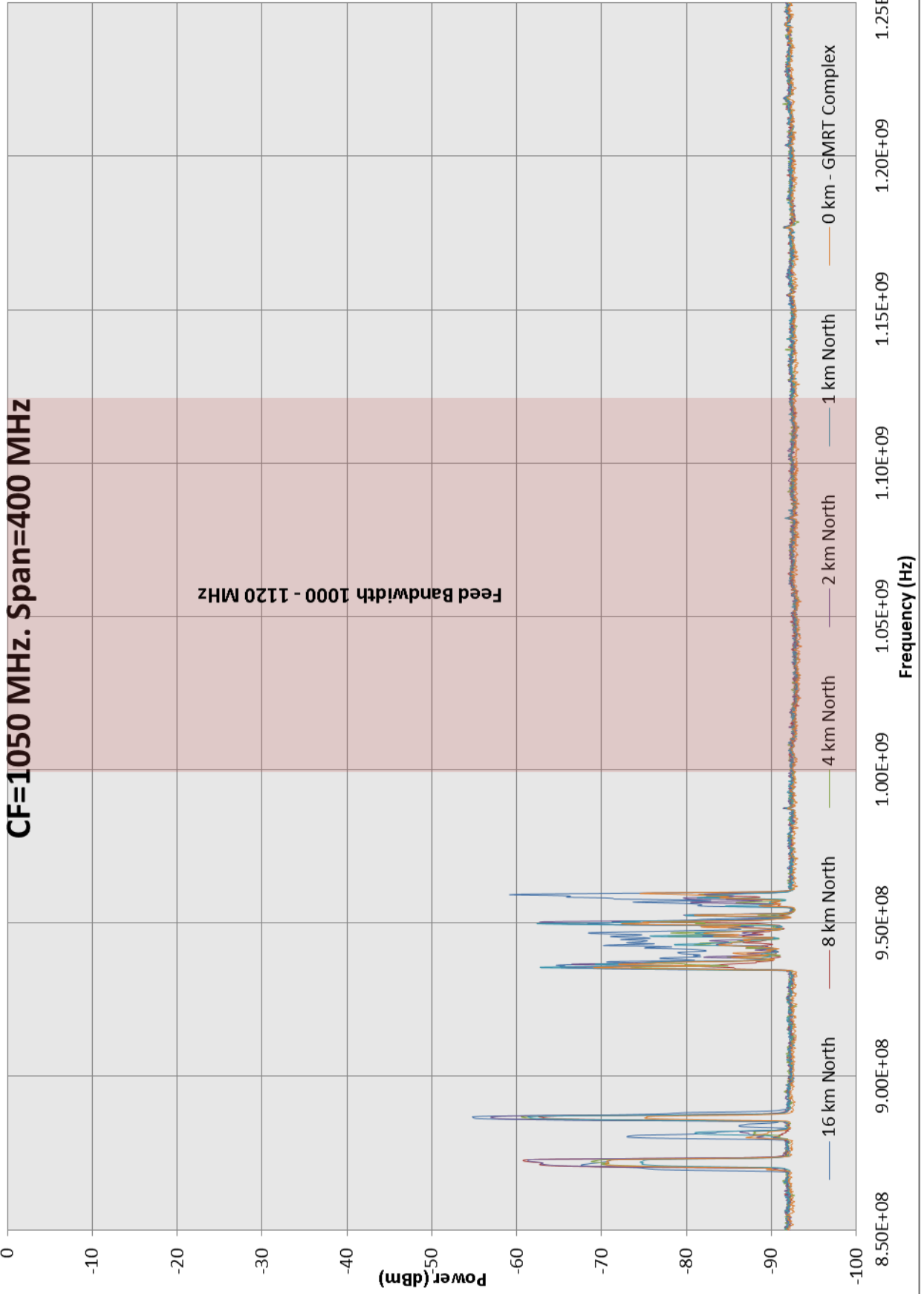
# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.

CF=1050 MHz. Span=400 MHz.

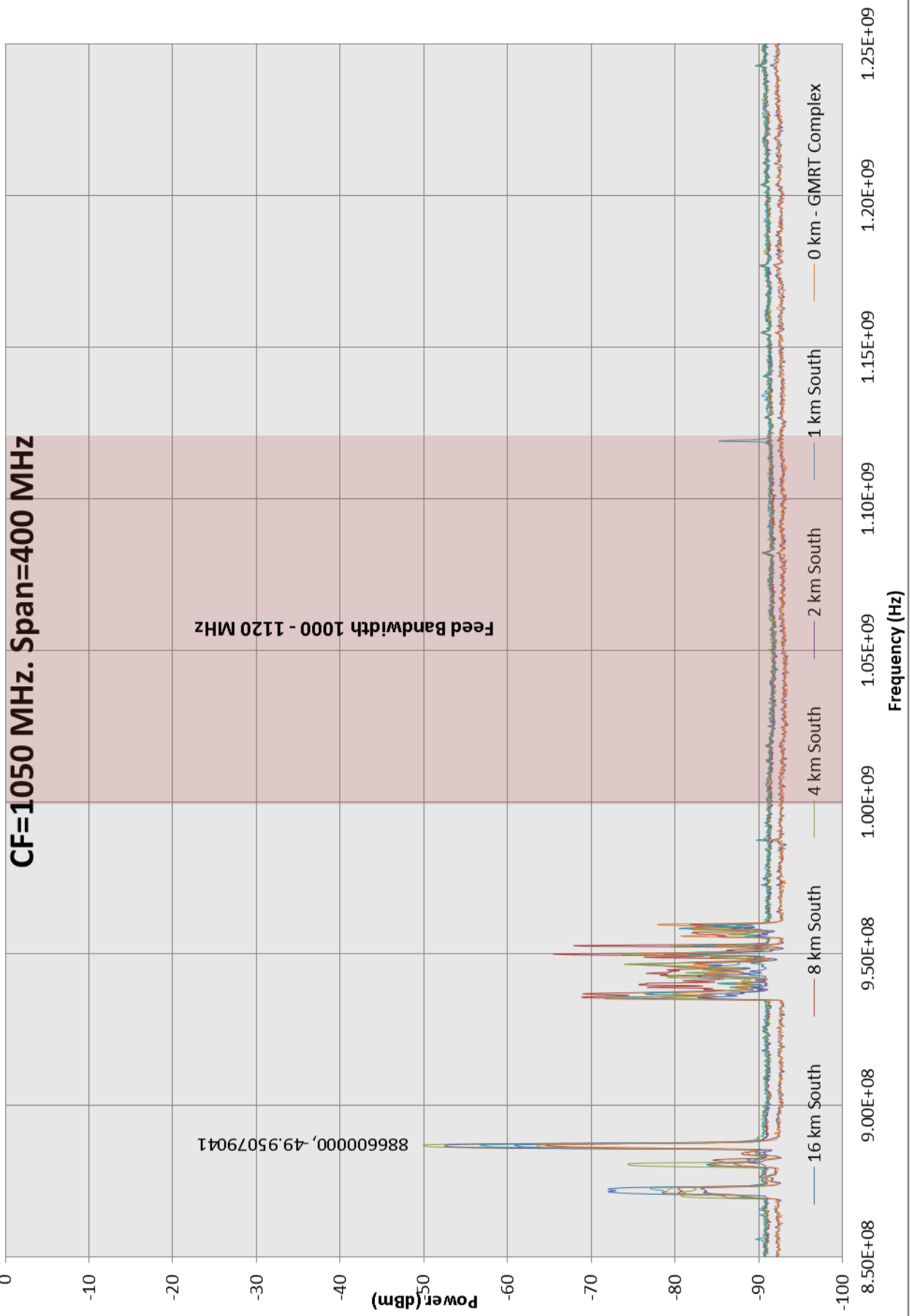


# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North.

CF=1050 MHz. Span=400 MHz

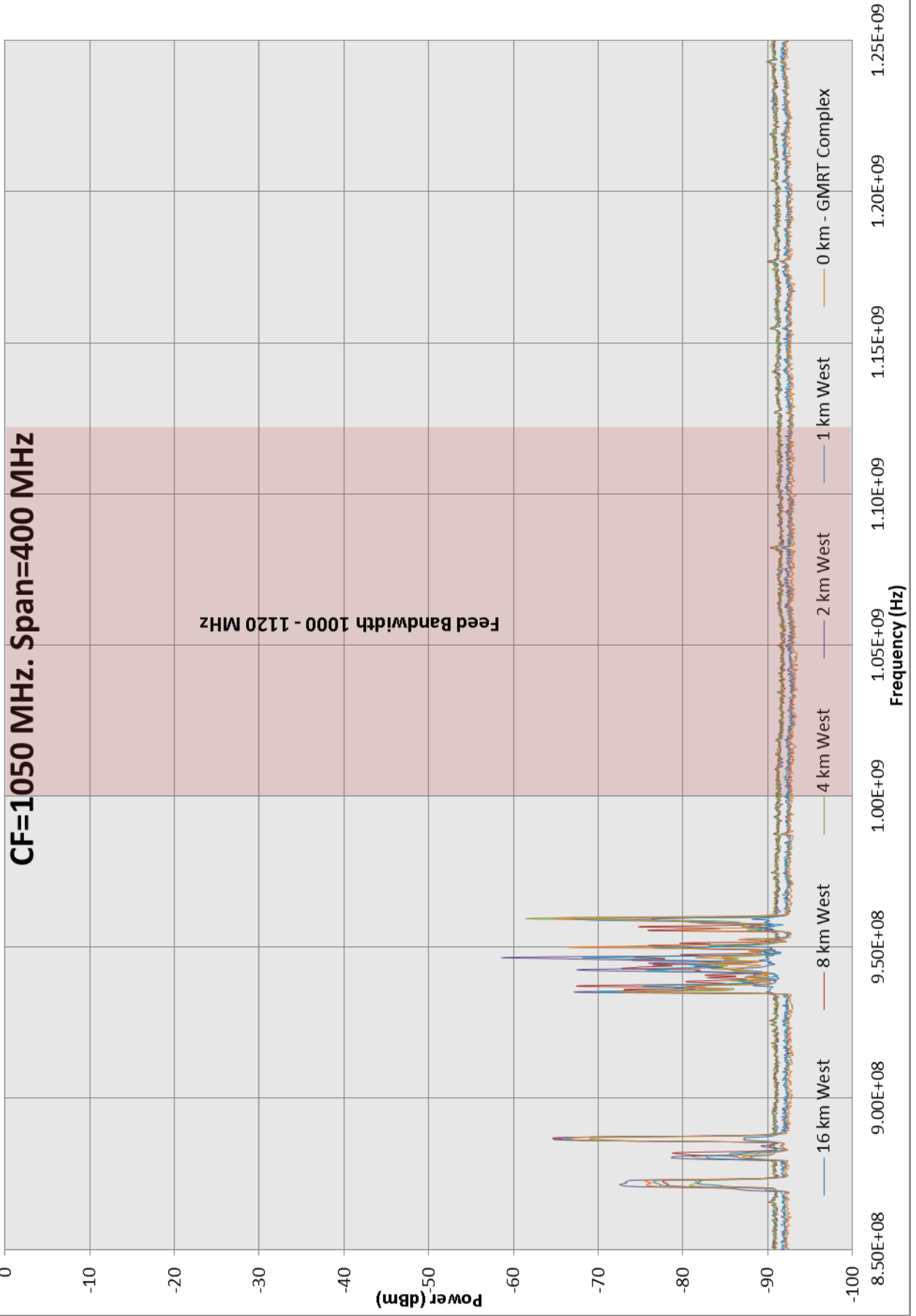


# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.

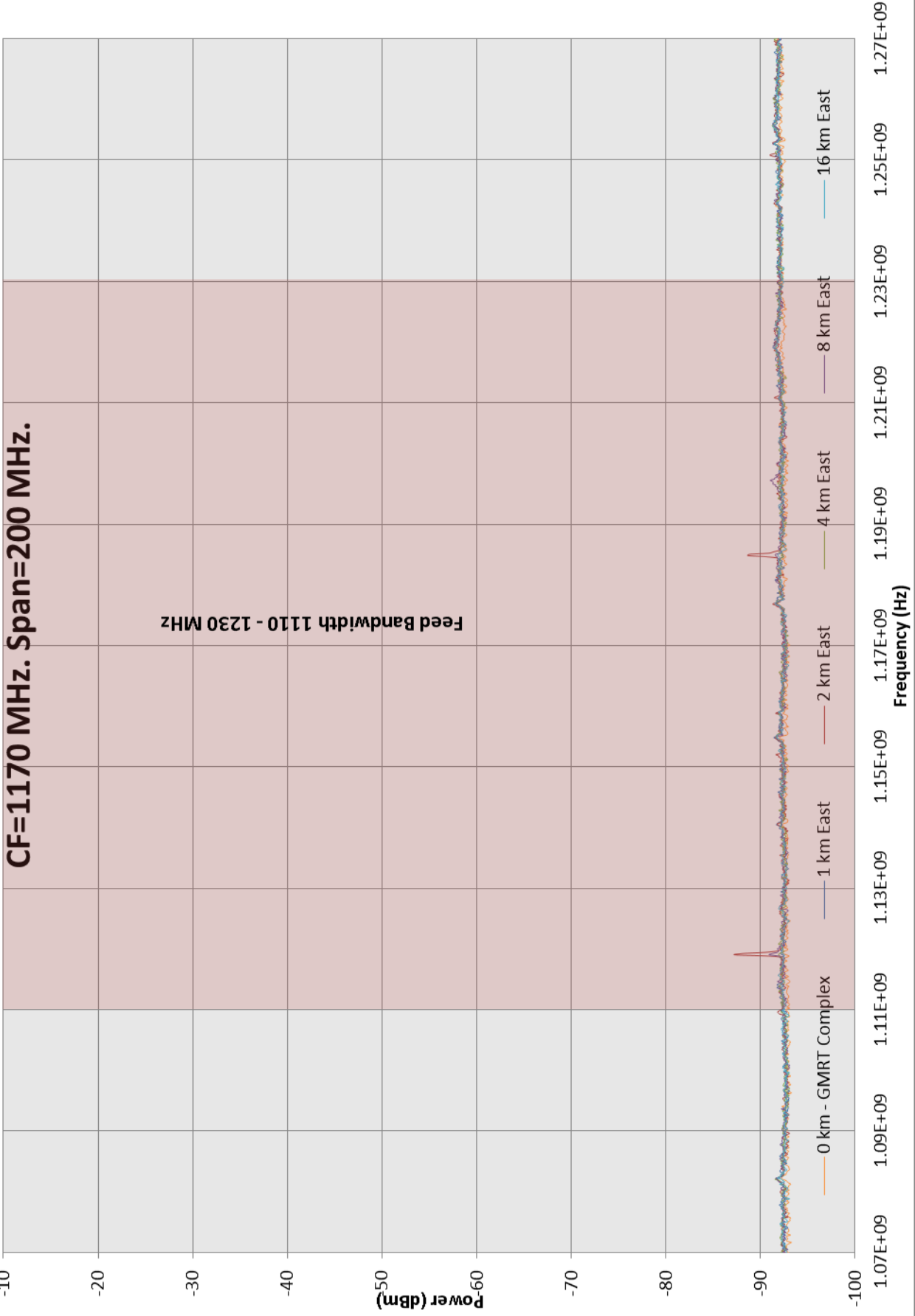




# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.

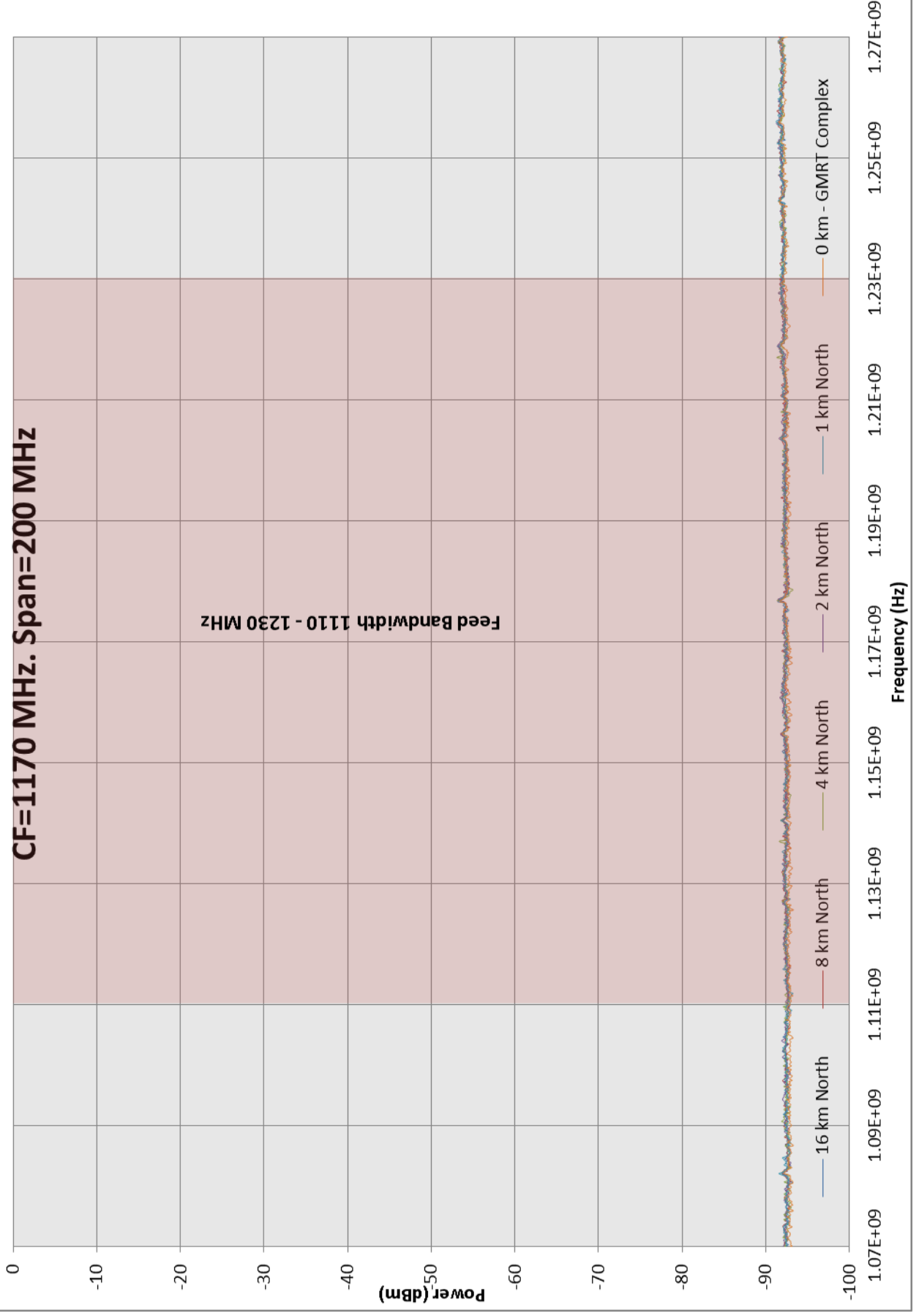


# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.



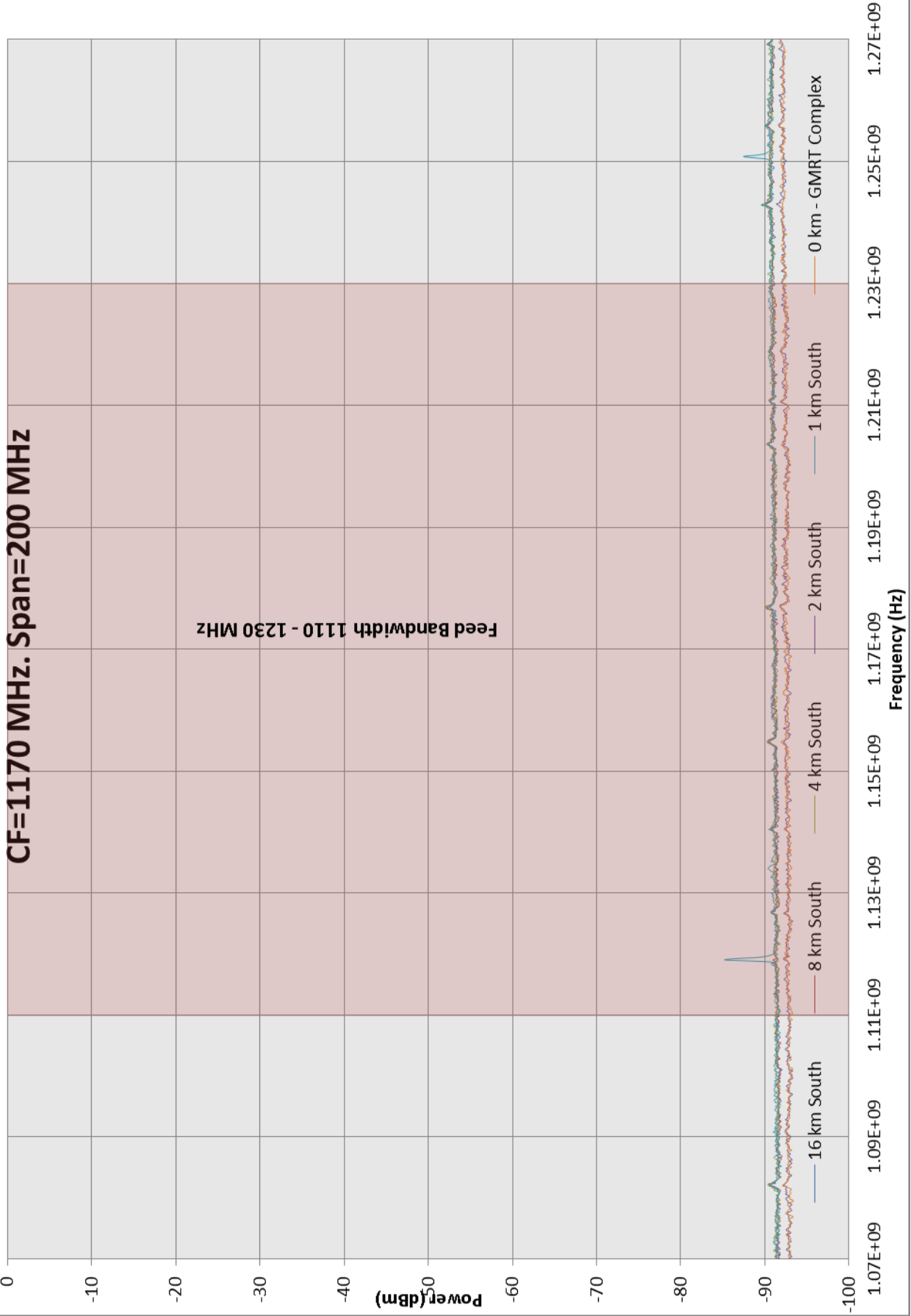
# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North.

CF=1170 MHz. Span=200 MHz

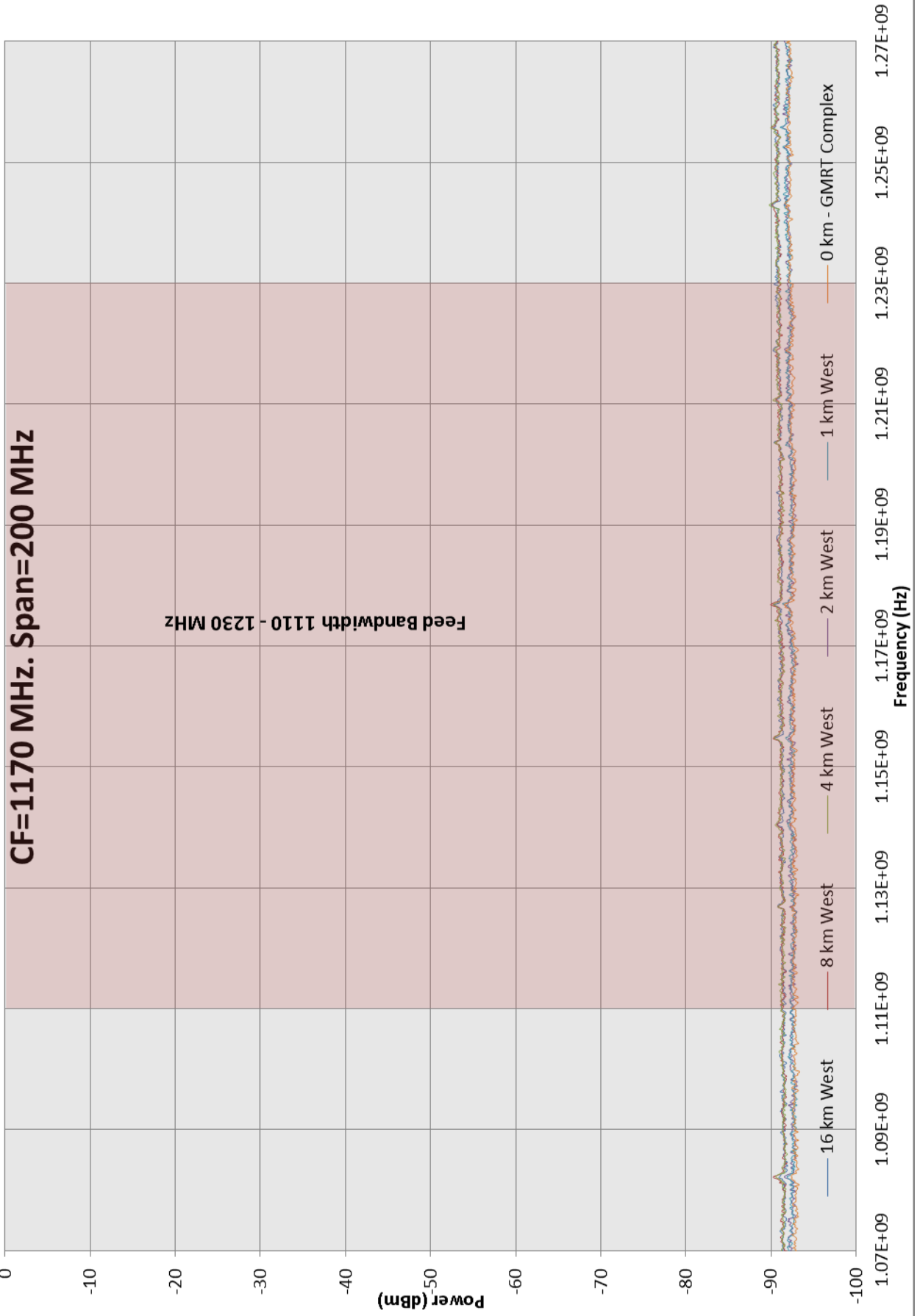


# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.

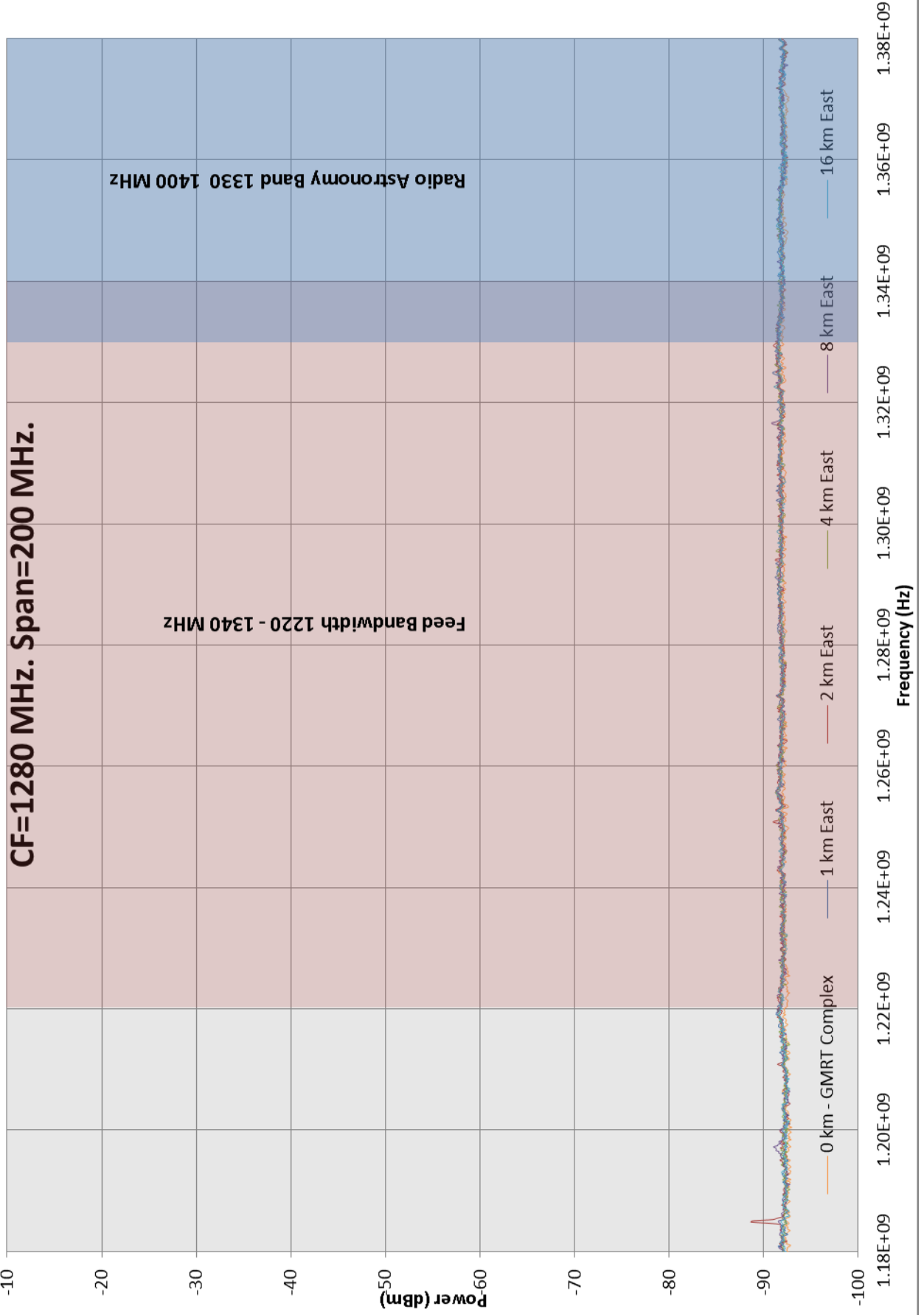
CF=1170 MHz. Span=200 MHz



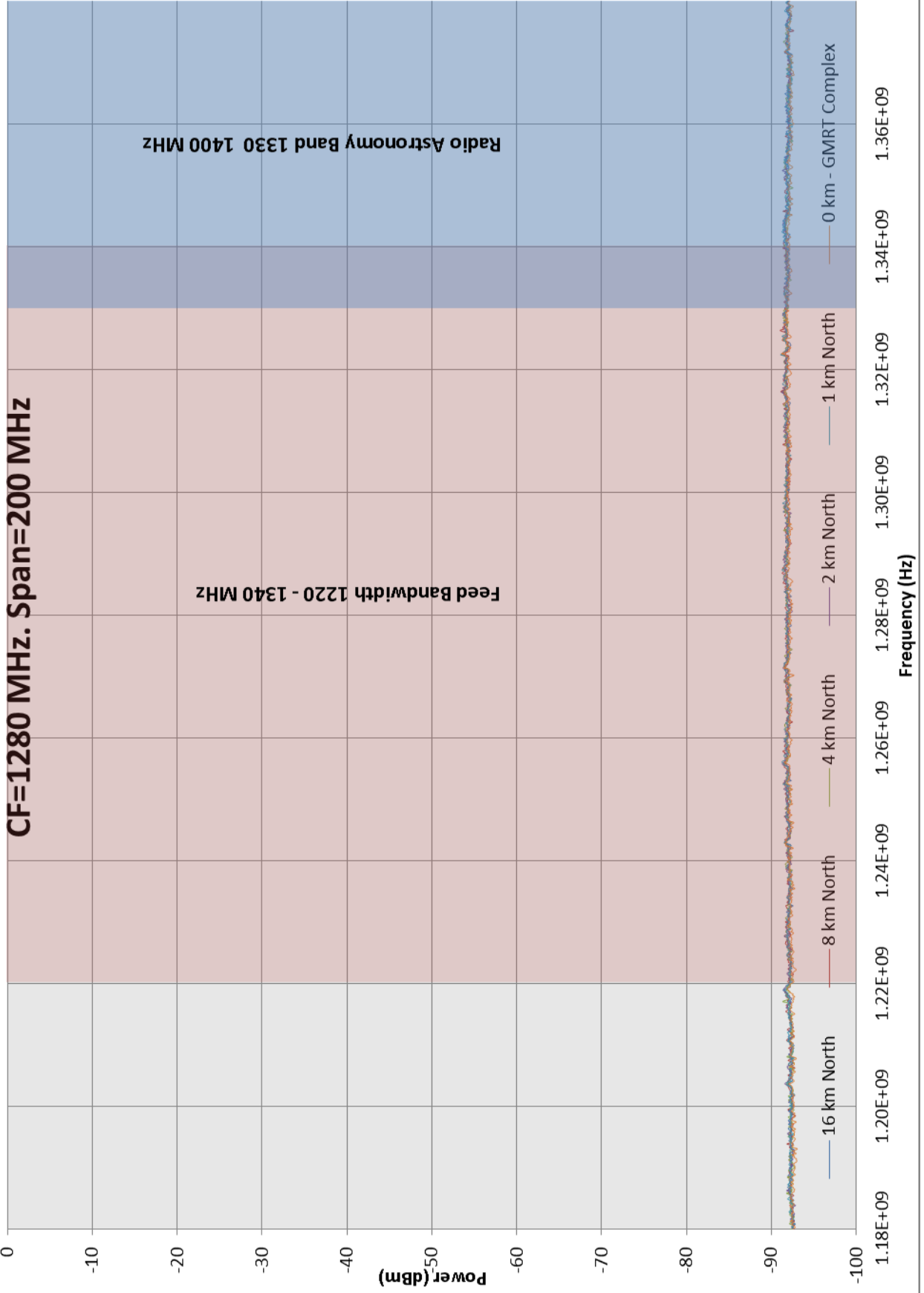
# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.



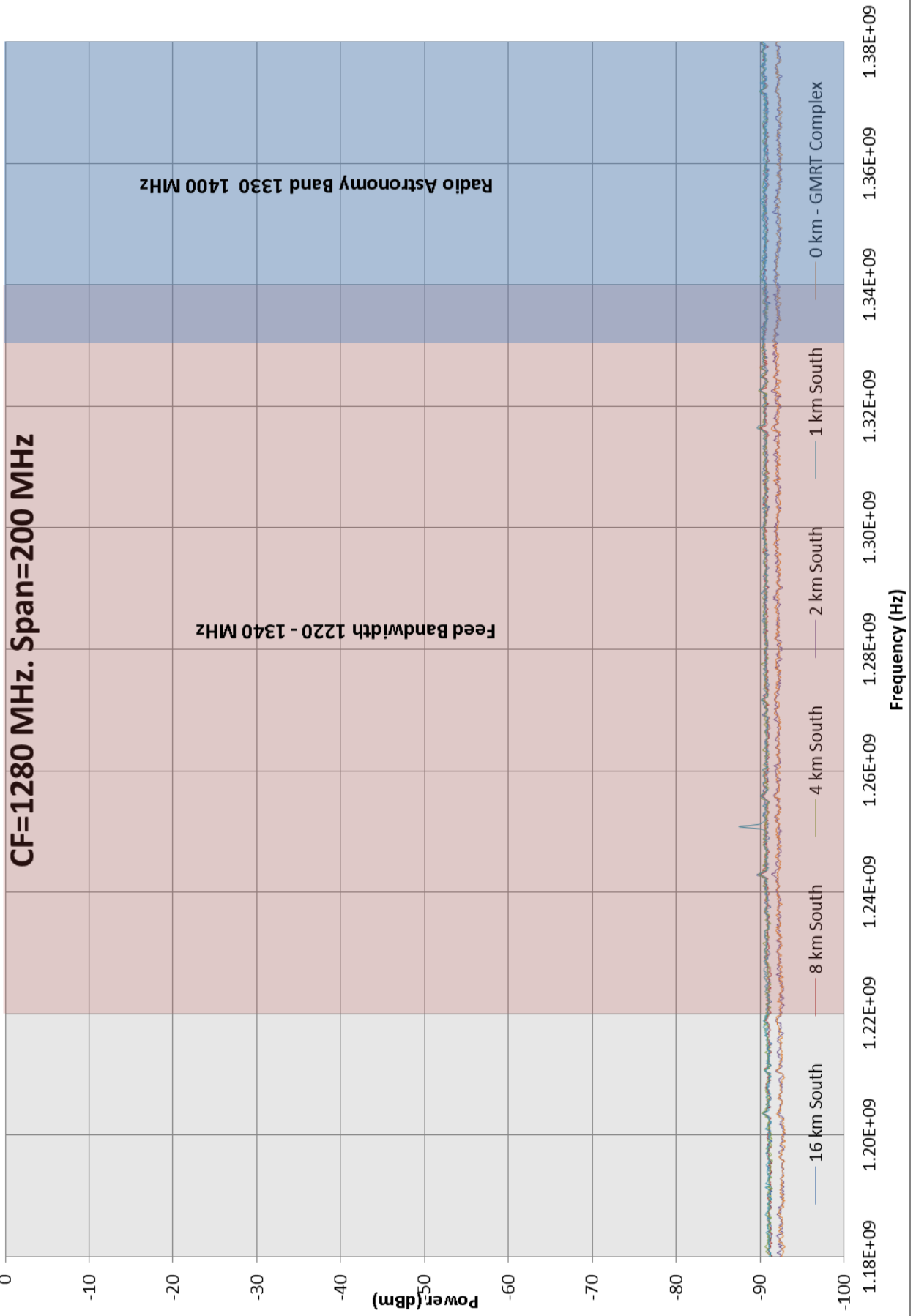
# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.



# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North.

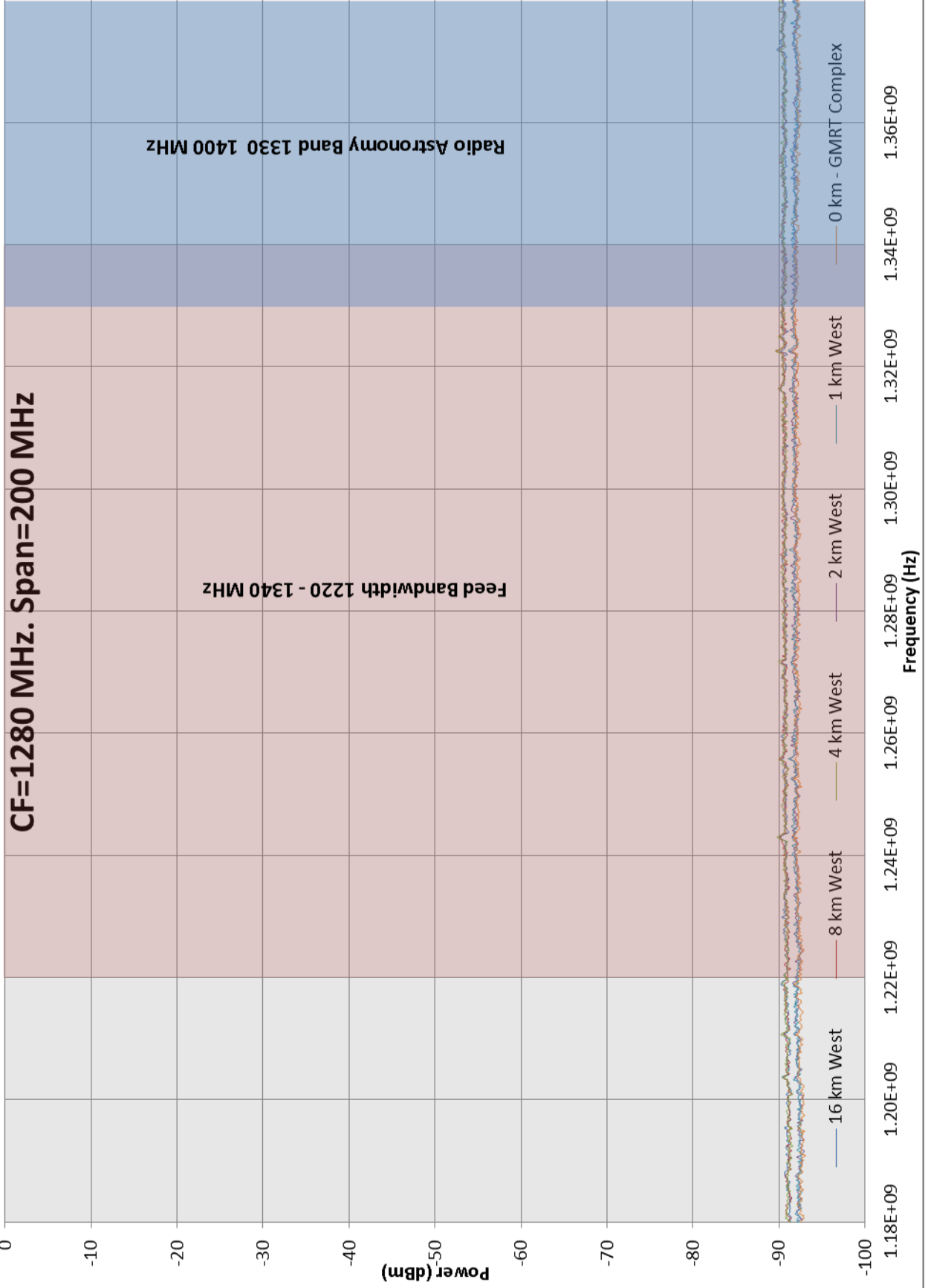


### South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.

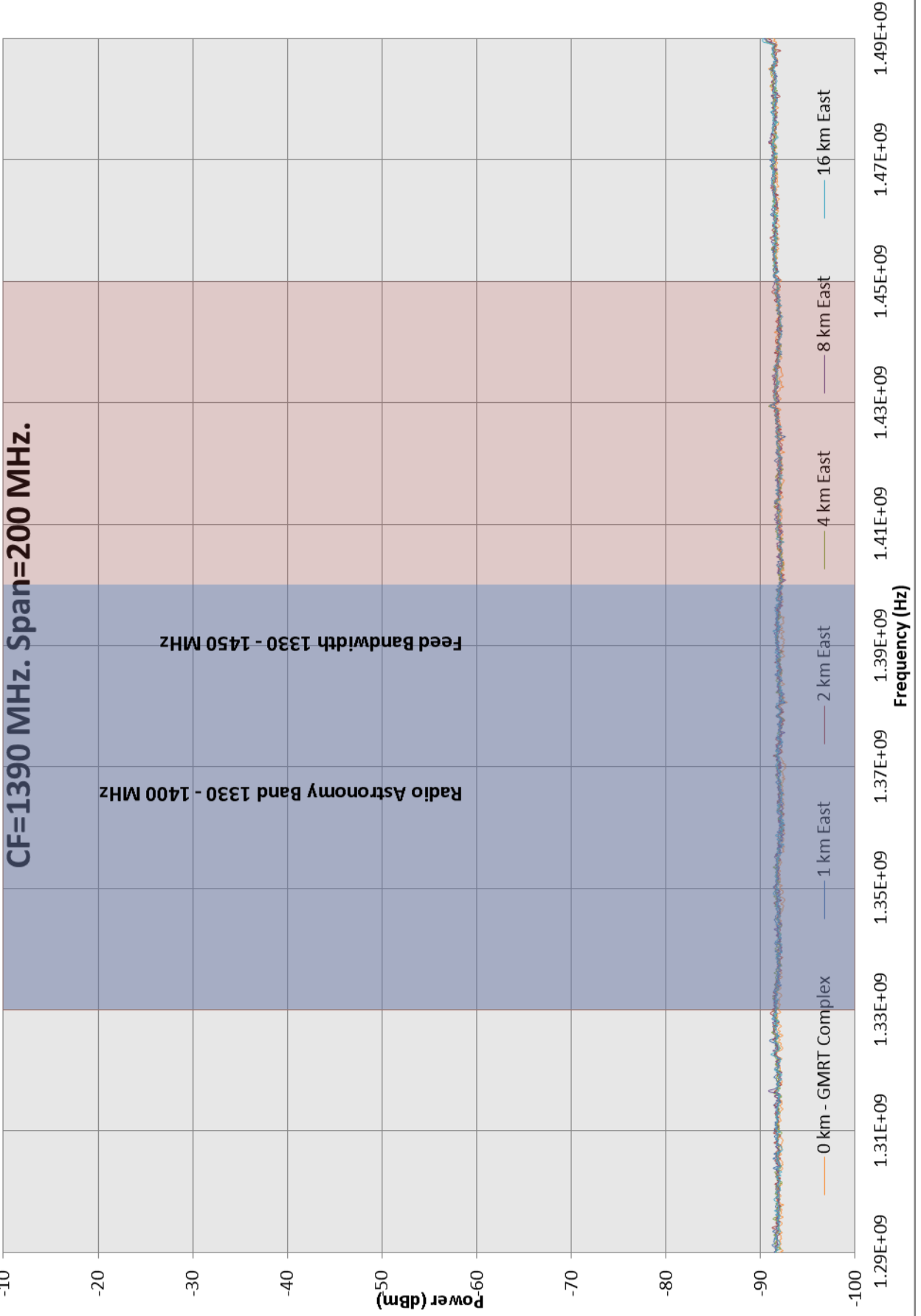




# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.

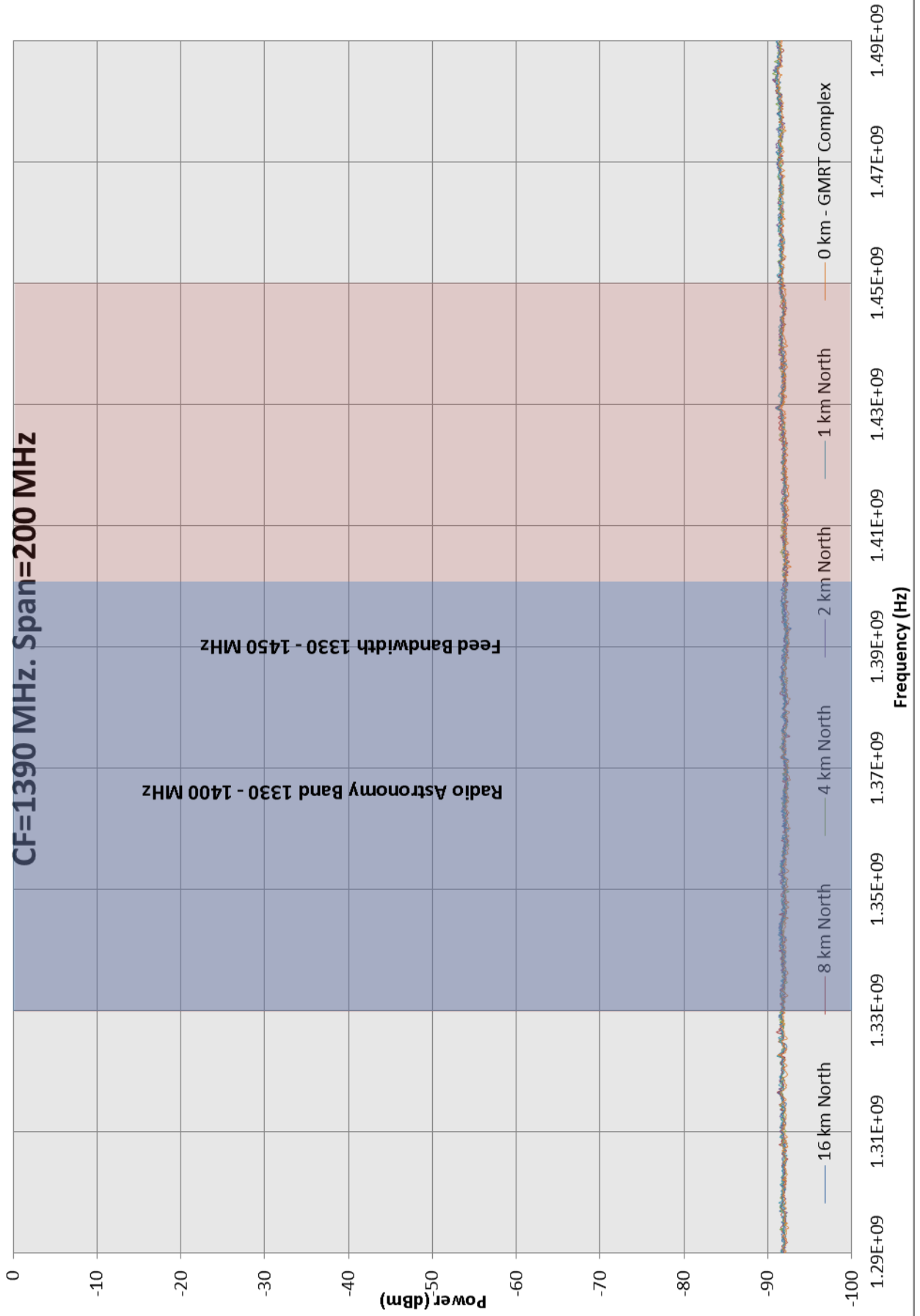


# East of GMRT Building. LPDA Pointing East.



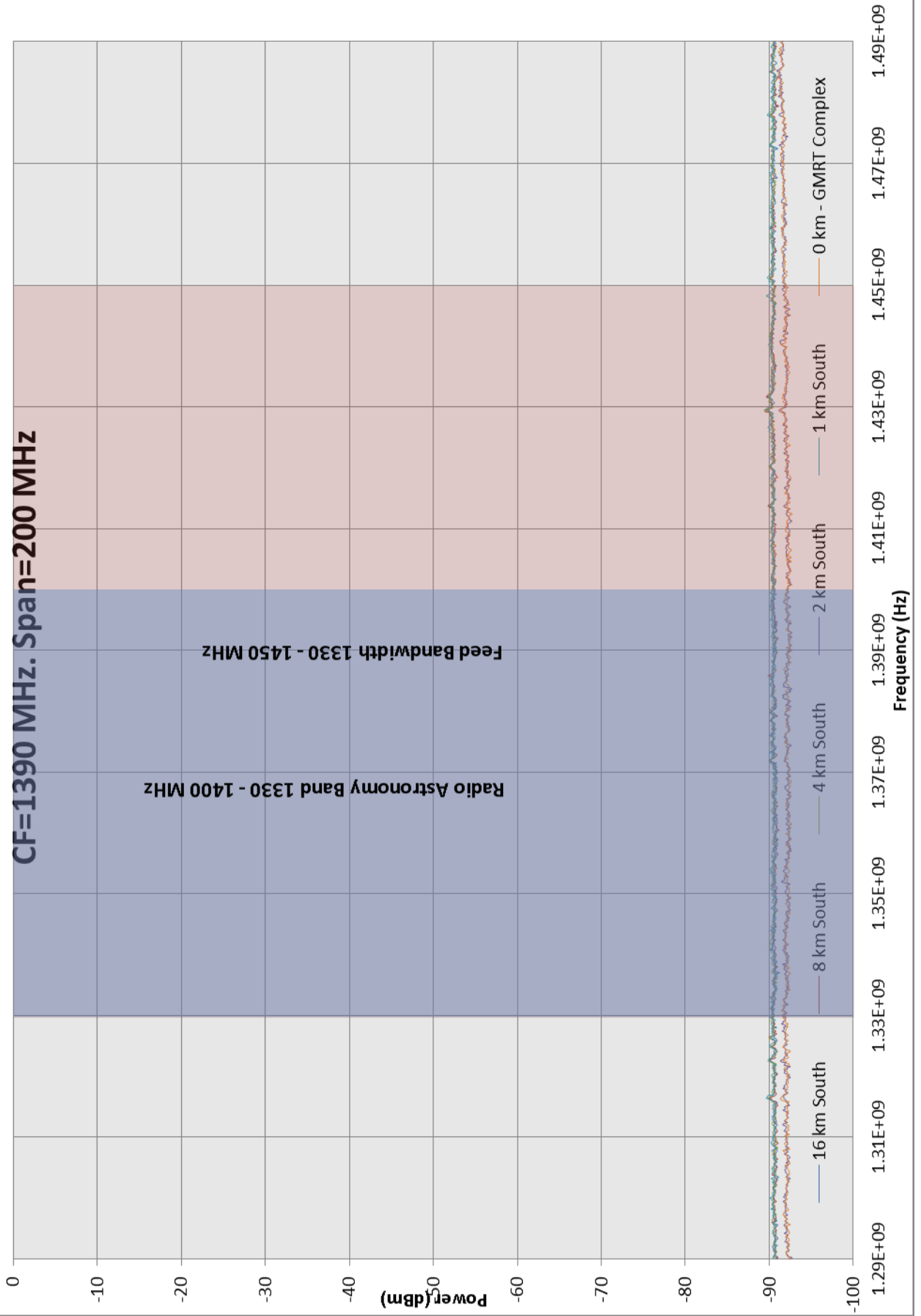
# North of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing North.

CF=1390 MHz. Span=200 MHz

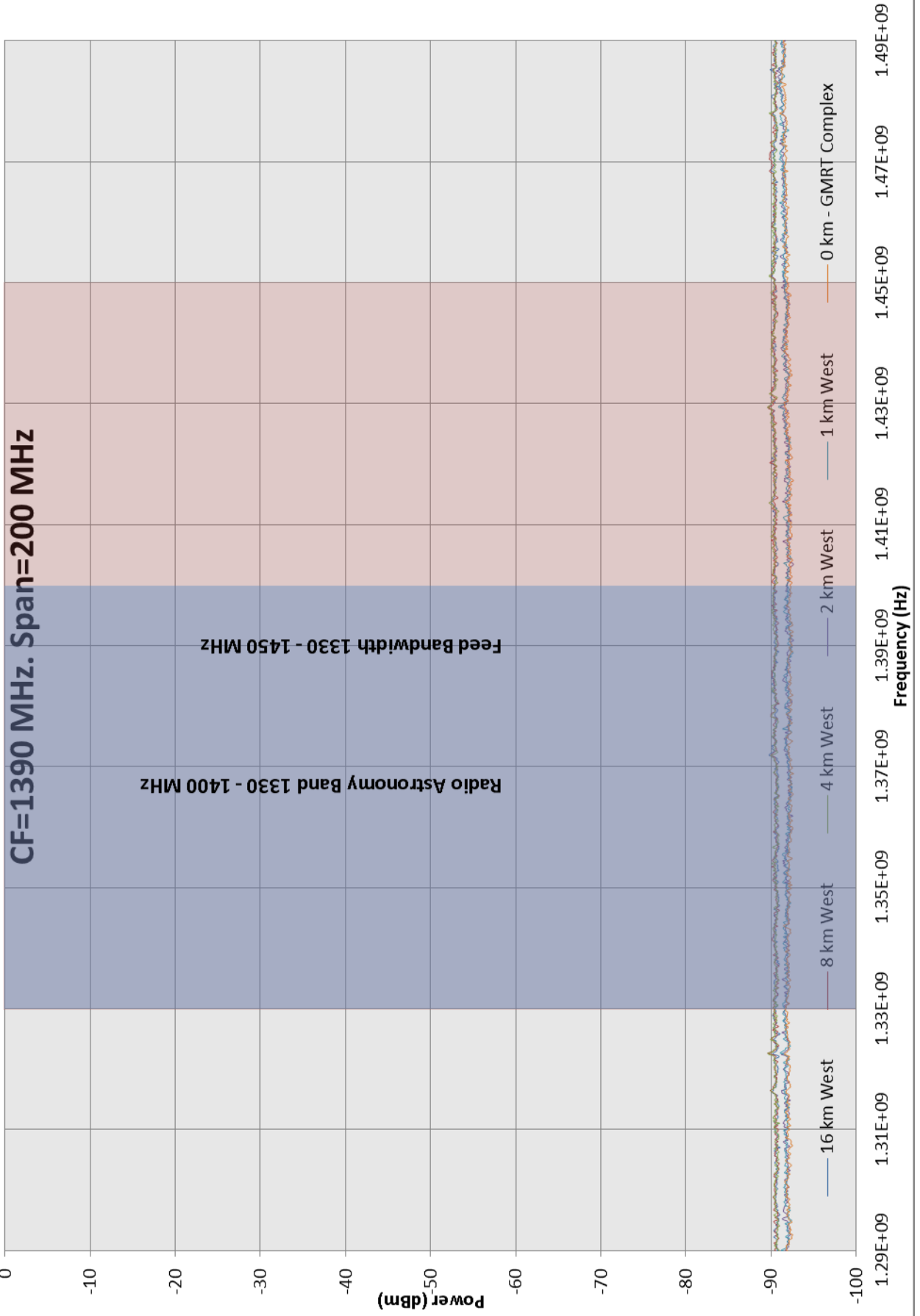


# South of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing South.

CF=1390 MHz. Span=200 MHz



# West of GMRT Building. LPDA pointing West.

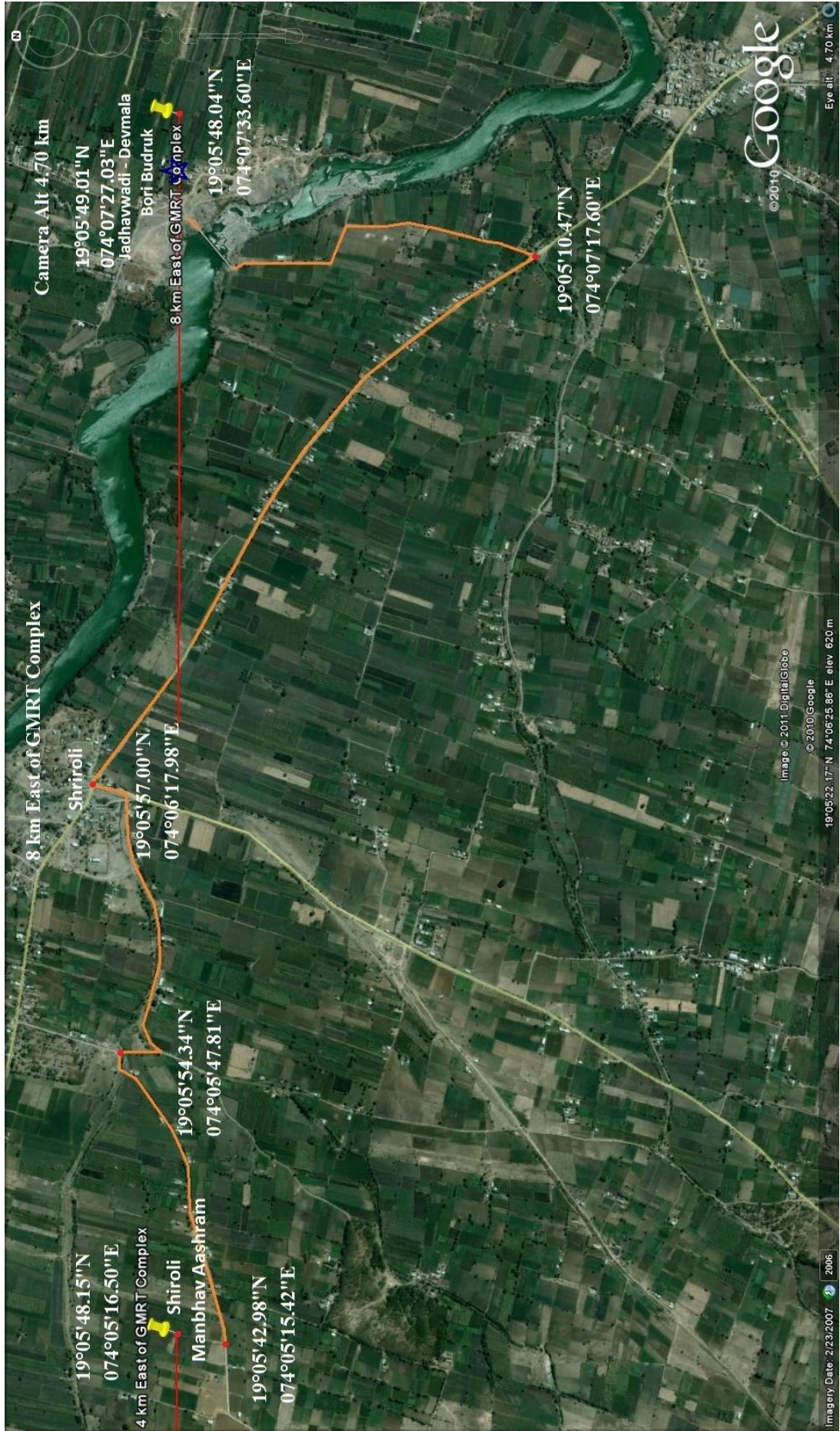


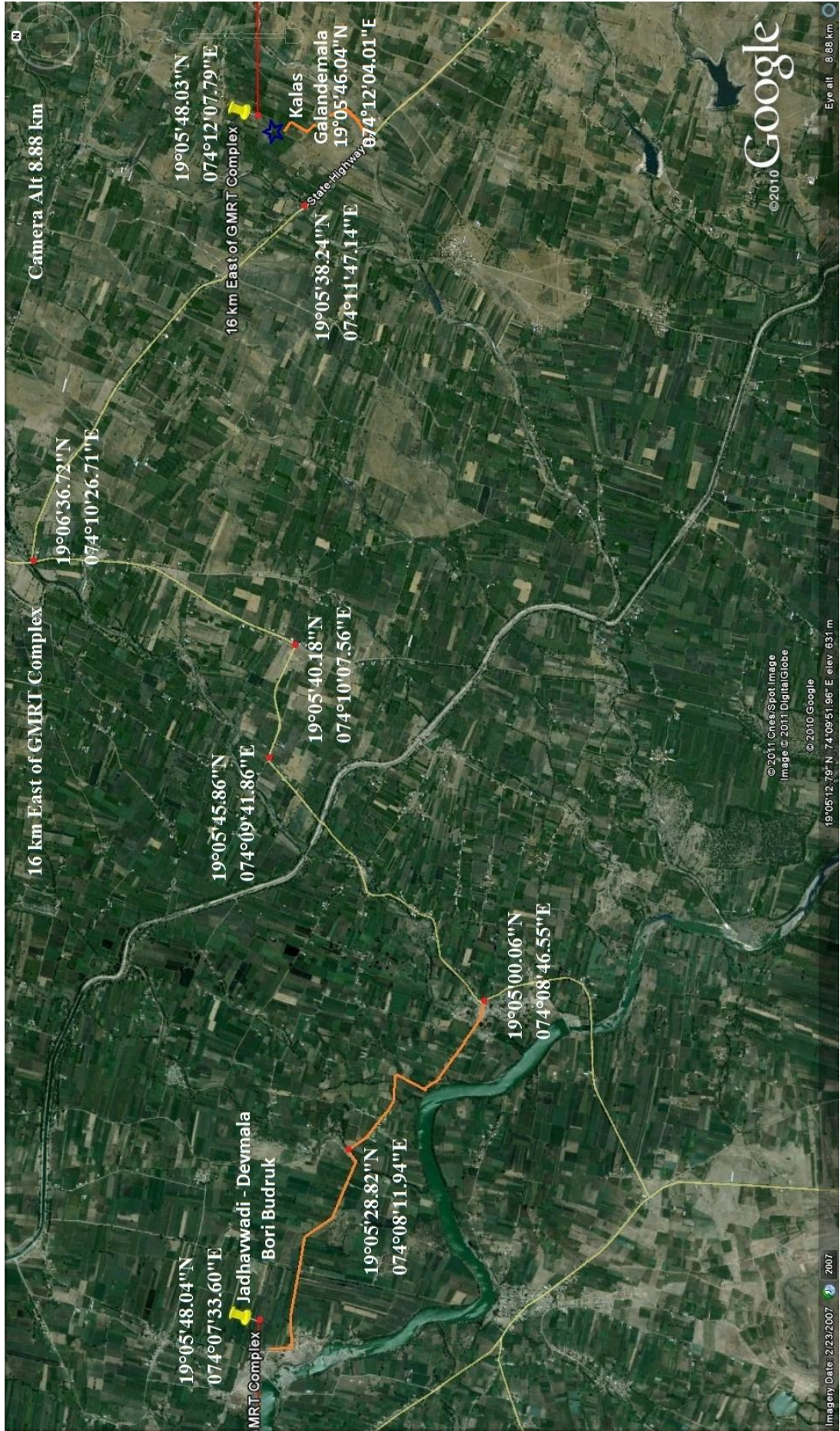


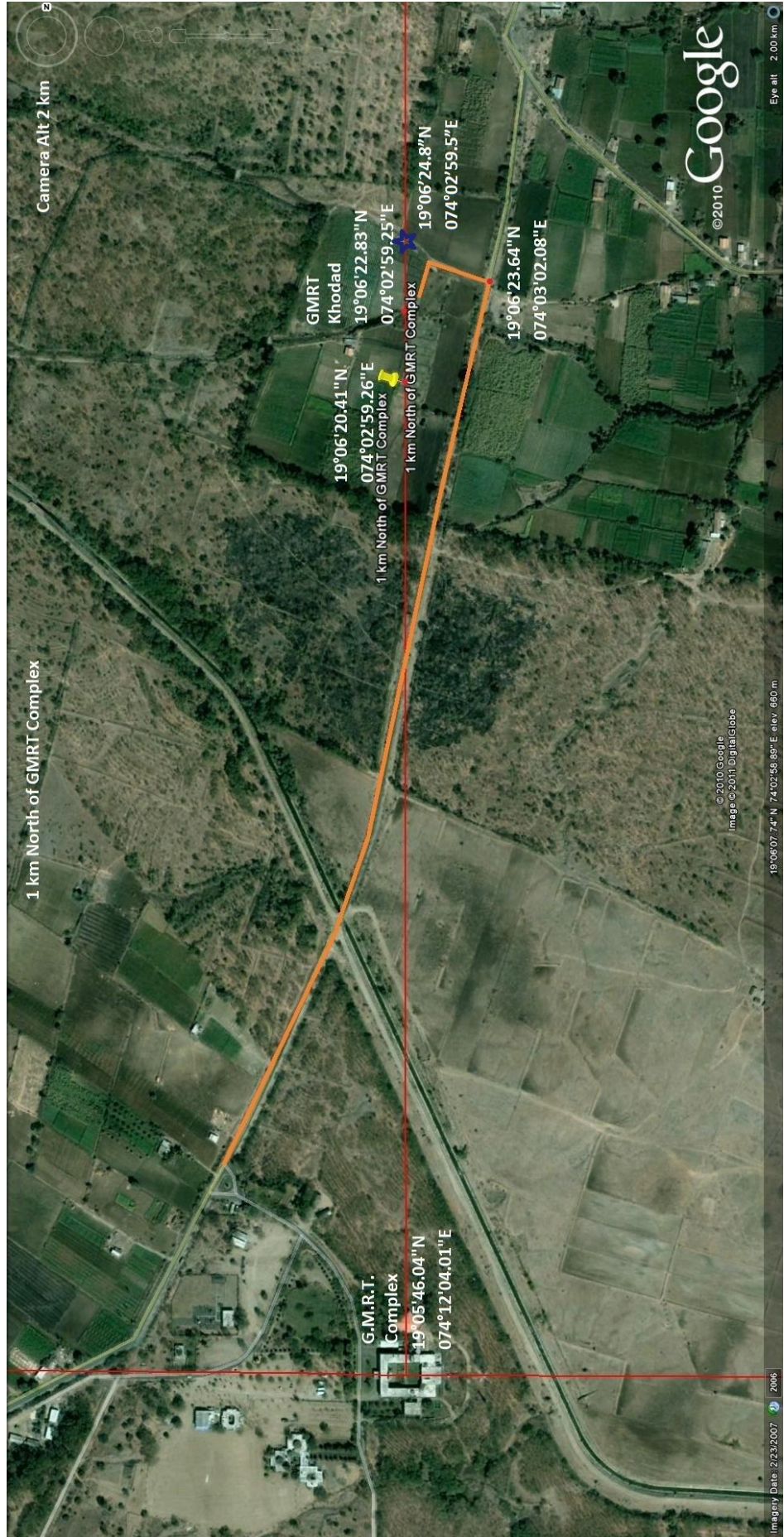




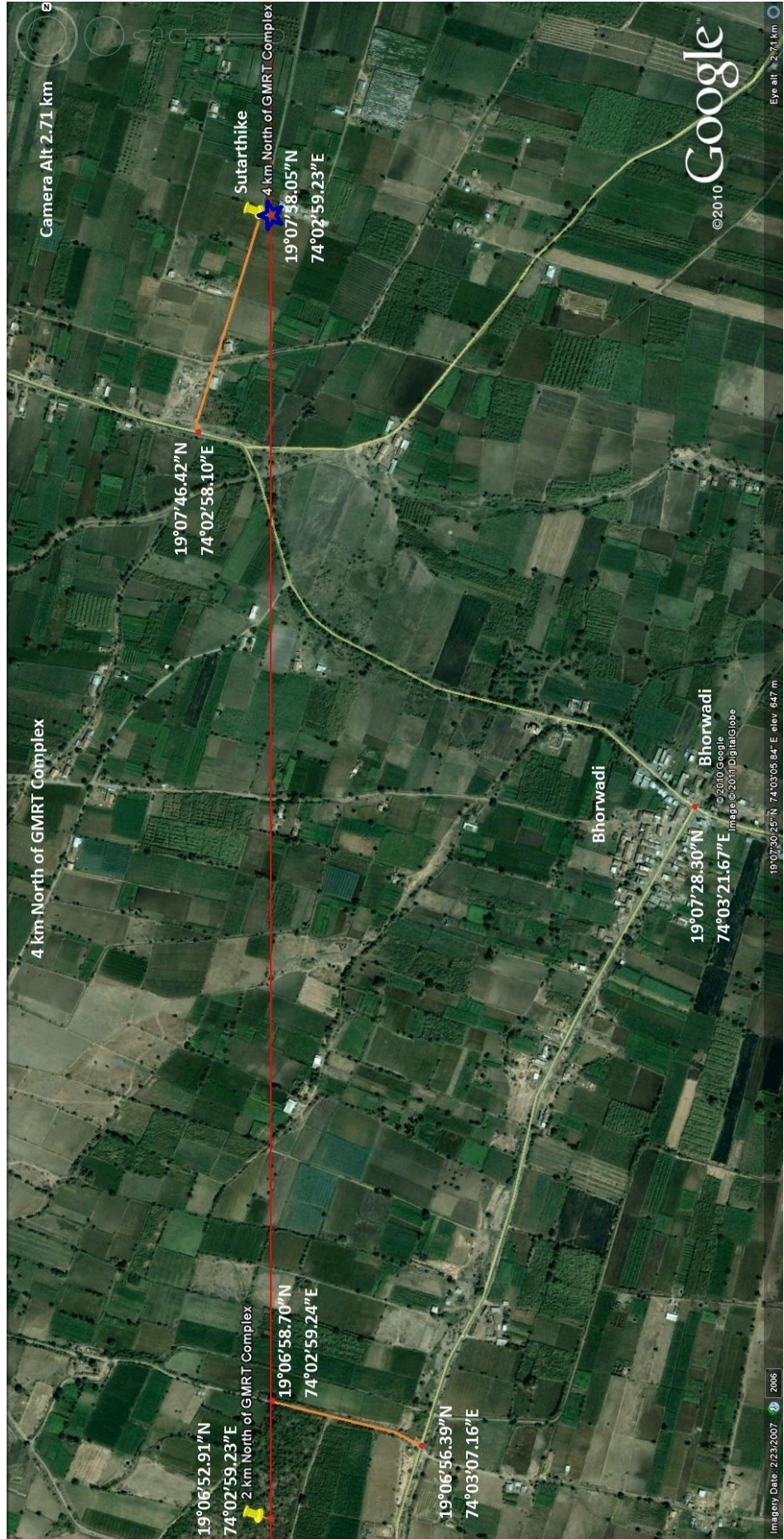




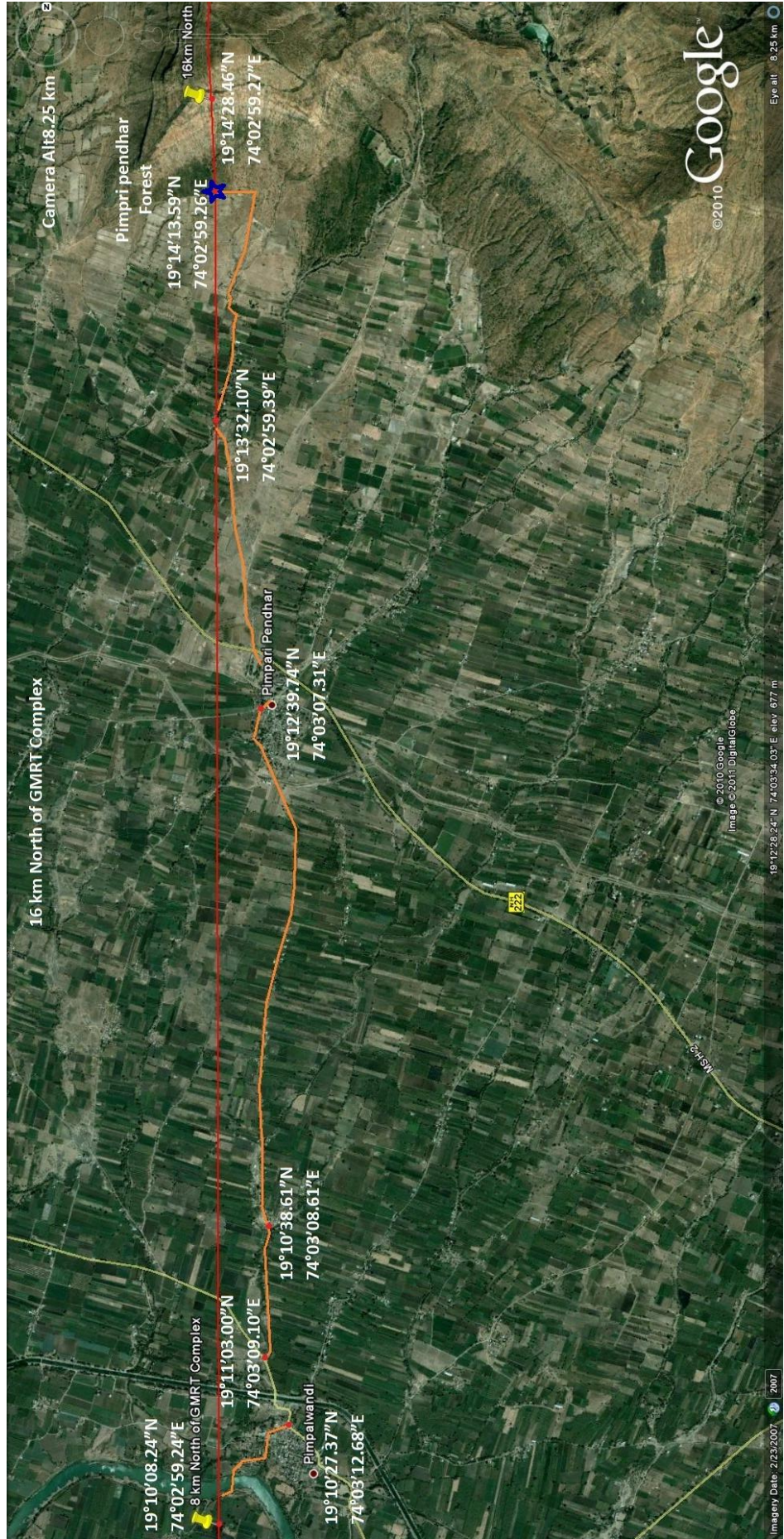






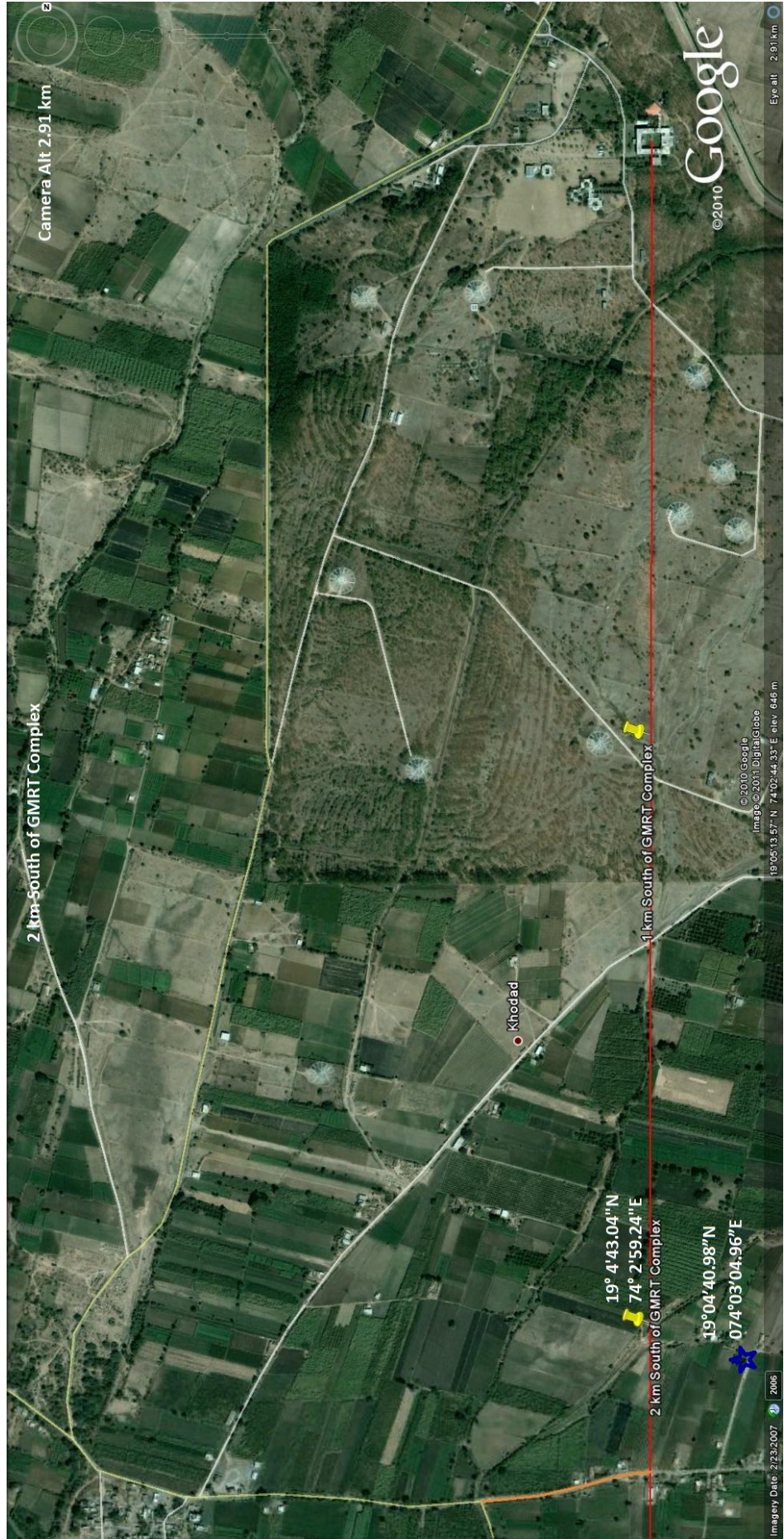




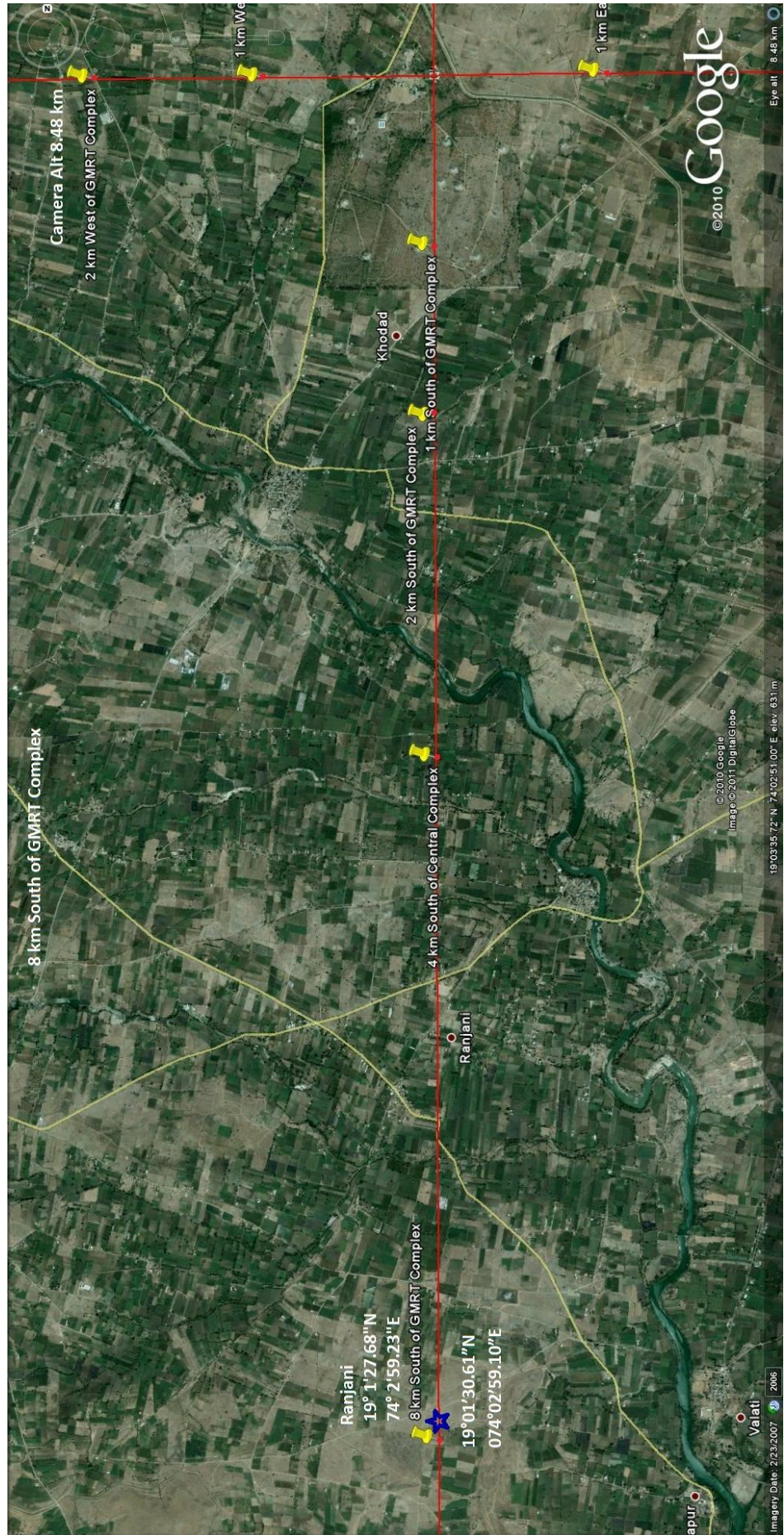


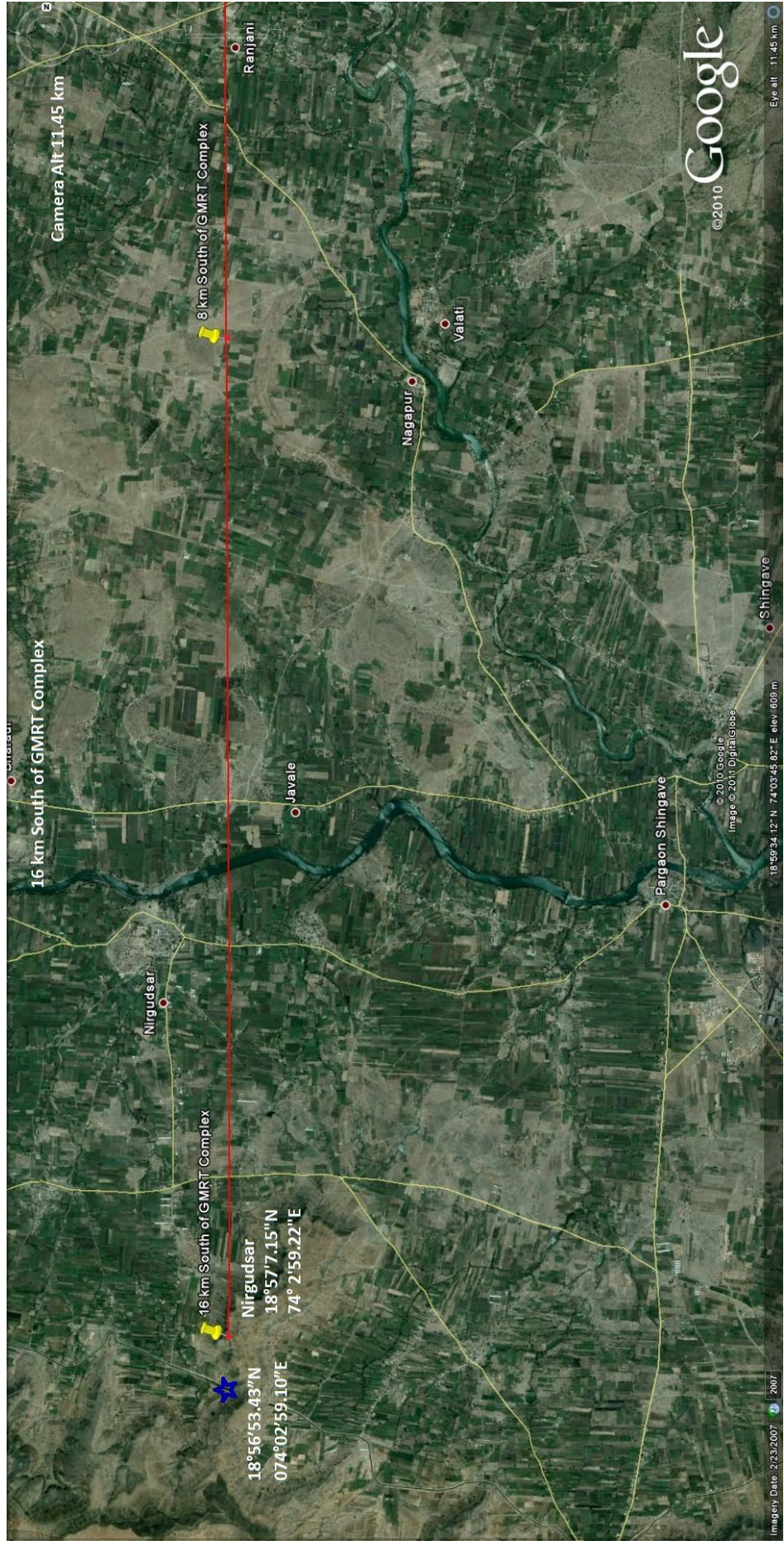


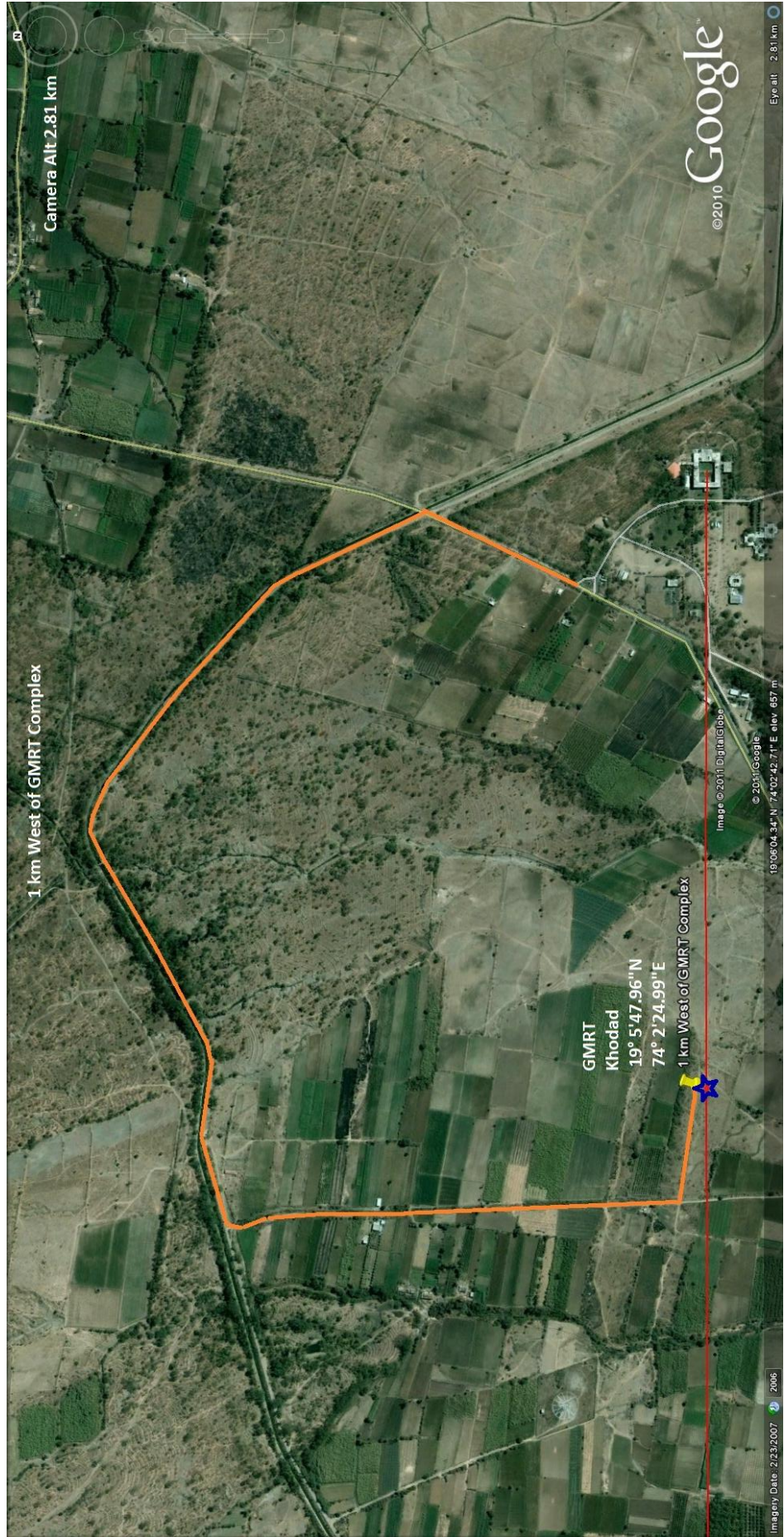




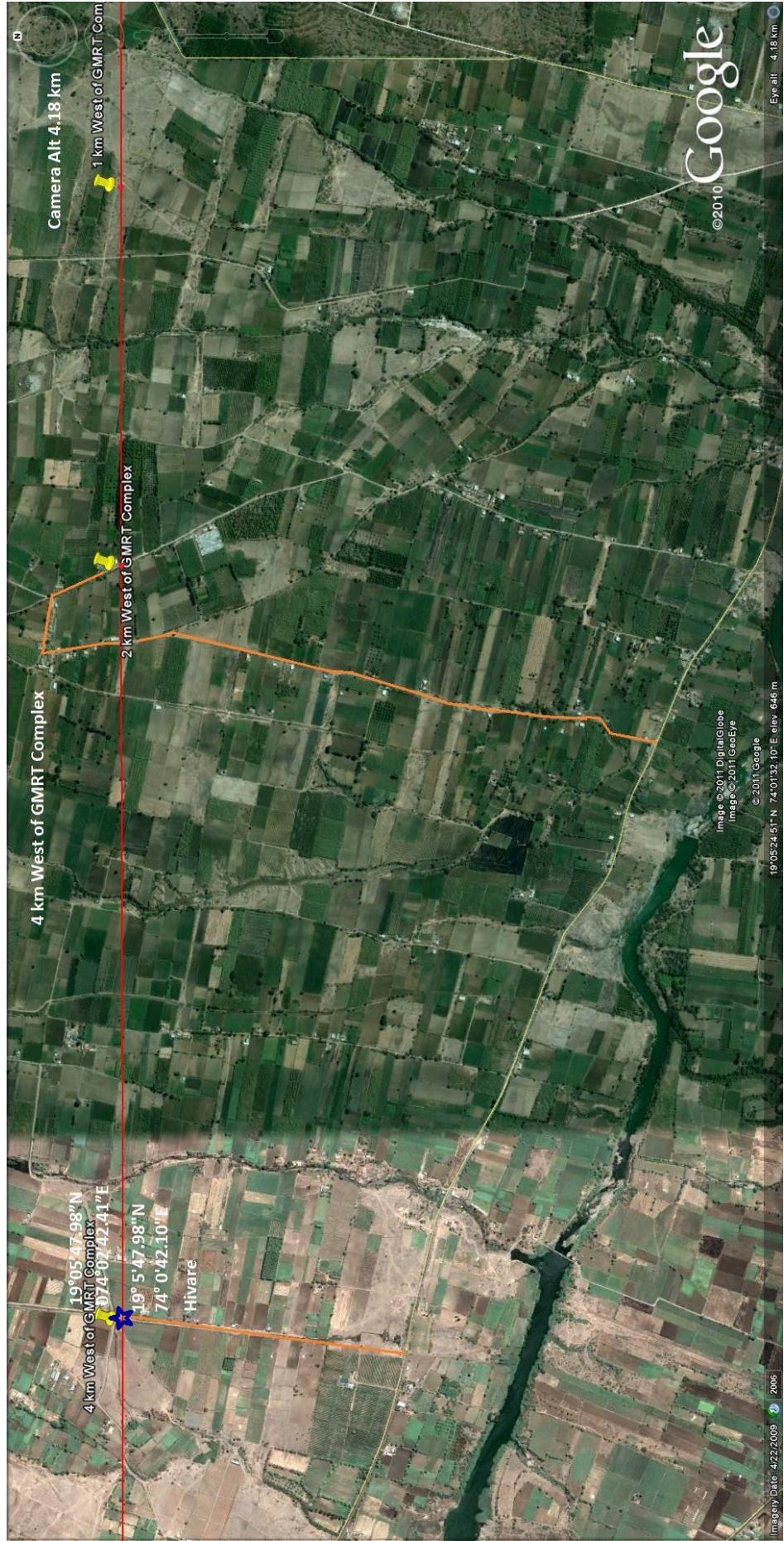












Camera Alt 4.18 km

1 km West of GMRT Com

4 km West of GMRT Complex

2 km West of GMRT Complex

19° 05' 47.98" N

74° 02' 42.41" E

19° 5' 47.98" N

74° 0' 42.10" E

Hivare

4 km West of GMRT Complex

©2010 Google

Eye alt: 4.18 km

Image ©2011 DigitalGlobe

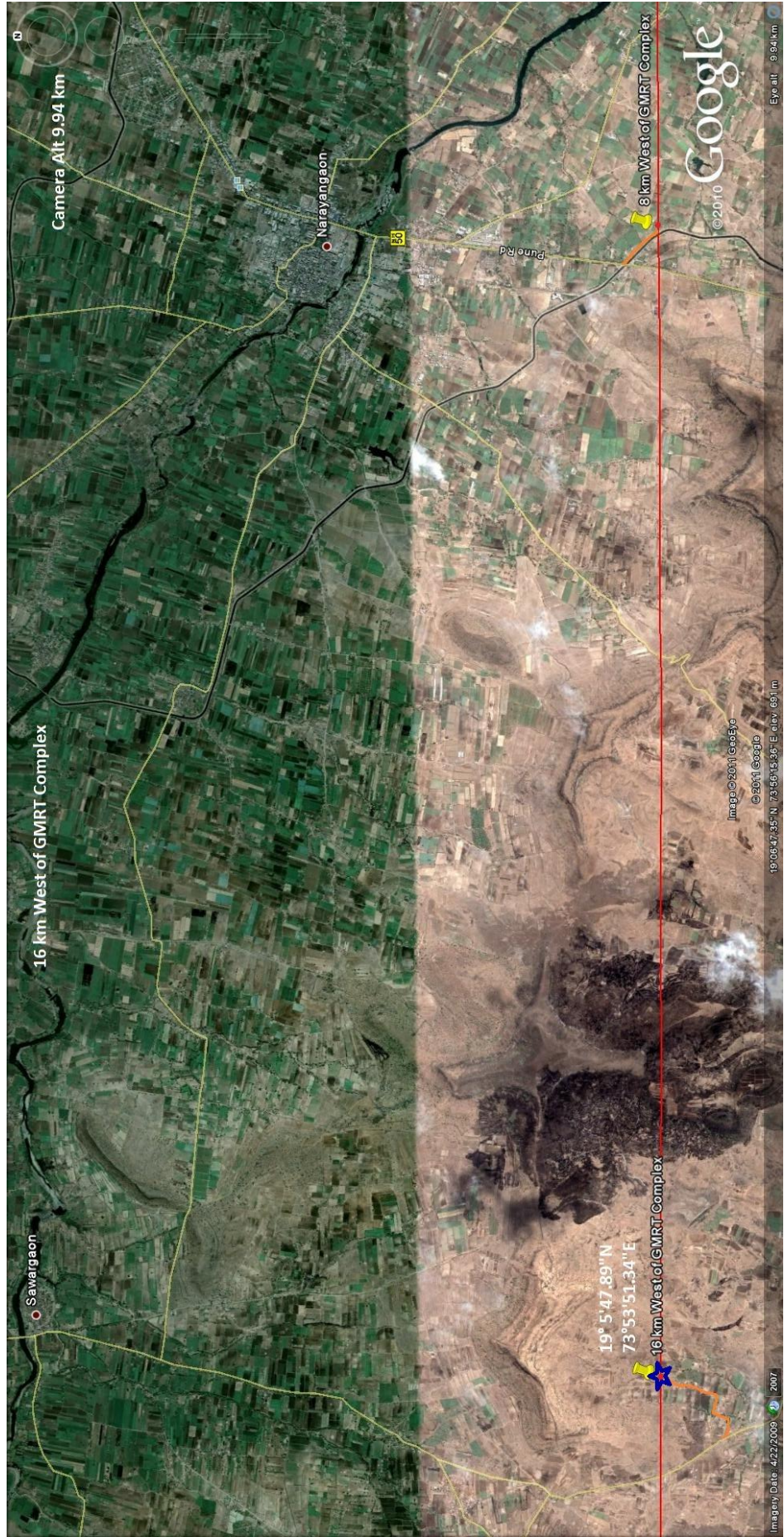
Image ©2011 Google

19° 05' 24.51" N 74° 01' 32.10" E, elev: 646 m

Imagery Date: 4/22/2009 2006







## IV. CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions may be drawn from the graphs:-

1. RFI levels within the central square are much lower than outside.
2. Ambient RFI level increases as one goes away from th GMRT Central Square.
3. Mobile phones are major contributors to RFI generated in and around GMRT.
4. The RFI lines falling within the allocated Radio Astronomy Bands and within the System Bandwidth is highlighted.

5.

## V. FUTURE SCOPE

Further work would be to obtain contour maps for RFI over the area covered during survey using Matlab. The contour maps obtained may be superimposed over Google Earth maps to give a more user friendly and visual appeal to the work.

Presently only points 90 degrees apart were taken for the readings. If more number of points are taken by taking reading at every 45 degrees so as to get directions North-east, South-east, South-west, etc., a detailed contour map may be plotted.

Also it is intended to provide a facility which will allow the user to produce contour maps for any frequency and direction desired by the user. These contour maps may also be superimposed on Google Earth maps for regions covered during the survey around GMRT. This will effectively allow one to locate the direction of incident RFI.

Apart from the work undertaken it is also suggested that if a file containing data of RFI present is made available to observers would help immensely. The data may be taken using a disc cone antenna already operational at GMRT's RFI lab using similar setup (amplifier, spectrum analyser and additionally a computer running software for grabbing the file and storing it for online users or observers to download). The output from discone antenna could be recorded on averaging and maximum hold mode for 7.5 minutes each to give a file of a total of 15 mins of RFI present. This could be done continuously 24x7. The files available would thus not be too bulky (as recording interval is 15 minutes for one set of average and maximum hold files) and may be stored away for archival. Alternatively RFI files for the duration of radio astronomer's observation may be included in the observation files itself for reference.