



Guidelines for Automatic Weather Station Site Auditors

The Royal Meteorological Society Special Interest Group on Meteorological Observing Systems wishes to maximise the quality of meteorological data that is being collected at all UK observing sites. It has suggested that any Automatic Weather Station site manager who is providing data for third parties should have the site audited by a competent person. These guidelines are suggestions for areas that a Chartered Meteorologist or Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society should investigate when conducting such an audit of an AWS site. Auditors may wish to extend their audit if their professional competence suggests that this is desirable. All auditors are expected to follow the code of conduct for an FRMetS or a CMet given on the Society's website 'www.rmets.org'.

a) Instrumental calibration

The auditor should check that all instruments have the appropriate current calibration certification. The auditor should not expect to perform any actual calibrations.

b) Instrument exposure

The auditor should check that where appropriate and in so far as is reasonably practical the instrument exposures meet the descriptions given in the documentation at 'www.rmets.org/weather/observing/index.php'. Limitations in exposure should be noted and brought to the attention of the site manager.

c) Metadata

The auditor should check that the current site layout and instrumentation matches that recorded in the site metadata. The auditor should check that there is a log book of instrumental problems, and notes of when instrument or software replacements and changes have been made.

d) Data

The auditor should check that the data from the site is adequately quality controlled and appropriately archived. If appropriate, data should adhere to established codes and data management practices.