



Guidelines for Automatic Weather Station Site Managers

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. These guidelines are suggestions that an Automatic Weather Station site manager may wish to follow to improve the quality of the data, particularly if the data from the site is being made publicly available. Even if you are the only user of the data, you may find it helpful to follow some of the guidelines, though in some cases it may not be appropriate or practical to do so.

- a) Try and set out your site according to the suggestions given in the documentation at 'www.rmets.org/weather/observing/index.php'. An incorrect exposure for instruments can often invalidate the measurements that they are making.
- b) Try and follow best practice in calibrating the instruments and performing quality control on the measurements. This might be simply comparing your observations with those made at nearby locations, or checking for any spikes in the data.
- c) If you post data on the web, try and provide background information on your site as "Metadata". Make sure that there is suitable information about the quality and appropriateness of the data. A suitable comment might take the form of "These observations are preliminary and are provided for public information only. Any one making use of them should ensure that they are fit for purpose."
- c) If you are asked to provide data for third parties you should make them aware of any limitations of your data. It is then up to the user as to what they do with the information.
- d) If you are providing the data on a commercial basis you should have your site audited by a qualified individual, for example an appropriate specialist Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) or Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society (FRMetS). Guidelines on the things that they will look for during their audit are given in "Guidelines for Automatic Weather Station Site Auditors".