

OBSERVATIONAL ROUTINE

1.1. PROCEDURE AT A FULL SYNOPTIC STATION

1.1.1. Observations made each observing hour. Observations are made each scheduled hour, usually in the following order:

Temperature, dry-bulb

Temperature, wet-bulb (used in conjunction with the dry-bulb reading to derive the vapour pressure, relative humidity and dew-point)

Amount of cloud

Type of cloud

Height of cloud base

Present weather

Visibility

Wind direction and speed

Pressure tendency and characteristic

Atmospheric pressure.

Past weather and any special phenomena occurring either at the time of observation or since the last observation are also recorded.

1.1.2. Additional routine observations made in the United Kingdom at specified hours.

State of ground: three-hourly at 0000, 0300, 0600, . . . 2100 GMT

Extreme temperatures (maximum and minimum): at 0600, 0900, 1800 and 2100 GMT

Grass minimum temperature: at 0900 GMT only

Earth temperatures: at 0900 GMT only (and only at selected stations)

Amount of precipitation: at 0600, 0900, 1800 and 2100 GMT, and at selected stations (included in European Broadcasts) additionally at 0000 and 1200 GMT, and hourly at certain stations

Snow depth: at 0900 GMT (and additionally as required by 9.6.)

Duration of sunshine: see 1.1.4.

1.1.3. Stations whose reports appear in the Daily Weather Report (see *Handbook of weather messages*, Part III⁴) add to their normal synoptic report:

At 0900 GMT

Amount of precipitation

Screen minimum temperature

Grass minimum temperature

State of ground

Duration of sunshine

Two groups of Beaufort letters relating to the period 2100–0300 and 0300–0900 GMT (see *Handbook of weather messages*, Part III)