

The observations and readings are undertaken at 09.00 GMT each day. The readings consist of the following:

Total Cloud

The total cloud cover is assessed by observation and recorded in eighths (oktas) and is a number between 0 and 9. 0 indicates no cloud and 8 means no blue sky. 9 is used if the sky is obscured through fog etc.

Wind Direction

Wind direction is estimated using the 16 main compass points. It is converted into degrees equivalent from true north and is entered as a three figure number. If there is no wind an entry of 000 is made. The table below reproduces the points and degree equivalents.

Code for Wind Direction	
Compass point (from which the wind is blowing)	Coded Entry
North	360
North-north-east	020
North-east	050
East-north-east	070
East	090
East-south-east	110
South-east	140
South-south-east	160
South	180
South-south-west	200
South-west	230
West-south-west	250
West	270
West-north-west	290
North-west	320
North-north-west	340
All directions are from true (non-magnetic) North	

Wind Speed

The wind speed is estimated using the Beaufort Scale and is converted into the equivalent speed in knots. If there is no wind 00 is recorded. The table below lists the codes for wind speed.

Wind Speed		
CODE FOR WIND SPEED Specification	Beaufort force	Coded entry (equivalent at 10 m in knots)
CALM Smoke rises vertically	0	00
LIGHT AIR Direction of wind shown by smoke drift but not by wind vanes	1	02
LIGHT BREEZE Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, ordinary vane moved by wind	2	05
GENTLE BREEZE Leaves and small twigs in constant motion, wind extends light flag	3	09
MODERATE BREEZE Raises dust and loose paper, small branches are moved	4	13
FRESH BREEZE Small trees in leaf begin to sway, crested wavelets form on inland waters	5	19
STRONG BREEZE Large branches in motion, umbrellas used with difficulty	6	24
NEAR GALE Whole trees in motion, inconvenience felt when walking against wind (Force 7 is not regarded as a gale)	7	30
GALE Breaks twigs off trees, generally impedes progress	8	37
STRONG GALE Slight structural damage occurs (chimney pots and slates removed)	9	44
STORM Seldom experienced inland, trees uprooted, considerable structural damage occurs	10	52

VIOLENT STORM Very rarely experienced, accompanied by widespread damage	11	60
HURRICANE Extremely rare, widespread damage and loss of life	12	68