



Basic Climatological Station Metadata
Current status

Metadata compiled: 26 JUL 2025

Station: ONSLOW AIRPORT

Bureau of Meteorology station number: 005017
Bureau of Meteorology district name: Fortescue
State: WA

World Meteorological Organization number: 95305
Identification: YOLW

Network Classification:
Station purpose: Synoptic
Automatic Weather Station: Almos



Current Station Location				
Latitude	Decimal	-21.6689	Hour Min Sec	21°40'8"S
Longitude	Decimal	115.1092	Hour Min Sec	115°6'33"E
Station Height	10.5 m	Barometer Height	11 m	
Method of station geographic positioning			GPS	

Year opened: 1940
Status: Open

Station summary

No summary for this site has been written as yet.

Historical metadata for this site has not been quality controlled for accuracy and completeness. Data other than current station information, particularly earlier than 1998, should be considered accordingly. Information may not be complete, as backfilling of historical data is incomplete.



Basic Climatological Station Metadata
Current status

Station: ONSLOW AIRPORT		Location: ONSLOW AIRPORT			State: WA	
Bureau No.: 005017	WMO No.: 95305	Aviation ID: YOLW	Opened: 01 Aug 1940		Current Status: Still open	
Latitude: -21.6689	Longitude: 115.1092	Elevation: 10.5 m	Barometer Elev: 11 m	Metadata compiled: 26 JUL 2025		

Observation summary

The table below indicates the approximate completeness of the record for individual element types within the Australian Data Archive for Meteorology. For elements not listed see the note below.



DAILY DATA HOLDINGS

OBSERVATION TYPE	FIRST MONTH	LAST MONTH	COMPLETENESS (% estimate)	SINGLE DAYS MISSED	FULL MONTHS MISSED
EVAPORATION	SEP 1966	FEB 1975	94.5	16	5
EVAPORIMETER - MAXIMUM WATER TEMPERATURE	NOV 1968	JUL 1974	90.0	118	3
GROUND MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	DEC 1965	FEB 1975	98.3	55	0
MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	AUG 1940	JUN 2025	69.0	231	308
MAXIMUM WIND GUST SPEED	JUL 1942	JUN 2025	65.4	292	335
WIND RUN ABOVE 10 FEET	JAN 2003	JUN 2025	96.9	254	0
WIND RUN BELOW 10 FEET	NOV 1968	FEB 1975	97.9	48	0
RAINFALL	AUG 1940	JUL 2025	65	N/A	N/A

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HOURLY DATA HOLDINGS - from 1 to 24 observations per day

OBSERVATION TYPE	FIRST MONTH	LAST MONTH	COMPLETENESS (% estimate)	FREQUENCY average daily	SINGLE DAYS MISSED	FULL MONTHS MISSED
AIR TEMPERATURE	AUG 1940	JUN 2025	71.0	9.6	177	275
DEW POINT	AUG 1940	JUN 2025	70.1	9.6	234	282
MEAN SEA LEVEL PRESSURE	JUL 1951	JUN 2025	67.6	10.5	108	275
PRECIPITATION SINCE LAST OBS	JAN 1960	JUL 1999	37.3	5.7	396	280
TOTAL CLOUD AMOUNT	AUG 1940	JUN 2025	42.5	5.5	1452	521
WIND SPEED	AUG 1940	JUN 2025	71.1	9.6	166	275

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RAINFALL INTENSITY DATA HOLDINGS

OBSERVATION TYPE	FIRST MONTH	LAST MONTH	COMPLETENESS (% estimate)	SINGLE DAYS MISSED	FULL MONTHS MISSED
RAINFALL INTENSITY	MAY 1961	NOV 1973	72.2	212	35

ONE-MINUTE DATA HOLDINGS

OBSERVATION TYPE	FIRST MONTH	LAST MONTH	COMPLETENESS (% estimate)	FREQUENCY average daily	SINGLE DAYS MISSED	FULL MONTHS MISSED
ALL ELEMENTS	OCT 2010	JUL 2025	99.6	1433.6	N/A	0

HALF-HOURLY DATA HOLDINGS

OBSERVATION TYPE	FIRST MONTH	LAST MONTH	COMPLETENESS (% estimate)	FREQUENCY average daily	SINGLE DAYS MISSED	FULL MONTHS MISSED
ALL ELEMENTS	NOV 1997	JUL 2025	73.3	35.2	N/A	0

THERE ARE NO UPPER-AIR EDT DATA HOLDINGS

Holdings calculated up to 01 Jul 2025

The % complete figure is the completeness of observations averaged over all months of record, for the given station and observation type, taking gaps into account. For hourly holdings, the completeness is relative to the maximum number of daily observations for the site each month, and is therefore an estimate. For daily holdings, the completeness figure shown is exact.

The single days missed figure is the total number of days for which no observation was received, not including full missed months. The full months missed figure is the total of full month gaps over the period of record. Where an element is not included assumptions can generally be made about availability, and the list to use has been suggested below.

Unlisted element

- Minimum air temperature
- Wet bulb temperature
- Soil temperature at 20, 50 & 100cm
- Relative humidity
- Minimum temp. of water in evaporimeter
- Visual observations eg. weather, visibility
- Sea related observations

Listed element to use

- Maximum air temperature
- Dew point
- 10cm soil temperature
- Dew point
- Evaporimeter - max water temp
- Total cloud amount
- Sea state

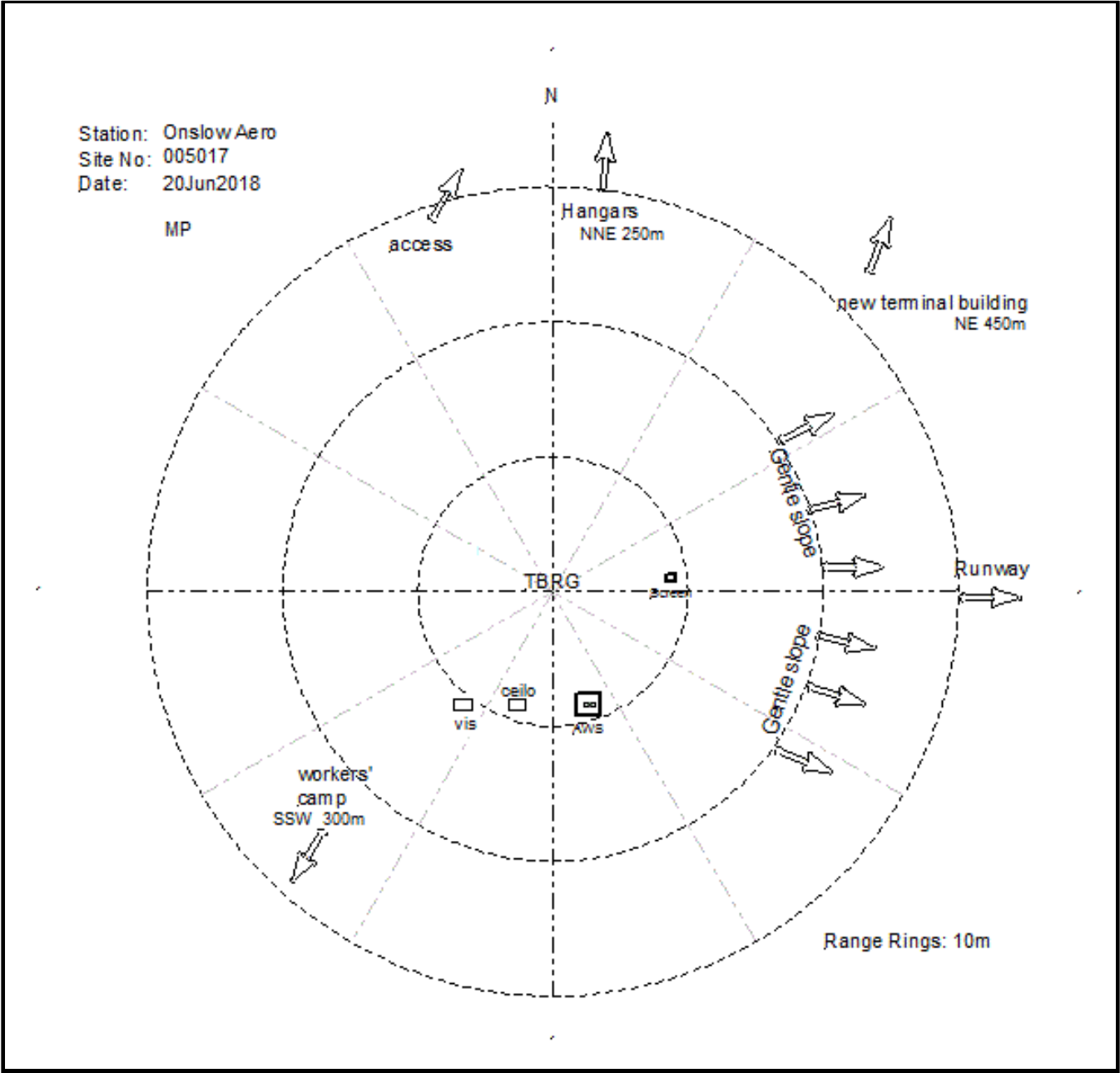
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Extended Climatological Station Metadata
All History

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Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
20/06/2018(most recent)



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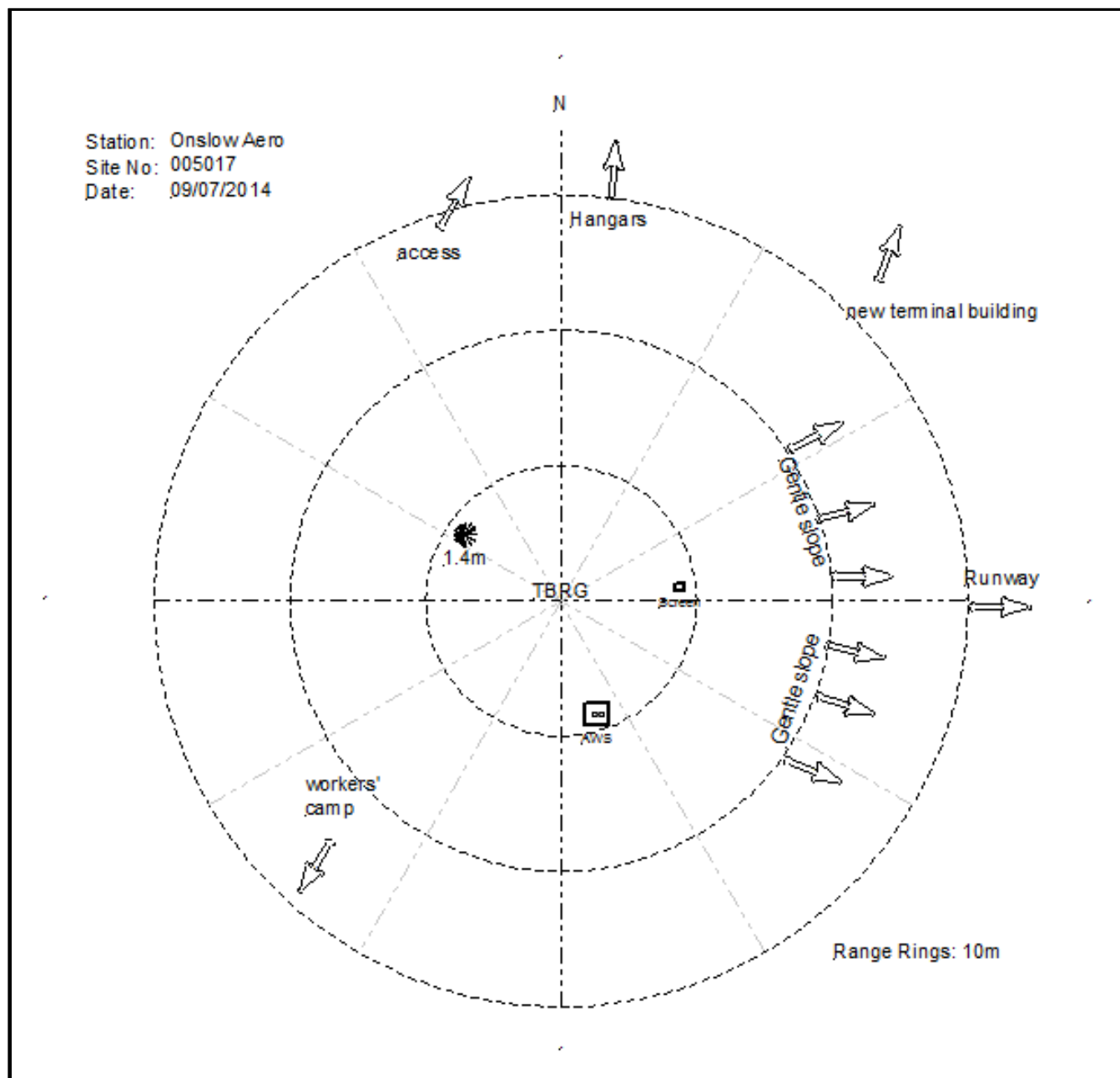
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All History

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10/07/2014



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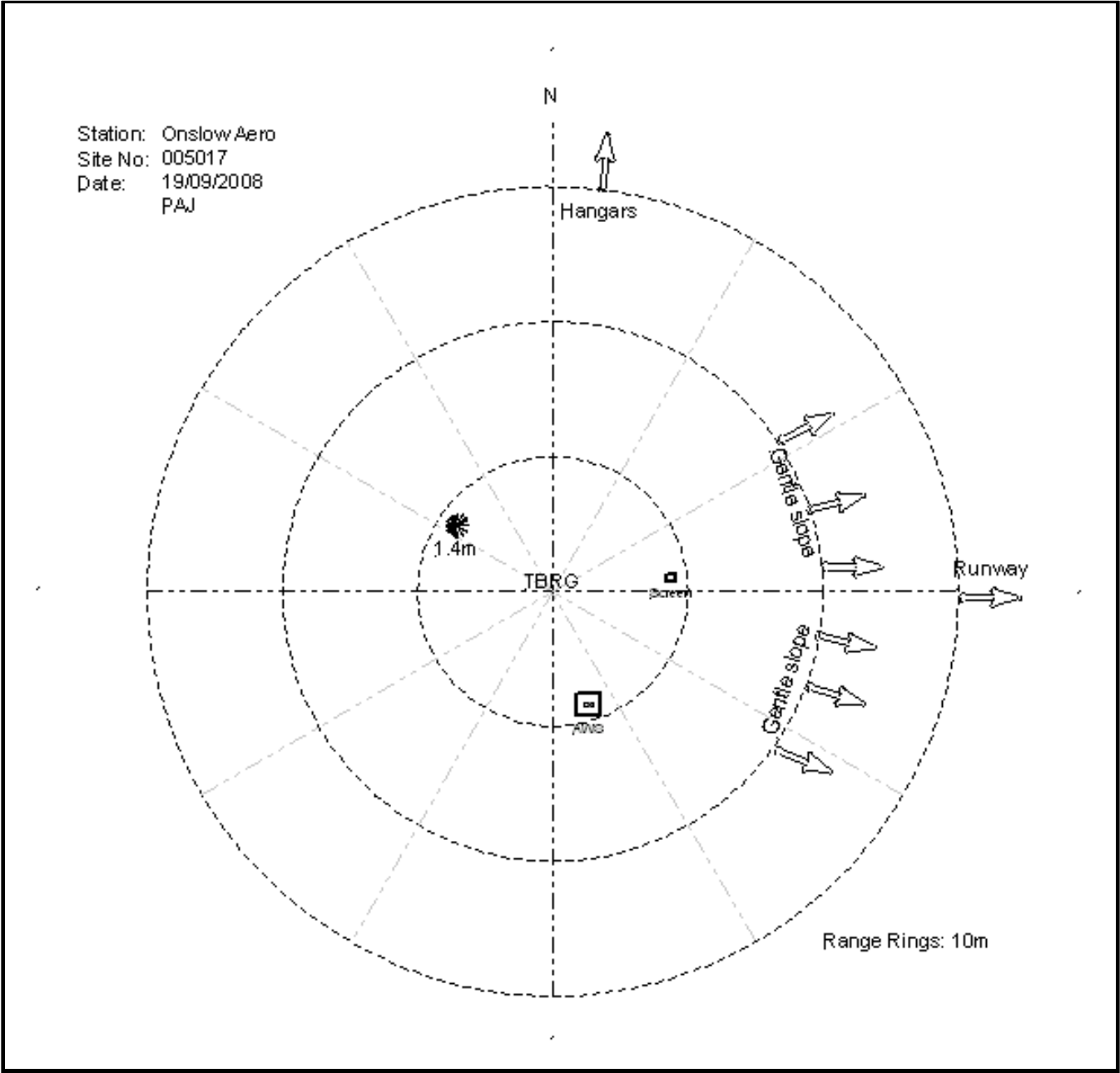
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Metadata compiled:							26 JUL 2025

Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
19/09/2008



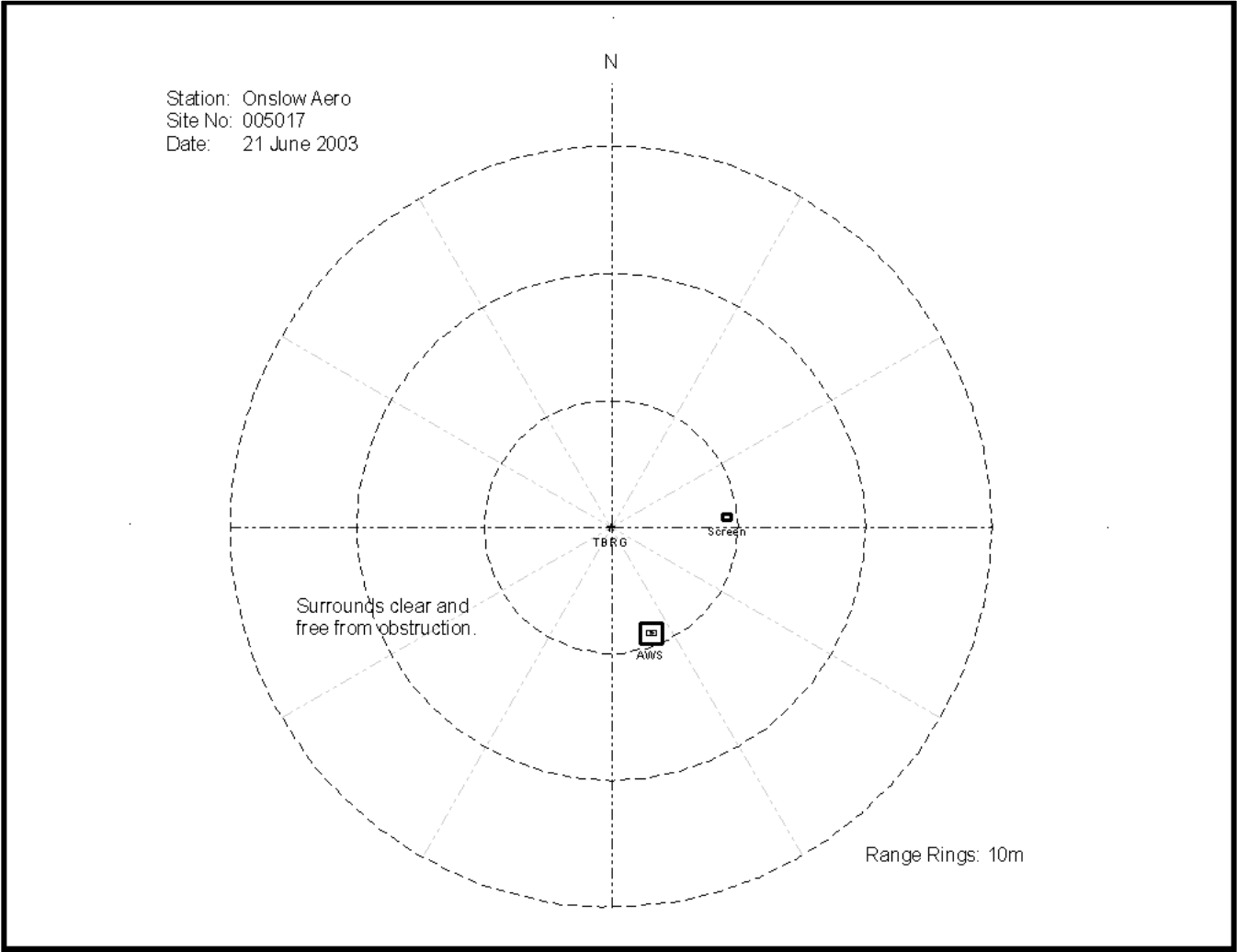
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Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
21/06/2003



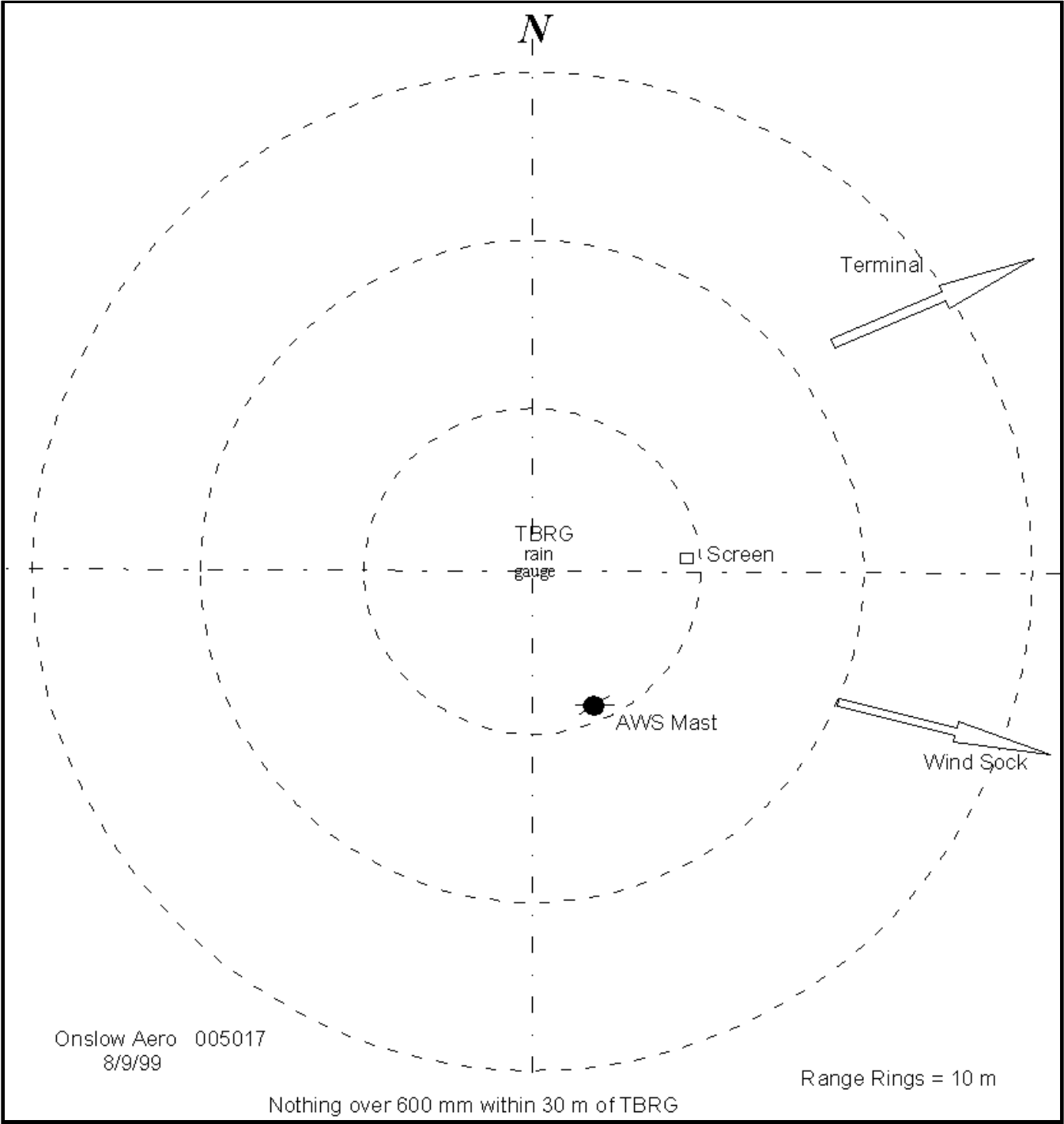
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Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
08/09/1999



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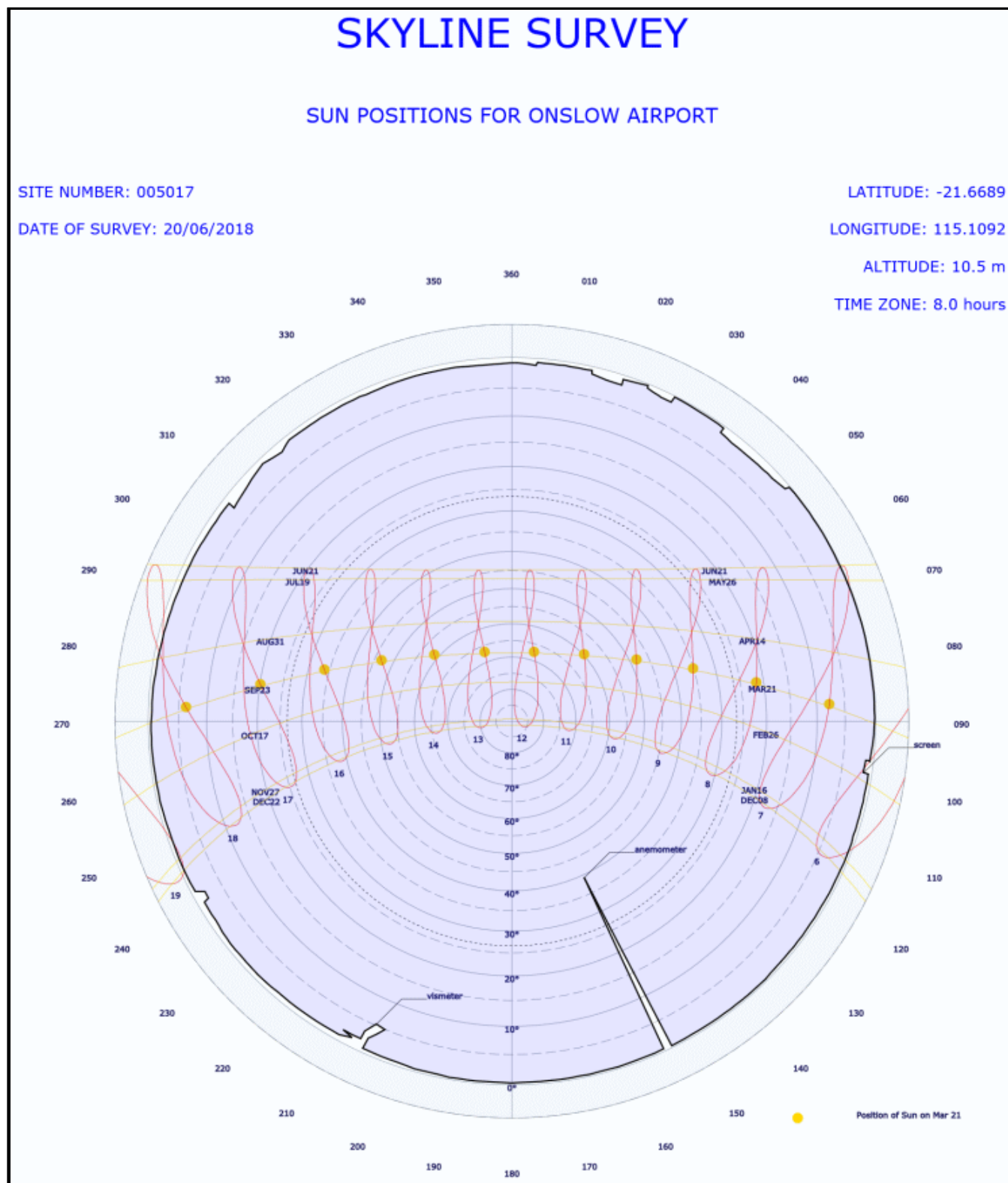
Extended Climatological Station Metadata

All History

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Skyline Diagram

20/06/2018(most recent)



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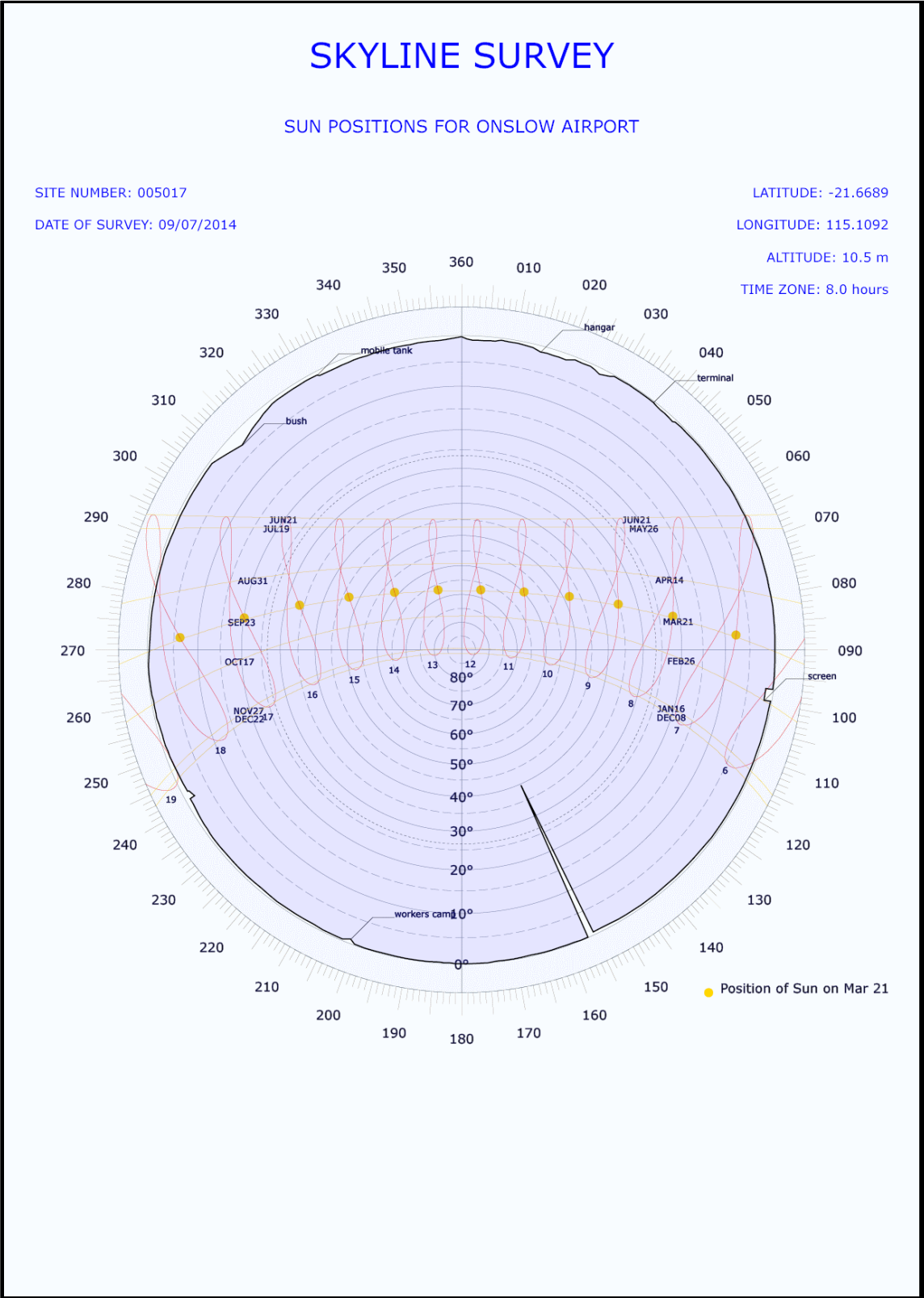
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Skyline Diagram
10/07/2014



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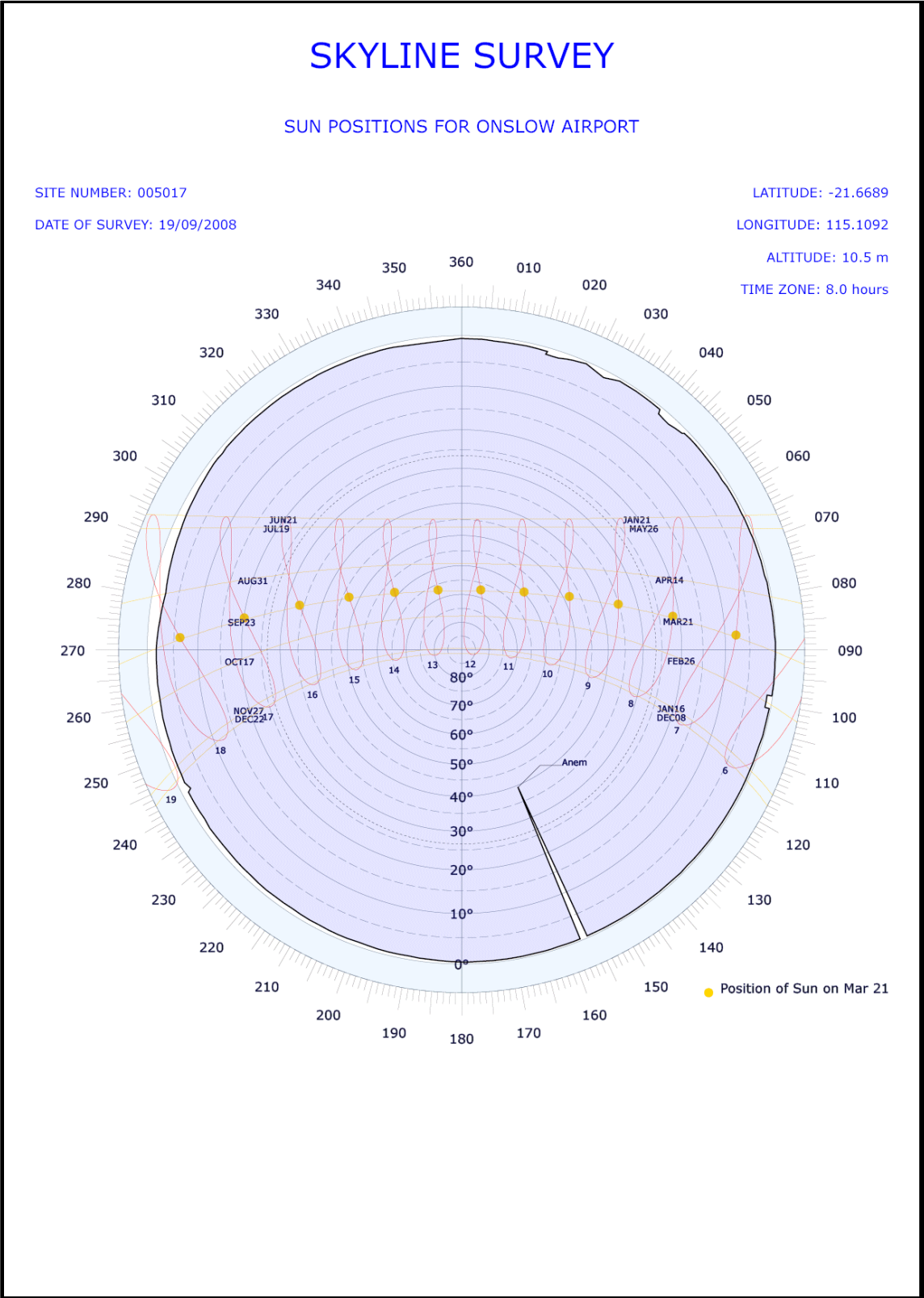
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Skyline Diagram
19/09/2008



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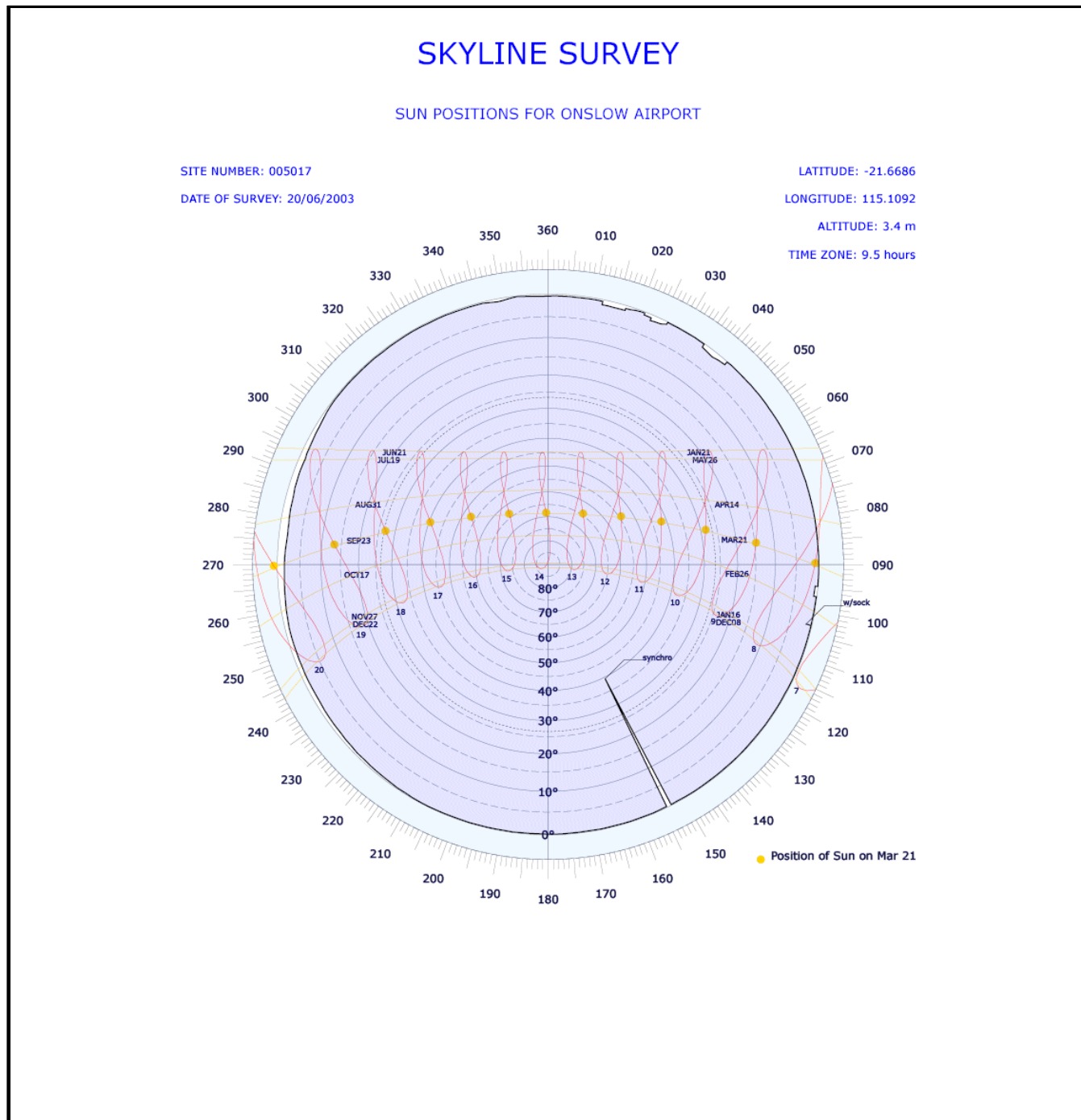
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Skyline Diagram

20/06/2003



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Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 01/08/1940 to 01/06/1943

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	-	-

Current Observation	Program Type	12 AM	3 AM	6 AM	9 AM	12 PM	3 PM	6 AM	9 AM
Surface Observation	PERFORMED	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Surface Observation	REPORTED	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Surface Observation	SEASONAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 01/06/1943 to 01/07/1946

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	-	-

Current Observation	Program Type	12 AM	3 AM	6 AM	9 AM	12 PM	3 PM	6 AM	9 AM
Surface Observation	PERFORMED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Surface Observation	REPORTED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Surface Observation	SEASONAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 01/07/1946 to 01/09/1946

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	-	-

Current Observation	Program Type	12 AM	3 AM	6 AM	9 AM	12 PM	3 PM	6 AM	9 AM
Surface Observation	PERFORMED	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Surface Observation	REPORTED	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-	-
Surface Observation	SEASONAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 01/09/1946 to 01/03/1975

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	-	-

Current Observation	Program Type	12 AM	3 AM	6 AM	9 AM	12 PM	3 PM	6 AM	9 AM
Surface Observation	PERFORMED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Surface Observation	REPORTED	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-
Surface Observation	SEASONAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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				Barometer Elev:	11 m	Metadata compiled:	26 JUL 2025

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 21/11/1997 to 26/10/2010

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	-	Y

Current Observation	Program Type	12 AM	3 AM	6 AM	9 AM	12 PM	3 PM	6 AM	9 AM
Surface Observation	PERFORMED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Surface Observation	REPORTED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Surface Observation	SEASONAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) 26 JUL 2025 (most recent)

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	Y	Y	Y

Current Observation	Program Type	12 AM	3 AM	6 AM	9 AM	12 PM	3 PM	6 AM	9 AM
Surface Observation	PERFORMED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Surface Observation	REPORTED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Surface Observation	SEASONAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Station Equipment History

Equipment Install/Remove

Cloud Height

29/JUN/2017 INSTALL Ceilometer (Type Vaisala CL31 S/N - M4020492) Surface Observations

Humidity

21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Humidity Probe (Type Rotronics S/N - 5182001) Surface Observations
20/OCT/2009 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics MP101A-T4-W4W S/N - 49513-005) Surface Observations
22/SEP/2002 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics S/N - 5182008) Surface Observations
23/SEP/2002 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics S/N - 5182008) Surface Observations
18/APR/2006 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics S/N - 6268-002) Surface Observations
02/OCT/2003 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Vaisala HMP45D S/N - Y0450026) Surface Observations
26/DEC/1960 INSTALL Hygrograph (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
28/FEB/1975 REMOVE Hygrograph (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

Pressure Trend

01/JUN/1951 INSTALL Barograph (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
28/FEB/1975 REMOVE Barograph (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

Lightning (No Electronic History)

Sea Surface Temperature (No Electronic History)

Magnetic Bearing (No Electronic History)

Wind Direction

01/AUG/1940 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Dines S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
31/MAR/2009 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Cups - Type 732 S/N - KDX05) Surface Observations
21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - NONE) Surface Observations
21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Mast Anemometer (Type Pivot, Standard 8m S/N - NONE) Infrastructure
11/SEP/1968 INSTALL Wind Run Anemometer (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Anemometer (Type Dines S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Wind Run Anemometer (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
31/MAR/2009 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - 74049) Surface Observations

Wet Bulb Temperature

01/AUG/1940 INSTALL Thermometer, Mercury, Wet Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Thermometer, Mercury, Wet Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

Solar Radiation (Long Wave) (No Electronic History)

Spectral Radiation (No Electronic History)

Maximum Temperature

01/AUG/1940 INSTALL Thermometer, Mercury, Max (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Thermometer, Mercury, Max (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

Soil Temperature 10cm (No Electronic History)

Soil Temperature 20cm (No Electronic History)

Soil Temperature 50cm (No Electronic History)

Snow Height (No Electronic History)

Soil Temperature 100cm (No Electronic History)

Sunshine Hours (No Electronic History)

Wind Run

11/SEP/1968 INSTALL Wind Run Anemometer (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Wind Run Anemometer (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

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Station Equipment History (continued)

Equipment Install/Remove(Continued)

Minimum Temperature

01/AUG/1940 INSTALL Thermometer, Alcohol, Min (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Thermometer, Alcohol, Min (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

Terrestrial Minimum Temperature (No Electronic History)

Visibility

29/JUN/2017 INSTALL Visibility Meter (Type Vaisala FS11 S/N - M3940568) Surface Observations

Soil Temperature 5cm (No Electronic History)

Sub Surface Temperature (No Electronic History)

Electrical Conductivity (No Electronic History)

Oxygen Content (No Electronic History)

RF Reflectivity (No Electronic History)

Total Column Ozone Amount (No Electronic History)

Pressure

01/JUN/1951 INSTALL Barometer (Type Kew pattern mercury S/N - 1688) Surface Observations
21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Barometer (Type Vaisala PA11A S/N - 50920002) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Barometer (Type Kew pattern mercury S/N - 1688) Surface Observations
23/OCT/2011 REPLACE Barometer (Now Vaisala PTB220B S/N - D4750009) Surface Observations

Evaporation

01/JAN/1966 INSTALL Evaporation Pan (Type Class A S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Evaporation Pan (Type Class A S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

Rainfall

01/MAY/1961 INSTALL Pluviograph (Type Dines syphoning S/N - Unknown) Rainfall Intensity
28/FEB/1975 REMOVE Pluviograph (Type Dines syphoning S/N - Unknown) Rainfall Intensity
01/AUG/1940 INSTALL Raingauge (Type 203 mm (8in) - 200mm capacity S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Raingauge (Type HS TB3A-0.2 S/N - 96-307) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Raingauge (Type 203 mm (8in) - 200mm capacity S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
07/SEP/2005 REPLACE Raingauge (Now Rimco 7499 TBRG S/N - 84660) Surface Observations
18/MAY/1999 REPLACE Raingauge (Now Rimco TBRG (type unspecified) S/N - 890) Surface Observations
18/NOV/2002 REPLACE Raingauge (Now Rimco TBRG (type unspecified) S/N - 938) Surface Observations

River Height (No Electronic History)

Solar Radiation (No Electronic History)

Solar Radiation (Direct) (No Electronic History)

Turbidity (No Electronic History)

Sea Water Level (No Electronic History)

Sea Water Temperature (No Electronic History)

Wind Speed

01/AUG/1940 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Dines S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
31/MAR/2009 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Cups - Type 732 S/N - KDX05) Surface Observations
21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - NONE) Surface Observations
21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Mast Anemometer (Type Pivot, Standard 8m S/N - NONE) Infrastructure
11/SEP/1968 INSTALL Wind Run Anemometer (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Anemometer (Type Dines S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Wind Run Anemometer (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

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Extended Climatological Station Metadata

All History

Station:	ONSLow AIRPORT		Location:	ONSLow AIRPORT		State:	WA
Bureau No.:	005017	WMO No.:	95305	Aviation ID:	YOLW	Opened:	01 Aug 1940
Latitude:	-21.6689	Longitude:	115.1092	Elevation:	10.5 m	Current Status:	Still open
				Barometer Elev:	11 m	Metadata compiled:	26 JUL 2025

Station Equipment History (continued)

Equipment Install/Remove(Continued)

31/MAR/2009 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - 74049) Surface Observations

Air Temperature

21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Humidity Probe (Type Rotronics S/N - 5182001) Surface Observations

20/OCT/2009 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics MP101A-T4-W4W S/N - 49513-005) Surface Observations

22/SEP/2002 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics S/N - 5182008) Surface Observations

23/SEP/2002 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics S/N - 5182008) Surface Observations

18/APR/2006 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Rotronics S/N - 6268-002) Surface Observations

02/OCT/2003 REPLACE Humidity Probe (Now Vaisala HMP45D S/N - Y0450026) Surface Observations

21/NOV/1997 INSTALL Temperature Probe - Dry Bulb (Type Rosemount S/N - 244) Surface Observations

05/APR/2001 REPLACE Temperature Probe - Dry Bulb (Now Rosemount S/N - 301) Surface Observations

04/JAN/1965 INSTALL Thermograph (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

28/FEB/1975 REMOVE Thermograph (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

01/AUG/1940 INSTALL Thermometer, Mercury, Dry Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

01/MAR/1975 REMOVE Thermometer, Mercury, Dry Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

Surface Inclination (No Electronic History)

The following table summarises information on field performance checks available electronically over the period indicated. The number of instances an instrument was found to fail field performance checks should only be used as a guide. A system of data quality flags is implemented by the Bureau of Meteorology to indicate the data quality of an observation as determined by a multi-stage quality control process.

Available Date Range	Element	Fail Field Performance Check
25/JUL/2017 - 24/FEB/2021	Cloud Height	1
04/JUN/1998 - 24/FEB/2021	Humidity	3
04/JUN/1998 - 24/FEB/2021	Wind Direction	3
25/JUL/2017 - 24/FEB/2021	Visibility	1
04/JUN/1998 - 24/FEB/2021	Pressure	3
04/JUN/1998 - 24/FEB/2021	Rainfall	6
04/JUN/1998 - 24/FEB/2021	Wind Speed	3
04/JUN/1998 - 24/FEB/2021	Air Temperature	5

Station Detail Changes

21/NOV/1997 CLASSIFICATION AWS Funding - Aviation (FAV)

01/FEB/2021 CLASSIFICATION AWS Priority 3 - Standard (SLP3-AWS)

09/MAY/2006 CLASSIFICATION Category D (TAF D)

10/JAN/2011 CLASSIFICATION Critical (ASOSCRIT)

27/SEP/2021 CLASSIFICATION Mastered in EAMS (EAMS)

01/JUL/2017 CLASSIFICATION Observing Operations Hub - Perth (OOH-P)

21/MAR/2016 CLASSIFICATION Processed by ASOS (PBA)

10/JUN/2014 CLASSIFICATION Standard Aviation or Defence (AVSTD) ENDED 16-10-2020

20/DEC/2018 OBJECT Document/005017181220_PL20 config

20/DEC/2018 OBJECT Document/AWS SITE AUDIT

14/APR/2011 OBJECT Document/AWS SITE AUDIT

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Extended Climatological Station Metadata

All History

Station:	ONSLOW AIRPORT	Location:	ONSLOW AIRPORT	State:	WA
Bureau No.:	005017	WMO No.:	95305	Aviation ID:	YOLW
Latitude:	-21.6689	Longitude:	115.1092	Opened:	01 Aug 1940
		Elevation:	10.5 m	Current Status:	Still open
		Barometer Elev:	11 m	Metadata compiled:	26 JUL 2025

Station Equipment History (continued)

Station Detail Changes(Continued)

17/OCT/2011 OBJECT Document/BAROMETER COEFFICIENTS
18/MAY/2019 OBJECT Document/CEILOMETER STATUS
29/JUN/2017 OBJECT Document/CEILOMETER STATUS
20/JUN/2018 OBJECT Document/CEILOMETER STATUS
20/DEC/2018 OBJECT Document/CEILOMETER STATUS
10/JUL/2020 OBJECT Document/CEILOMETER STATUS
24/FEB/2021 OBJECT Document/CEILOMETER STATUS
18/MAY/2019 OBJECT Document/Mast insp Onslow Ap May 2019
19/SEP/2008 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
20/JUN/2018 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
20/JUN/2003 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
10/JUL/2014 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
18/MAY/2019 OBJECT Document/VISIBILITY METER STATUS
29/JUN/2017 OBJECT Document/VISIBILITY METER STATUS
20/JUN/2018 OBJECT Document/VISIBILITY METER STATUS
20/DEC/2018 OBJECT Document/VISIBILITY METER STATUS
10/JUL/2020 OBJECT Document/VISIBILITY METER STATUS
24/FEB/2021 OBJECT Document/VISIBILITY METER STATUS
01/AUG/1940 STATION - (nondb seeding) bar_ht Changed to 4.6
01/AUG/1940 STATION - (nondb seeding) bar_ht_deriv Changed to MAP 1:250 000
01/AUG/1940 STATION - (nondb seeding) name Changed to ONSLOW AIRPORT
01/AUG/1940 STATION - (nondb seeding) stn_ht Changed to 3
01/AUG/1940 STATION - (nondb seeding) stn_ht_deriv Changed to MAP 1:250 000
01/MAR/1975 STATION Closed
21/NOV/1997 STATION Opened
01/AUG/1940 STATION Opened
21/NOV/1997 STATION aero_ht Changed to 7.0
21/NOV/1997 STATION aero_ht_deriv Changed to SURVEY
21/NOV/1997 STATION aviation_id Changed to YOLW
18/NOV/2002 STATION bar_ht Changed to 11.0
21/NOV/1997 STATION bar_ht Changed to 3.9
18/NOV/2002 STATION bar_ht_deriv Changed to Barometer
21/NOV/1997 STATION bar_ht_deriv Changed to SURVEY
01/AUG/1940 STATION latitude Changed to -21.6672Seeded from NonDb, Accurate to minutes only
06/NOV/1997 STATION latitude Changed to -21.6681
18/NOV/2002 STATION latitude Changed to -21.6689WGS84
06/NOV/1997 STATION latlon_deriv Changed to GPS
18/NOV/2002 STATION latlon_deriv Changed to GPS
01/AUG/1940 STATION latlon_deriv Changed to GPS
18/NOV/2002 STATION longitude Changed to 115.1092WGS84
06/NOV/1997 STATION longitude Changed to 115.1119
01/AUG/1940 STATION longitude Changed to 115.1133Seeded from NonDb, Accurate to minutes only
21/NOV/1997 STATION lu_0_100m Changed to Airport

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Extended Climatological Station Metadata
All History

Station:	ONSLow AIRPORT			Location:	ONSLow AIRPORT			State:	WA
Bureau No.:	005017	WMO No.:	95305	Aviation ID:	YOLW	Opened:	01 Aug 1940	Current Status:	Still open
Latitude:	-21.6689	Longitude:	115.1092	Elevation:	10.5 m	Barometer Elev:	11 m	Metadata compiled:	26 JUL 2025

Station Equipment History (continued)

Station Detail Changes(Continued)

21/NOV/1997 STATION lu_100m_1km Changed to Airport
21/NOV/1997 STATION lu_1km_10km Changed to Open farmland, grassland or tundra
21/NOV/1997 STATION soil_type Changed to red soil
18/NOV/2002 STATION stn_ht Changed to 10.5
21/NOV/1997 STATION stn_ht Changed to 3.4
18/NOV/2002 STATION stn_ht_deriv Changed to Barometer
21/NOV/1997 STATION stn_ht_deriv Changed to SURVEY
22/SEP/2002 STATION surface_type Changed to bare ground
21/NOV/1997 STATION surface_type Changed to mostly covered by grass
01/MAR/1975 STATION wmo_num Changed to
01/AUG/1940 STATION wmo_num Changed to 94027
01/JAN/1948 STATION wmo_num Changed to 94305
21/NOV/1997 STATION wmo_num Changed to 95305

System Changes

21/NOV/1997 SYSTEM Infrastructure Commenced
28/FEB/1975 SYSTEM Rainfall Intensity Ceased
01/MAY/1961 SYSTEM Rainfall Intensity Commenced
01/MAR/1975 SYSTEM Surface Observations Ceased
21/NOV/1997 SYSTEM Surface Observations Commenced
01/AUG/1940 SYSTEM Surface Observations Commenced
28/FEB/1975 SYSTEM Upper Air Ceased
01/AUG/1940 SYSTEM Upper Air Commenced

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Notes on these metadata

The following notes have been compiled to assist with interpreting the metadata provided in this document. These notes are subject to change as the network evolves. Changes in station-specific metadata occur more frequently, both as recent changes are recorded and historical information is transferred from paper file to electronic database.

Reliability of the metadata

The Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology maintains information on more than 20,000 stations which have operated since observations began in the mid 1800s. The amount of information available for each of these sites and its associated uncertainty are influenced by a number of factors including the type and purpose of the station and the time over which it operated.

Early information about stations was held only on paper file. In 1998 a corporate electronic database was established to help maintain information about the network and its components. The number of parameters recorded about a station is now much greater than before this database was established. The national database has also helped improve consistency in the metadata through the implementation of predefined fields. As a result, and through the refinement of operating procedures, station metadata recorded since 1998 are of a higher overall standard than previously, although occasional omissions and errors are still possible.

The Bureau is part way through a task of entering historical information held on paper file into the corporate database. **Until this process is completed there will remain large gaps in the information contained in these metadata documents and considerable caution should be used when deriving conclusions from the metadata.** As an example, two consecutive entries about a rain gauge dated 50 years apart may appear in the equipment metadata. This may either mean that nothing happened to that instrument over the 50 years, or that information for the intervening period has yet to be entered into the database. Similarly, if no information was available about instruments at a site when it was first established, fields which were required to have a value present may have used the earliest information available as a best-guess estimate. Sometimes this was the metadata current when the database was established in 1998. In some instances there may be gaps in metadata relevant to the post 1998 period.

For the above reasons it is recommended that all metadata prior to 1998 be considered as indicative only, and used with caution, unless it has been quality controlled. The Bureau of Meteorology should be contacted if further information or confirmation of the data is required. Depending on the nature of the inquiry there may be a fee associated with this request. Contact details are provided in the telephone book for each capital city or the Bureau's web site at:
<http://www.bom.gov.au>

The following pages contain explanatory notes for selected terms found in this document.

Station Number

The Bureau of Meteorology station number uniquely specifies a station and is not intended to change over time, although on very rare occasions a station number may change or be deleted from the record (usually to correct an error). Generally a new station number is established if an existing station changes in a way that would affect the climate data record for that site (measured in terms of air temperature and precipitation). Significant station moves are an example of this.

Some stations also possess a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) station number. The WMO number is different to the Bureau of Meteorology number. It also uniquely specifies a station at any given time but can be reassigned to another station if the new station takes priority in the global reporting network. Only selected stations will have a WMO number. Significant stations may maintain their WMO number for many decades.

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Notes on these metadata

Network Classification

SUPPORTING the BASIC CLIMATE SERVICE
Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)
GCOS Upper Air Network (GUAN)
GCOS Surface Network (GSN)
National Climate Network {not yet assigned}
Reference Climate Stations (RCS)
Regional Basic Climatological Network (RBCN)
CLIMAT Stations (CLC)
CLIMAT TEMP Stations (CLT)
SUPPORTING the NATIONAL WEATHER WATCH SYSTEM
WMO Global Observing System (GOS)
GOS Upper Air Network
GOS Satellite Network
Global Atmospheric Watch
Background Atmospheric Pollution Monitoring Network (BAPMON)
Basic Ozone Network
Basic Solar and Terrestrial Radiation Network
Regional Basic Synoptic Network (RBSN)
WMO Global Oceanic Observing System (GOOS)
SUPPORTING the BASIC WEATHER SERVICE (BWS)
BWS Land Network
Significant Land Locations
Capital City Mesonets
National Benchmark Network for Agrometeorology (NBNA)
BWS Marine Network
Significant Coastal Locations
Open Ocean Network
BWS Upper Air Network
Major Significant Locations
BWS Remote Sensing Network
Weather Watch Radar Network
Fire Weather Wind Mesonets
High Resolution Satellite
SUPPORTING the BASIC HYDROLOGICAL SERVICE
Regional Flood Warning Network
Water Resources Assessment Network
Global Hydrological Network
Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS)
World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS)
National Hydrological Network

Networks of stations are defined for a variety of purposes (as defined in above table).

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Notes on these metadata

Network Classification Continued....

Stations may be included in several different networks, which may change over time. The table on the previous page lists current network classifications related to the scientific purpose of the network. Some of these networks - the GCOS network for instance - are components of a global network. Entries in the database for some networks may not be complete, thus not properly representing the status of the network. The composition of the network will usually change over time. While several of the networks have international significance, other network classifications have been developed to aid operational management.

Station Purpose

The station purpose can be classified according to the observation program listed below. Parameters in brackets list some of the various different configurations which occur.

- Synoptic [Seasonal, River Height, Climatological, Telegraphic Rain, Aeronautical, Upper Air]
- Climatological [Seasonal, Telegraphic Rain]
- Aeronautical
- Rainfall [River Height]
- River Height
- Telegraphic Rain [Non-Telegraphic River Height, Telegraphic River Height]
- Non-Telegraphic Rain [Telegraphic River Height]
- Evaporation [Rainfall, River Height, Telegraphic River Height, Non-Telegraphic River Height, Telegraphic Rain, Non-Telegraphic Rain]
- Pluviograph [Rainfall, Telegraphic Rain, Non-Telegraphic Rain, River Height, Telegraphic River Height, Non-Telegraphic River Height]
- Radiation
- Lightning Flash Counter
- Public Information
- Local Conditions
- Radar Site
- Unclassified
- No Routine Observations

Note: Telegraphic observations are those which are sent by some electronic means be it a phone or telegram to the responsible Bureau office. It is a term which is historically linked to analogue non automatic data transmission.

Station Observation Program Summary

Surface Observations

The following terms are used to describe the frequency of surface observations at a site. Historical observation programs will typically be missing for many sites until the database is backfilled with information.

Set a)

- Continuous Program
 - More than half hourly observations sent (eg an automatic weather station {AWS} which continuously transmits 10 minute observations). This will automatically include half hourly and hourly observations programs.
- Half hourly observations
 - Half hourly observations sent. This will automatically include hourly observations.
- Hourly observations
 - Hourly observations sent only. Stations report on non-synoptic hours (ie. 0100, 0200, 0400, 0500, etc)

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Notes on these metadata

Surface observations continued....

Set b)

- Performed
 - Observations performed, instruments read and observations recorded
- Reported
 - Observations performed, instruments read and reported real time
- Seasonal
 - The program may only be performed during a defined season (such as Fire Weather observations) or the routine program may increase in reporting frequency and/or parameters. The program dates are currently modified at the start and end of each season for stations performing seasonal observations. Historically this was not always the case.

Current Station Equipment Summary

Equipment listed in this metadata product is catalogued under one of systems listed below, appropriate to its application. The "Infrastructure" category has been included since it contains information about the mast height of an anemometer (if present).

- Flood Warning
- Infrastructure
- Radiation
- Rainfall Intensity
- Surface Observations
- Upper Air
- Weather Watch {RADAR}

Station Equipment History

Equipment Install/Remove

One of four types of actions can be performed on an instrument in this listing:

Install - A new instrument is installed at the site. This can be either a completely new addition (eg the first barometer at the site), or the replacement of an existing instrument with a different type (eg replacing mercury barometer with electronic barometer)

Remove - An instrument can be removed either when it is no longer necessary to measure a particular element, or when the element is to be measured by an instrument of a different type (see under "Install" above)

Replace - This occurs when one instrument is replaced with another of the same type (eg Kew pattern mercury barometer replacing another Kew pattern mercury barometer)

Share - The same instrument is used for observations under two (or more) systems (eg a rain gauge may be used within both Surface Observations and Rainfall Intensity systems)

Unshare - The instrument is no longer shared between systems

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Notes on these metadata

Calibration

During a site inspection an instrument will be calibrated as either being within or not within the specified tolerance in accuracy.

Where a quantitative calibration result can be achieved by comparison to a transfer standard (eg barometer comparisons and tipping bucket rain gauge calibrations), the instrument will be recorded as being within or outside the required tolerance. Instruments (such as 203mm rain gauges, screens and evaporation pans) where quantitative calibrations cannot be derived should be regarded as meeting specifications when the instrument is in 'good working order'.

This product provides a summary table of the number of times an instrument was found to be out of calibration

Station Detail Changes

This set of metadata indicates when some aspect of the general information about a station has changed.

- STATION

Metadata which are categorised as pertaining to STATION are items of (textual) information describing a specific attribute of the station. A reference to (nondB seeding) indicates initial information of this field has been sourced from a previous database.

Station position

- Latitude and longitude

Derivation of station latitude and longitude, defined by the location of the rain gauge when it is present, has changed over time. Current practice is to locate or verify open and operational station latitude and longitude based on Global Positioning System equipment. Methods used to locate a station as described in this product (latlon_deriv) are as follows: GPS, MAP 1:10000, MAP 1:12500, MAP 1:25000, MAP 1:50000, MAP 1:100000, MAP 1:250000, SURVEY, and Unknown (which is more commonly represented by a null value). The field latlon_error should be used with caution as the method of determining this value has been interpreted in different ways over time.

- Height

Determination of heights for observing sites is by survey where possible. Otherwise height may be determined using a Digital Aneroid Barometer and a known surveyed point, or derived from map contours. The source of height is provided in the corresponding parameter with a suffix of "_deriv".

Heights which may appear in these metadata are:

- aero_ht
 - The official elevation of the aerodrome which normally corresponds to the altitude of the highest threshold of the runways at that airport;
- bar_ht
 - this represents the height of the mercury barometer cistern or the digital aneroid barometer above mean sea level (MSL);
- stn_ht
 - this normally represents the height of the rain gauge above MSL

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Notes on these metadata

- Land Use

To assist the long term understanding of climate change it is important to be able to determine the differences over time which are attributed to variations in the climate. Since land use has an effect on the micro climate around the site, and changes in land use will therefore affect the climate record, it is important that the characteristics of the site are monitored. Soil types are recorded as they affect the land use and also add to the knowledge of the site details.

Defined Land use Types.

- Non-vegetated (barren, desert)
- Coastal or Island
- Forest
- Open farmland, grassland or tundra
- Small town, less than 1000 population
- Town 1000 to 10,000 population
- City area with buildings less than 10 metres (3 stories)
- City area with buildings greater than 10 metres (3 stories)
- Airport

The land use code is entered on the station inspection form in the ranges 0 to 100 m, 100 to 1 km and 1km to 10 km; ie:

- lu_0_100m: Land Use 0 to 100 metres from the enclosure
- lu_100m_1km: Land Use 100 metres to 1 kilometre
- lu_1km_10km: Land Use 1 kilometre to 10 kilometres

Defined Soil Type (At Enclosure).

- unable to determine
- sand
- black soil
- clay
- rock
- red soil
- other

Surface Type (At Enclosure).

- unable to determine
- fully covered by grass
- mostly covered by grass
- partly covered by grass
- bare ground
- sand
- concrete
- asphalt
- rock
- other

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