Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Basic Climatological Station Metadata

Current status

Metadata compiled: 28 JUL 2026

Station: CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE

Bureau of Meteorology station number: 090015
Bureau of Meteorology district name: West Coast
State: VIC

World Meteorological Organization number: 94842
Identification: YCTY

Network Classification: CLIMAT Stations, GCOS Surface Network, Regional Basic Synoptic Network
Station purpose: Synoptic
Automatic Weather Station: Almos

Current Station Location				
Latitude	**Decimal**	-38.8557	**Hour Min Sec**	38°51'21"S
Longitude	**Decimal**	143.5130	**Hour Min Sec**	143°30'47"E
Station Height	80 m	**Barometer Height**	81 m	
Method of station geographic positioning			GPS	

Year opened: 1861
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.

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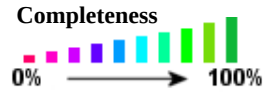
Latitude:	-38.8557	**Longitude:**	143.5130	**Elevation:**	80 m	**Barometer Elev:**	81 m	**Metadata compiled:**	28 JUL 2026

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
MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	APR 1864	JUN 2026	98.8	573	3
MAXIMUM WIND GUST SPEED	APR 1989	JUN 2026	70.9	274	121
WIND RUN ABOVE 10 FEET	NOV 2004	JUN 2026	98.3	130	0
RAINFALL	MAY 1862	JUL 2026	95	N/A	N/A

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	JAN 1861	JUN 2026	99.3	4.3	93	1
DEW POINT	JUL 1862	JUN 2026	99.1	4.3	130	1
MEAN SEA LEVEL PRESSURE	JAN 1861	JUN 2026	98.8	4.3	74	12
SEA STATE	MAY 1880	DEC 2014	67.6	2.7	440	497
TOTAL CLOUD AMOUNT	JUL 1862	DEC 2014	97.3	2.5	811	2
WIND SPEED	JAN 1861	JUN 2026	99.1	4.3	97	2

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THERE ARE NO RAINFALL INTENSITY DATA HOLDINGS

ONE-MINUTE DATA HOLDINGS

OBSERVATION TYPE	FIRST MONTH	LAST MONTH	COMPLETENESS (% estimate)	FREQUENCY average daily	SINGLE DAYS MISSED	FULL MONTHS MISSED
ALL ELEMENTS	NOV 2010	JUL 2026	99.5	1432.3	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	AUG 1994	JUL 2026	107.5	51.6	N/A	0

THERE ARE NO UPPER-AIR EDT DATA HOLDINGS

Holdings calculated up to 01 Jul 2026

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	Listed element to use
Minimum air temperature	Maximum air temperature
Wet bulb temperature	Dew point
Soil temperature at 20, 50 & 100cm	10cm soil temperature
Relative humidity	Dew point
Minimum temp. of water in evaporimeter	Evaporimeter - max water temp
Visual observations eg. weather, visibility	Total cloud amount
Sea related observations	Sea state

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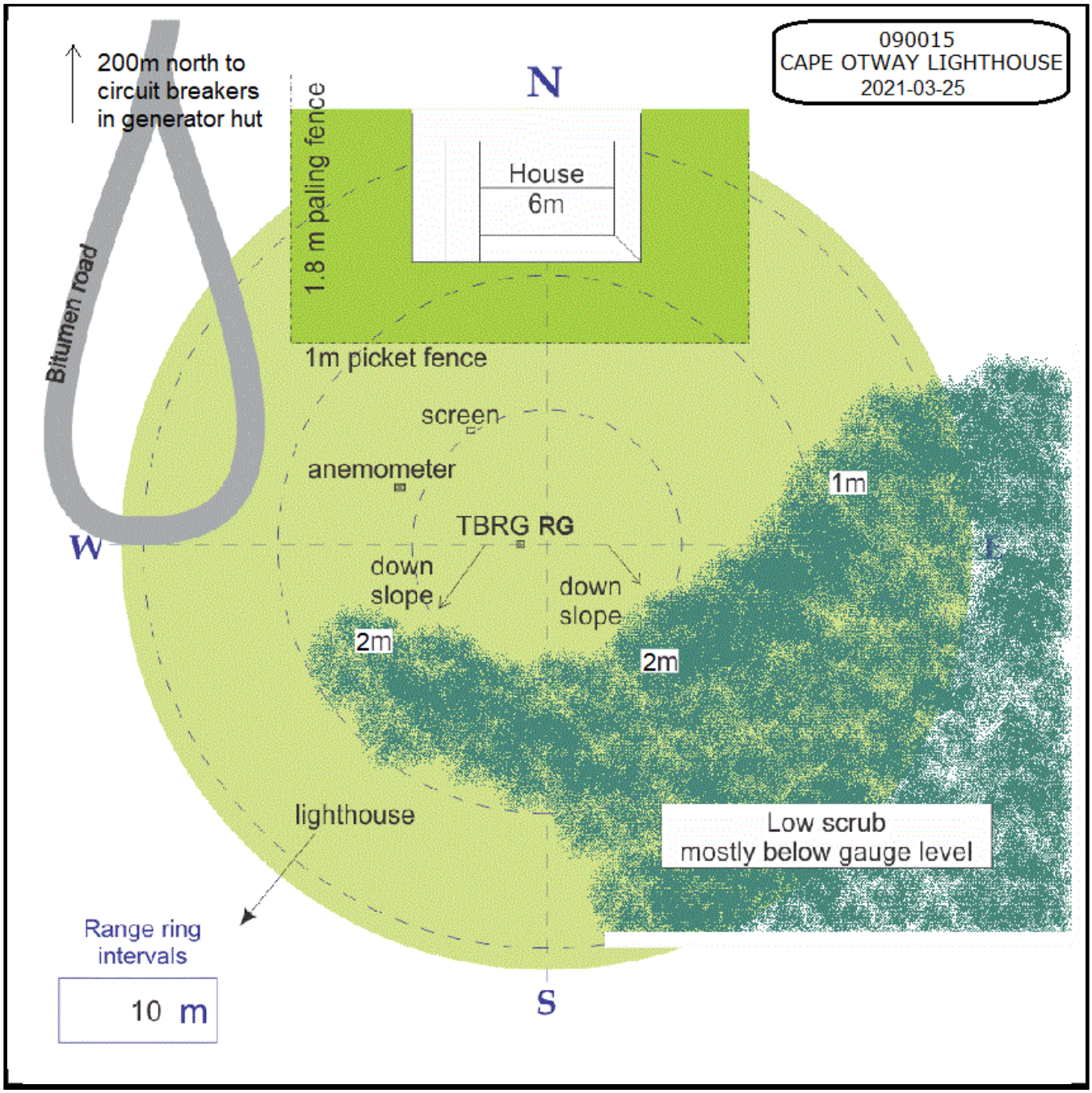
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
25/03/2021(most recent)



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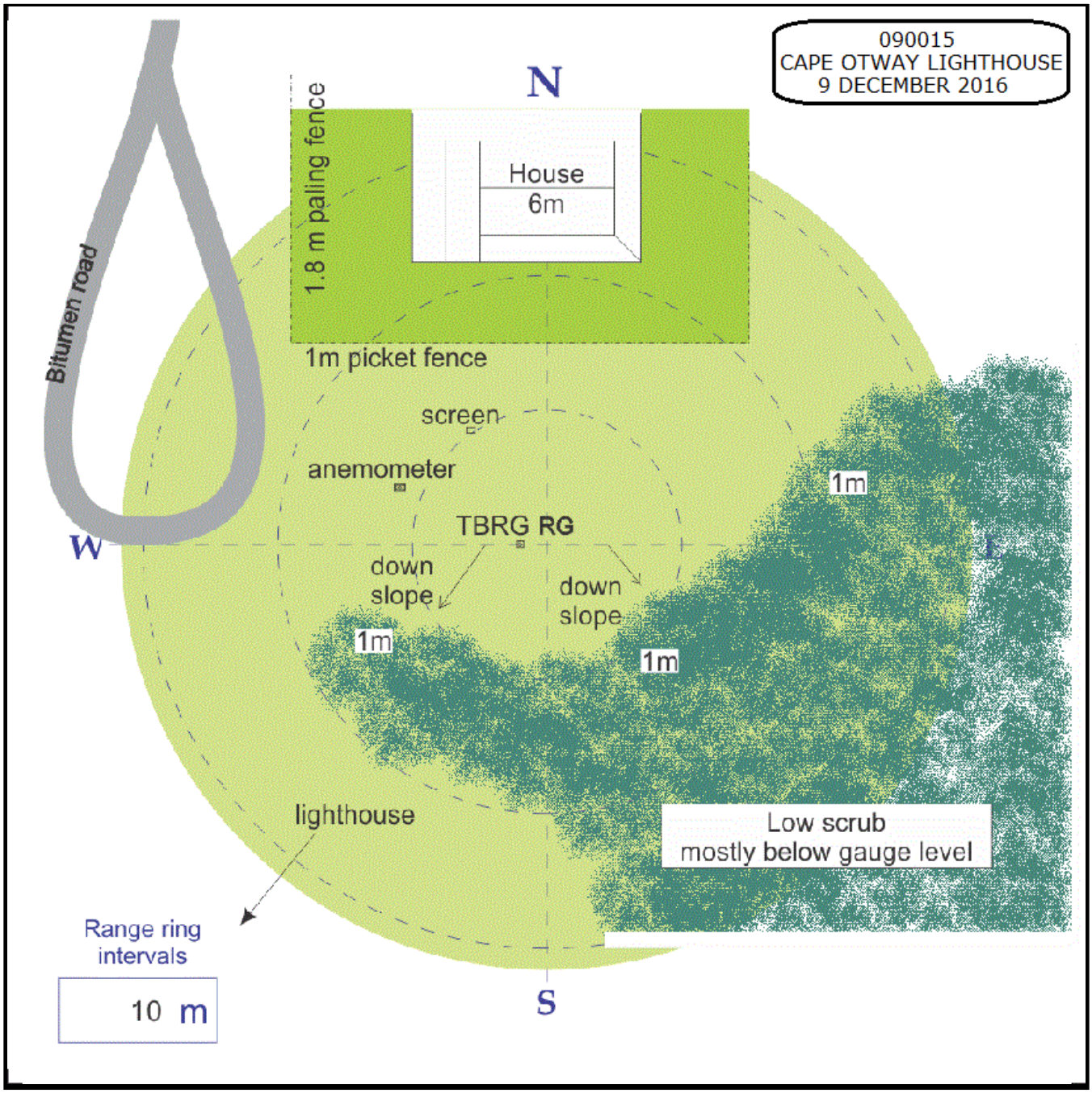
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
09/12/2016



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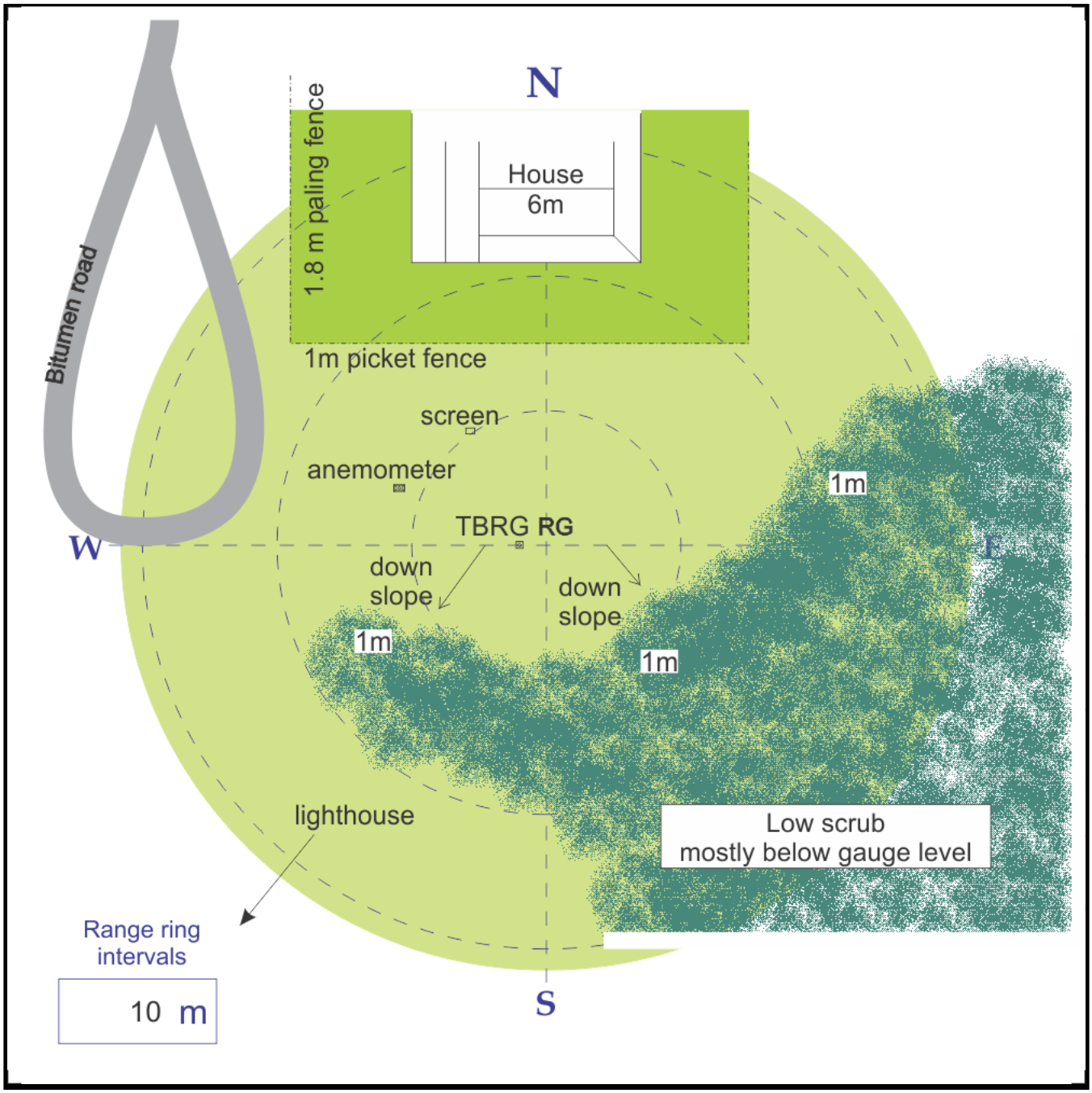
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
04/08/2014



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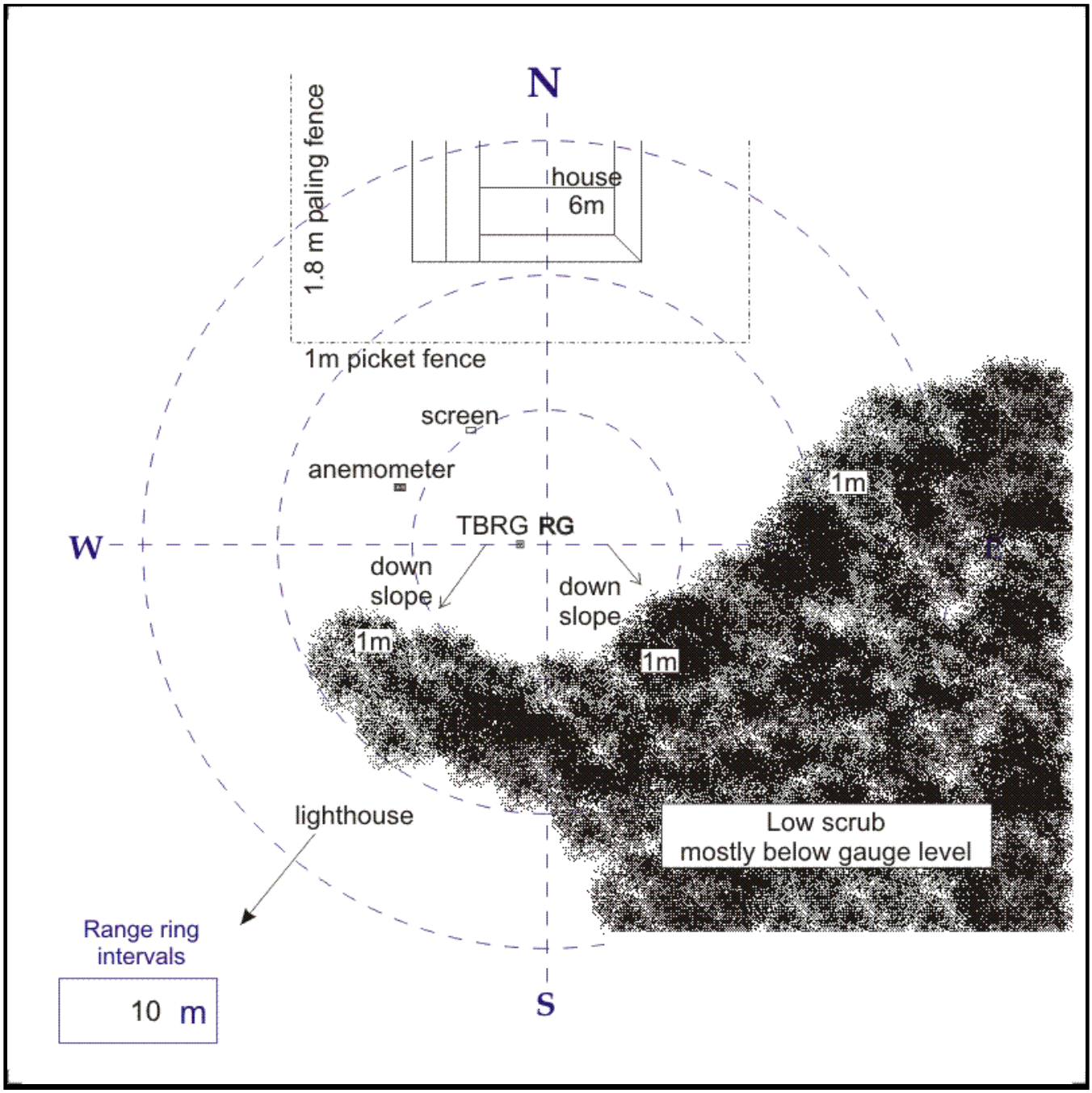
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features

26/08/2013



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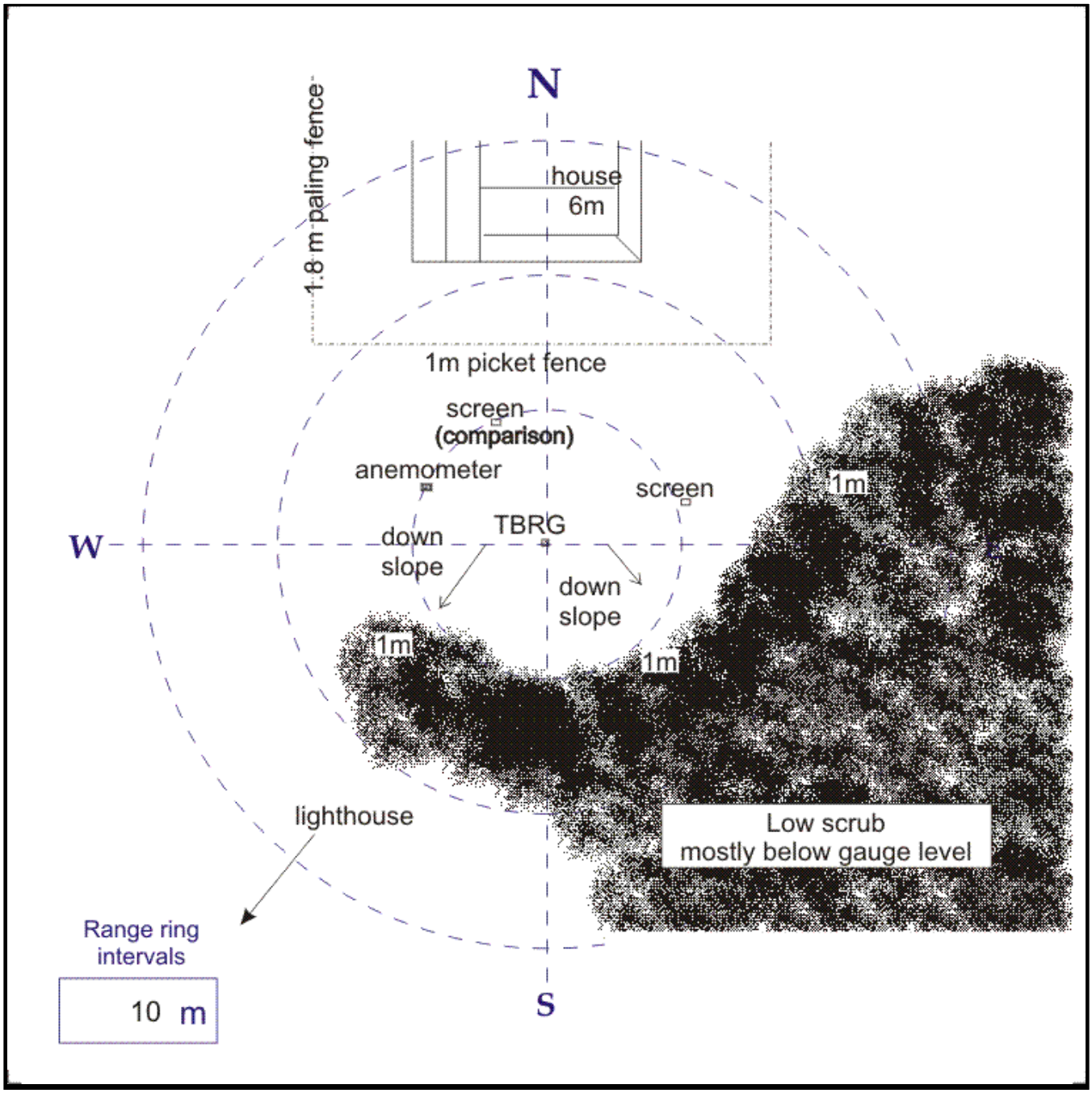
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features

14/12/2011



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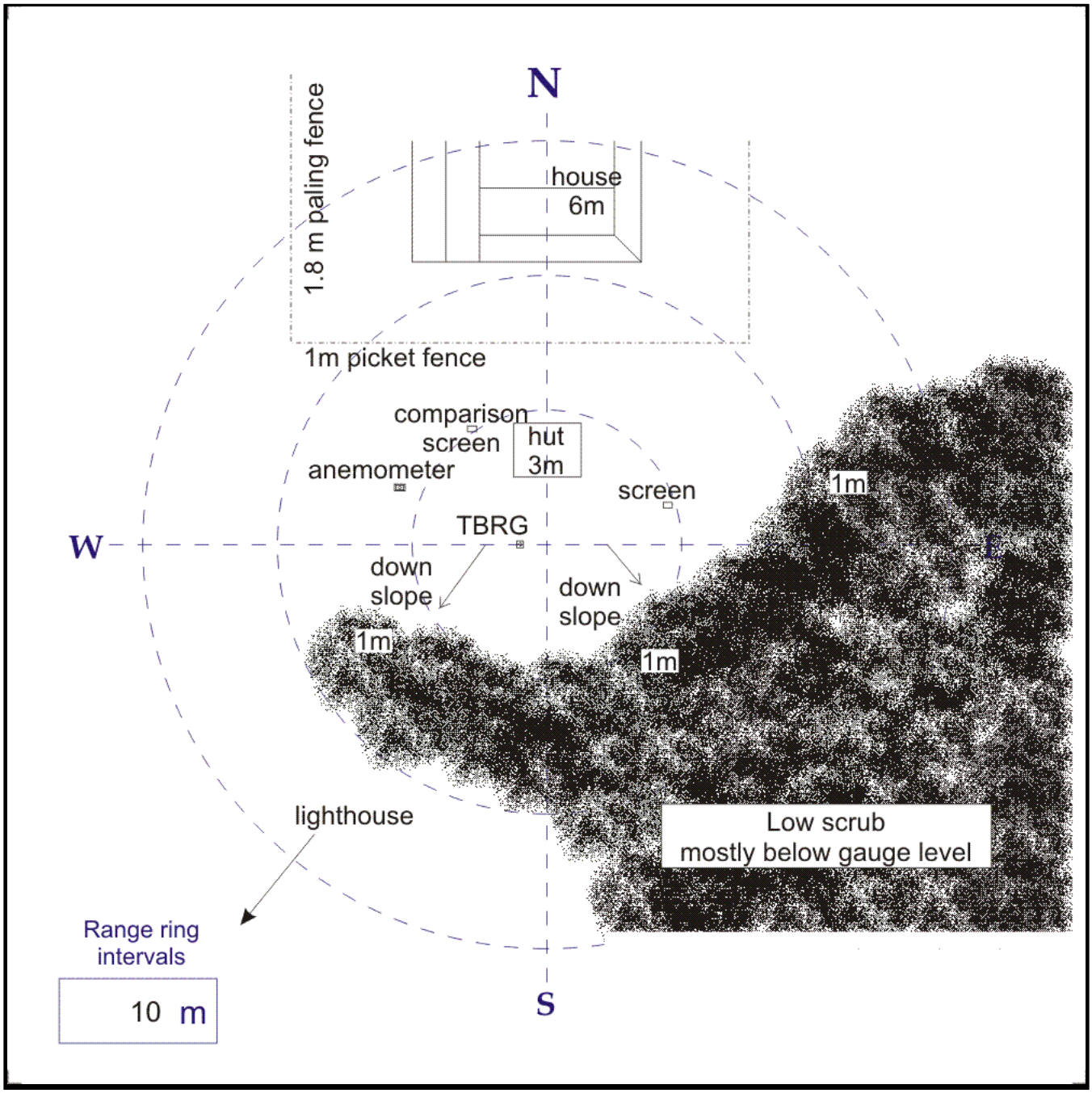
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
06/05/2009



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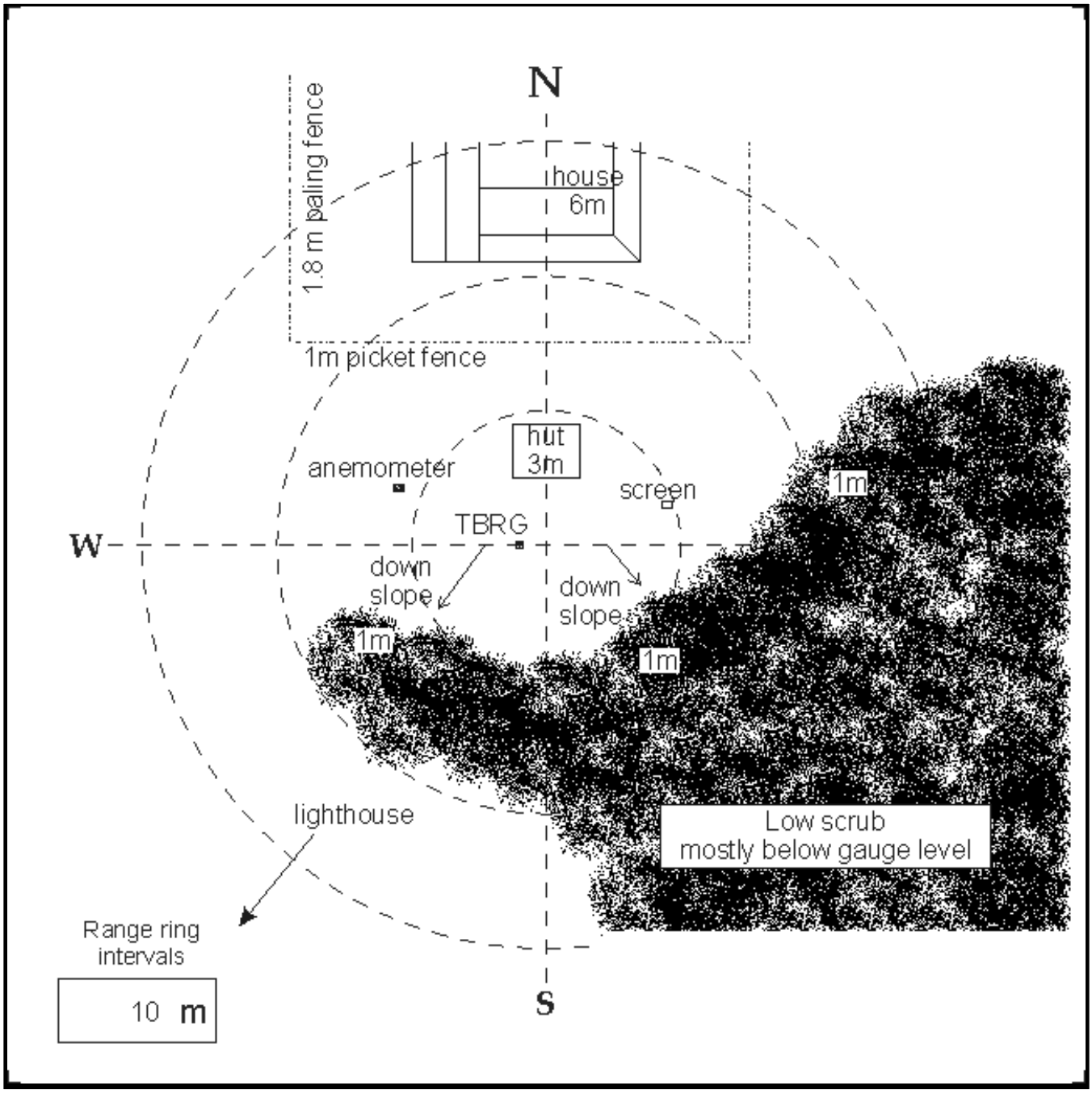
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features
13/04/2006



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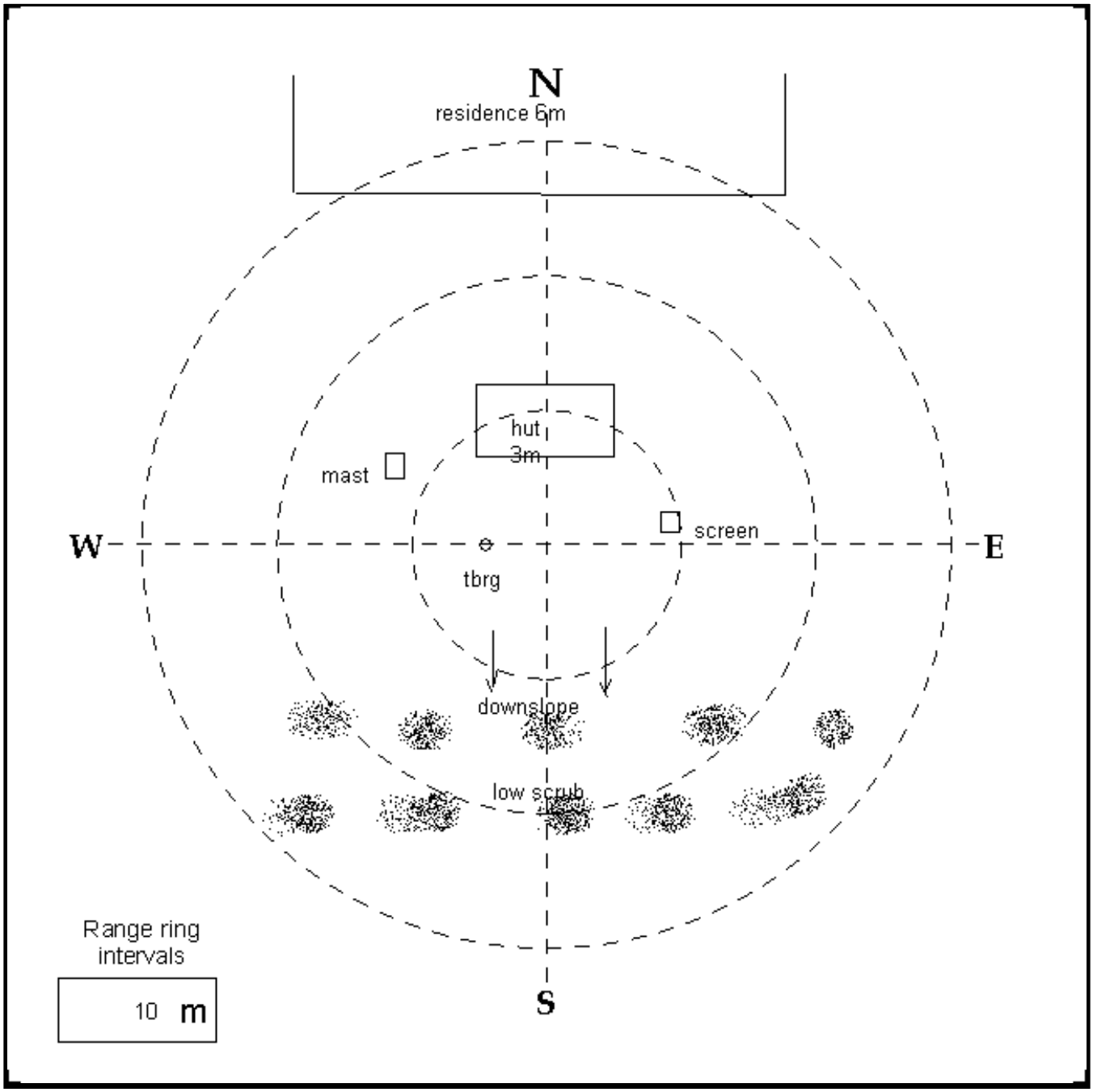
Instrument Location and Surrounding Features

18/12/2001



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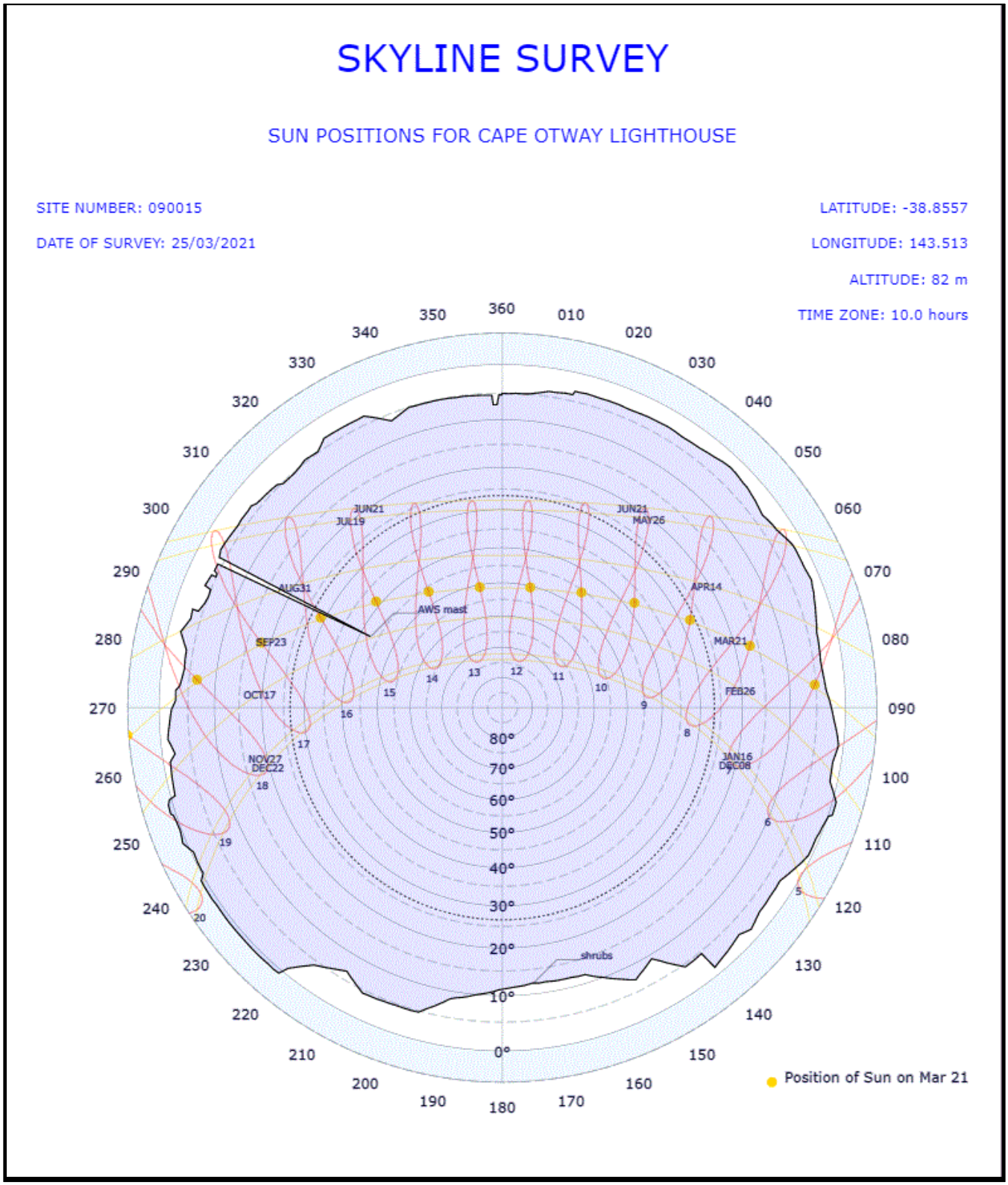
Skyline Diagram
25/03/2021(most recent)



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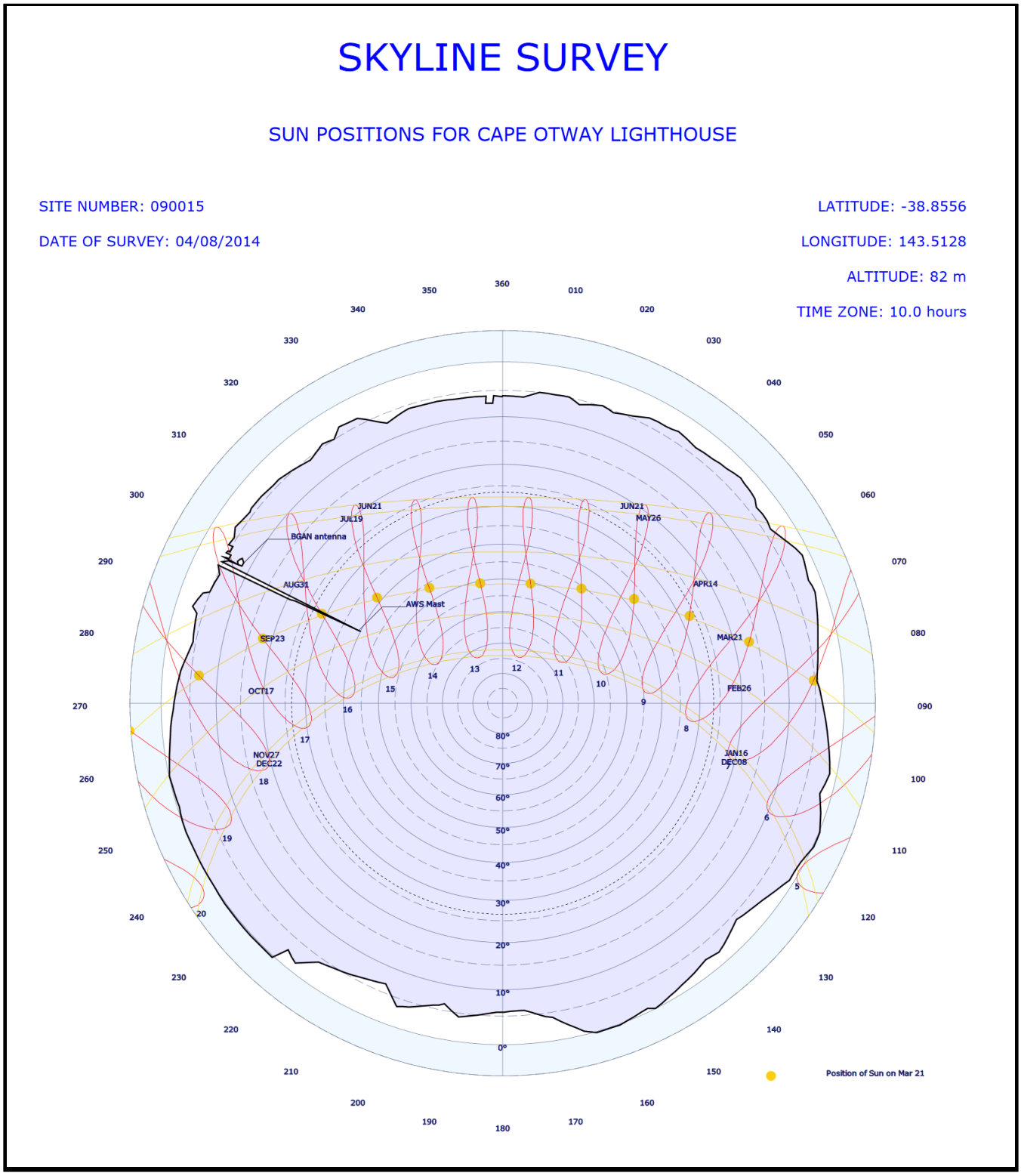
Skyline Diagram
04/08/2014



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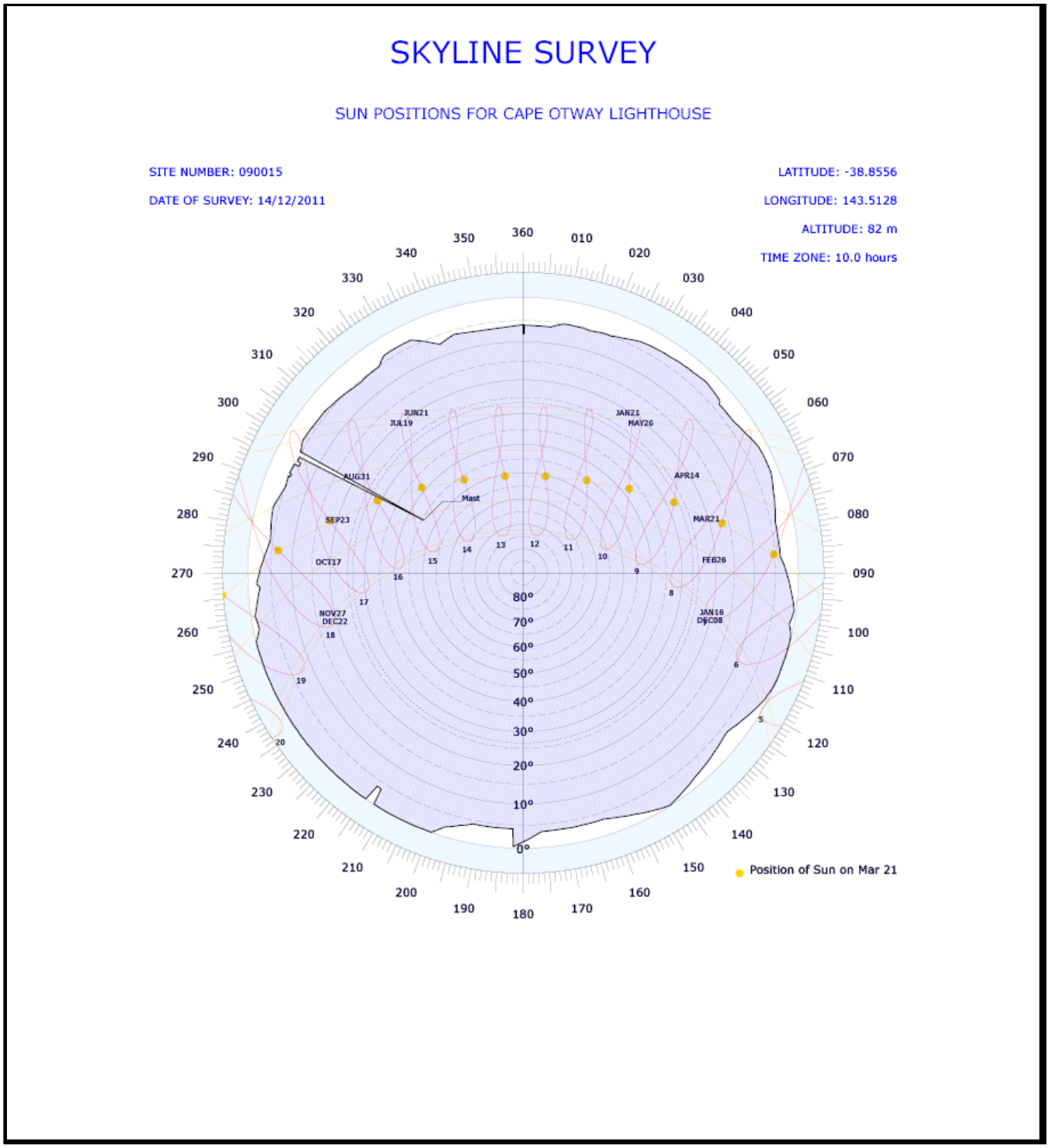
Skyline Diagram
14/12/2011



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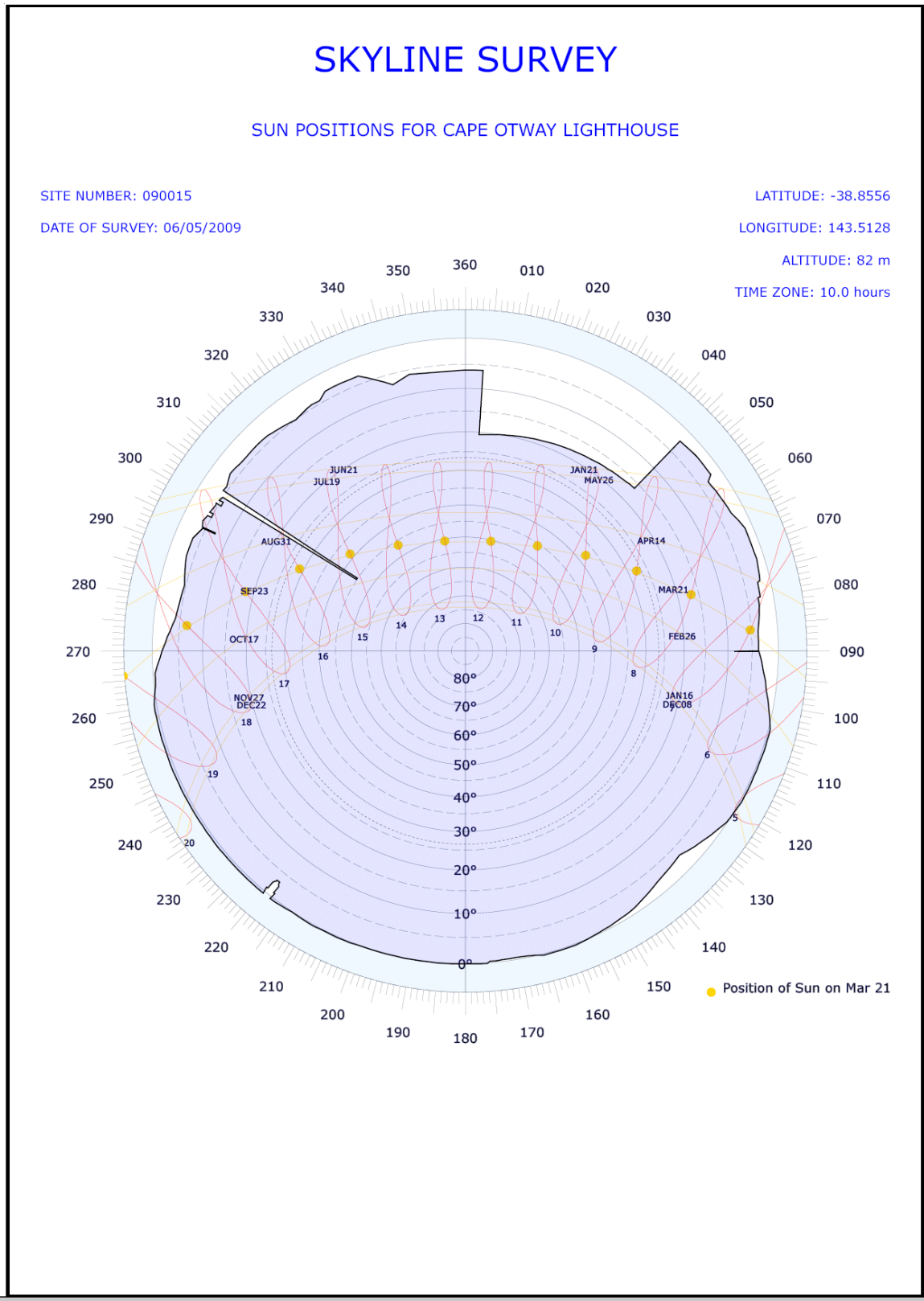
Skyline Diagram
06/05/2009



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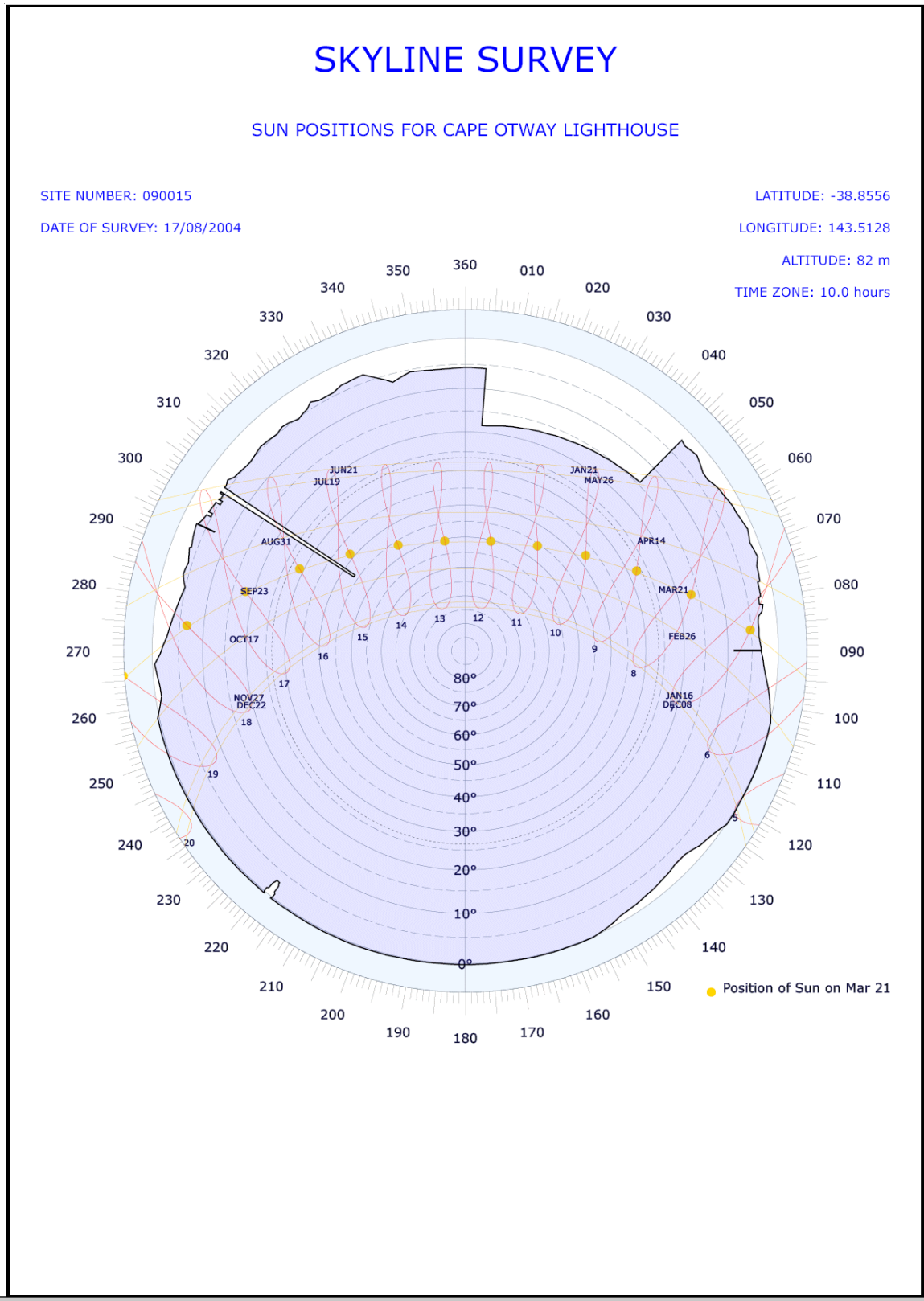
Skyline Diagram
17/08/2004



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Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 01/05/1862 to 02/12/1995

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 02/12/1995 to 01/01/2004

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 01/01/2004 to 16/03/2005

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 16/03/2005 to 01/07/2007

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	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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Extended Climatological Station Metadata
All History

Station:	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**Location:**	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**State:**	VIC
Bureau No.:	090015	**WMO No.:**	94842	**Aviation ID:**	YCTY	**Opened:**	01 Jan 1861	**Current Status:**	Still open
Latitude:	-38.8557	**Longitude:**	143.5130	**Elevation:**	80 m	**Barometer Elev:**	81 m	**Metadata compiled:**	28 JUL 2026

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 01/07/2007 to 12/11/2010

Current Observation	Continuous	Half Hourly	Hourly
Surface Observations	-	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) from 12/11/2010 to 10/01/2015

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Station Observation Program Summary (Surface Observations) 28 JUL 2026 (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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Extended Climatological Station Metadata
All History

Station:	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**Location:**	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**State:**	VIC
Bureau No.:	090015	**WMO No.:**	94842	**Aviation ID:**	YCTY	**Opened:**	01 Jan 1861	**Current Status:**	Still open
Latitude:	-38.8557	**Longitude:**	143.5130	**Elevation:**	80 m	**Barometer Elev:**	81 m	**Metadata compiled:**	28 JUL 2026

Station Equipment History

Equipment Install/Remove

Cloud Height (No Electronic History)

Humidity

15/JAN/2015 INSTALL Humidity Probe (Type Rotronics MP101A-T4-W4W S/N - 61422001) Surface Observations

Pressure Trend

31/OCT/1967 INSTALL Barograph (Type Weekly S/N - CMO253) Surface Observations
30/JUL/2012 REMOVE Barograph (Type Weekly S/N - CMO253) Surface Observations

Lightning (No Electronic History)

Sea Surface Temperature (No Electronic History)

Magnetic Bearing (No Electronic History)

Wind Direction

24/APR/2003 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Cups - Type 732 S/N - NONE) Surface Observations
15/APR/1994 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - WS = 70833 WD = 70812) Surface Observations
28/OCT/1862 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Wind Vane S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
28/JUN/1966 INSTALL Mast Anemometer (Type Pivot, Hydraulic S/N - Unknown) Infrastructure
15/APR/1994 REMOVE Anemometer (Type Synchrotac - dial S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
28/JUN/1966 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac - dial S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
08/DEC/2015 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac Cups - Type 732 S/N - 104025) Surface Observations
24/APR/2003 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - 0334) Surface Observations
16/MAY/1997 REPLACE Mast Anemometer (Now Pivot, Standard 8m S/N - Unknown) Infrastructure

Wet Bulb Temperature

15/APR/1994 INSTALL Temperature Probe - Wet Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - NONE) Surface Observations
15/JAN/2015 REMOVE Temperature Probe - Wet Bulb (Type Rosemount ST2401 S/N - 113070-6) Surface Observations
11/FEB/2014 REPLACE Temperature Probe - Wet Bulb (Now Rosemount ST2401 S/N - 113070-6) Surface Observations
11/NOV/2010 REPLACE Temperature Probe - Wet Bulb (Now Temp Control TCBMP01 S/N - 10261) Surface Observations
26/APR/2012 REPLACE Temperature Probe - Wet Bulb (Now Temp Control TCBMP01 S/N - 10272) Surface Observations
24/OCT/2006 REPLACE Temperature Probe - Wet Bulb (Now Unknown S/N - NONE) Surface Observations
28/OCT/1862 INSTALL Thermometer, Mercury, Wet Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
14/APR/1994 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/JAN/1865 INSTALL Thermometer, Mercury, Max (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
14/APR/1994 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 (No Electronic History)

Minimum Temperature

01/JAN/1865 INSTALL Thermometer, Alcohol, Min (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
15/APR/1994 REMOVE Thermometer, Alcohol, Min (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations

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Extended Climatological Station Metadata
All History

Station:	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**Location:**	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**State:**	VIC
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Station Equipment History (continued)

Equipment Install/Remove(Continued)

Terrestial Minimum Temperature (No Electronic History)
Visibility (No Electronic History)
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

28/OCT/1862 INSTALL Barometer (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
15/APR/1994 INSTALL Barometer (Type Vaisala PA11A S/N - 561170) Surface Observations
15/APR/1994 REMOVE Barometer (Type Vaisala PA11 S/N - 136580) Surface Observations
01/JAN/1957 REPLACE Barometer (Now Kew pattern mercury S/N - 1823/58) Surface Observations
12/DEC/1989 REPLACE Barometer (Now Vaisala PA11 S/N - 136580) Surface Observations
15/JUL/2008 REPLACE Barometer (Now Vaisala PTB220B S/N - C1550019) Surface Observations

Evaporation (No Electronic History)
Rainfall

01/SEP/1994 INSTALL Raingauge (Type 203 mm (8in) - 200mm capacity S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
15/APR/1994 INSTALL Raingauge (Type Rimco 7499 TBRG S/N - 114) Surface Observations
01/MAY/1862 INSTALL Raingauge (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
21/MAR/2018 REMOVE Raingauge (Type 203 mm (8in) - 200mm capacity S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
14/APR/1994 REMOVE Raingauge (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
05/DEC/2012 REPLACE Raingauge (Now 203 mm (8in) - 200mm capacity S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
02/DEC/2020 REPLACE Raingauge (Now Rimco 7499 TBRG S/N - 103301) Surface Observations
03/AUG/2009 REPLACE Raingauge (Now Rimco 7499 TBRG S/N - 90194) 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

24/APR/2003 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Cups - Type 732 S/N - NONE) Surface Observations
15/APR/1994 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - WS = 70833 WD = 70812) Surface Observations
28/OCT/1862 INSTALL Anemometer (Type Wind Vane S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
28/JUN/1966 INSTALL Mast Anemometer (Type Pivot, Hydraulic S/N - Unknown) Infrastructure
15/APR/1994 REMOVE Anemometer (Type Synchrotac - dial S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
28/JUN/1966 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac - dial S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
08/DEC/2015 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac Cups - Type 732 S/N - 104025) Surface Observations
24/APR/2003 REPLACE Anemometer (Now Synchrotac Vane - Type 706 S/N - 0334) Surface Observations
16/MAY/1997 REPLACE Mast Anemometer (Now Pivot, Standard 8m S/N - Unknown) Infrastructure

Air Temperature

15/JAN/2015 INSTALL Humidity Probe (Type Rotronics MP101A-T4-W4W S/N - 61422001) Surface Observations

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Extended Climatological Station Metadata
All History

Station:	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**Location:**	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**State:**	VIC
Bureau No.:	090015	**WMO No.:**	94842	**Aviation ID:**	YCTY	**Opened:**	01 Jan 1861	**Current Status:**	Still open
Latitude:	-38.8557	**Longitude:**	143.5130	**Elevation:**	80 m	**Barometer Elev:**	81 m	**Metadata compiled:**	28 JUL 2026

Station Equipment History (continued)

Equipment Install/Remove(Continued)

15/APR/1994 INSTALL Temperature Probe - Dry Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - NONE) Surface Observations
11/NOV/2010 REPLACE Temperature Probe - Dry Bulb (Now Temp Control TCBMP01 S/N - 10284) Surface Observations
30/OCT/2002 INSTALL Thermometer, Mercury, Dry Bulb (Type Dobbie S/N - M1763) Surface Observations
28/OCT/1862 INSTALL Thermometer, Mercury, Dry Bulb (Type Unknown S/N - Unknown) Surface Observations
05/DEC/2012 REMOVE Thermometer, Mercury, Dry Bulb (Type Dobbie S/N - M1763) Surface Observations
14/APR/1994 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 mutli-stage quality control process.

Available Date Range	Element	Fail Field Performance Check
15/JAN/2015 - 25/MAR/2021	Humidity	1
06/JAN/1999 - 14/DEC/2011	Pressure Trend	0
16/MAY/1997 - 25/MAR/2021	Wind Direction	3
16/MAY/1997 - 15/JAN/2015	Wet Bulb Temperature	3
16/MAY/1997 - 25/MAR/2021	Pressure	0
16/MAY/1997 - 25/MAR/2021	Rainfall	8
16/MAY/1997 - 25/MAR/2021	Wind Speed	3
16/MAY/1997 - 25/MAR/2021	Air Temperature	2

Station Detail Changes

13/NOV/2025 CLASSIFICATION AWS Priority 1 - Critical (SLP1-AWS)
01/FEB/2021 CLASSIFICATION AWS Priority 3 - Standard (SLP3-AWS) ENDED 12-11-2025
01/JUL/2011 CLASSIFICATION Australian Climate Observations Reference Network - Surface Air Temperature (ACORN-SAT)
15/APR/1994 CLASSIFICATION Basic & Severe (FBS)
26/JUN/2002 CLASSIFICATION CLIMAT Stations (CLC)
10/JAN/2011 CLASSIFICATION Critical (ASOSCRIT)
01/MAY/1997 CLASSIFICATION GCOS Surface Network (GSN)
02/AUG/2021 CLASSIFICATION Mastered in EAMS (EAMS)
21/MAR/2016 CLASSIFICATION NOT Processed by ASOS (NPBA) ENDED 14-11-2016
01/JUL/2017 CLASSIFICATION Observing Operations Hub - Melbourne (OOH-M)
14/NOV/2016 CLASSIFICATION Processed by ASOS (PBA)
01/SEP/1992 CLASSIFICATION Reference Climate Stations (RCS) ENDED 30-06-2011
14/FEB/1997 CLASSIFICATION Regional Basic Synoptic Network (RBSN)
25/MAR/2021 OBJECT Document/090015210325Robustsitelayout
25/MAR/2021 OBJECT Document/090015210325mastaudit
25/MAR/2021 OBJECT Document/090015210325topomap
05/JAN/2011 OBJECT Document/AWS SITE AUDIT
13/JUL/2012 OBJECT Document/Cape_Otway
12/MAR/2010 OBJECT Document/RADIO PATH SURVEY

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Extended Climatological Station Metadata
All History

Station:	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**Location:**	CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE			**State:**	VIC
Bureau No.:	090015	**WMO No.:**	94842	**Aviation ID:**	YCTY	**Opened:**	01 Jan 1861	**Current Status:**	Still open
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Station Equipment History (continued)

Station Detail Changes(Continued)

25/MAR/2021 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
04/AUG/2014 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
06/MAY/2009 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
17/AUG/2004 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
14/DEC/2011 OBJECT Document/SKYLINE DATA
12/MAY/2009 OBJECT Document/capeotway
08/JUN/2011 OBJECT Document/capeotwaycomparisonupdate
27/FEB/2004 OBJECT Document/otway equipment allowance changes
01/JAN/1861 STATION - (nondb seeding) Opened
01/JAN/1861 STATION - (nondb seeding) name Changed to CAPE OTWAY LIGHTHOUSE
01/JAN/1861 STATION - (nondb seeding) wmo_num Changed to 94842
01/JAN/1861 STATION aviation_id Changed to YCTY
01/JAN/1861 STATION bar_ht Changed to 81
01/JAN/1861 STATION bar_ht_deriv Changed to MAP 1:25 000
01/JAN/1861 STATION latitude Changed to -38.85565WGS84
01/JAN/1861 STATION latlon_deriv Changed to GPS
01/JAN/1861 STATION latlon_error Changed to 3
01/JAN/1861 STATION longitude Changed to 143.51297WGS84
01/JAN/1861 STATION lu_0_100m Changed to Coastal or Island
01/JAN/1861 STATION lu_100m_1km Changed to Coastal or Island
01/JAN/1861 STATION lu_1km_10km Changed to Open farmland, grassland or tundra
01/JAN/1861 STATION soil_type Changed to sand
01/JAN/1861 STATION stn_ht Changed to 80
01/JAN/1861 STATION stn_ht_deriv Changed to MAP 1:25 000
09/DEC/2016 STATION surface_type Changed to mostly covered by grass
01/JAN/1861 STATION surface_type Changed to partly covered by grass

System Changes

28/JUN/1966 SYSTEM Infrastructure Commenced
01/JAN/1861 SYSTEM Surface Observations 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 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 Loactions
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 quantative 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

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.

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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

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.

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