

Format of data files

Header information

1. The first line (*Site name*) is the site name.
2. The second line (*Country*) is the country name.
3. The third line (*Contributor*) lists the supplier of the data.
4. + 5. The fourth and fifth line (*Latitude* and *Longitude*) give an approximate position for the gauge. *Latitude* is in decimal degrees and has the format [3,4] with a range of -90.0000 to +90.0000. *Longitude* is in decimal degrees and has the format [4,4] with a range of -180.0000 to +180.0000.
6. The sixth line (*Coordinate system*) lists the coordinate system to which the *Latitude* and *Longitude* refer. This is normally WGS84.
7. + 8. The seventh and eighth line of each file (*Start date* and *End date*) give the start and end date of the data in the file, with the format *yyyy/mm/dd hh:mi:ss* where the times are in 24 hr clock (UT).
9. The ninth line (*Sampling interval*) lists the sampling interval of the data in minutes.
10. The tenth line (*Datum information*) lists the datum that the data are referred to.
11. The eleventh line (*Instrument type*) describes the instrument used to take the primary measurement. It should be one of the list: *bubbler, pressure, float, acoustic, radar, other* (please specify).
12. The twelfth line (*Precision*) describes the number of significant digits to which a value has been reliably measured.
13. + The thirteenth line (*Parameter*) and subsequent lines describe the parameters recorded in the data file. There should be a brief description of the parameter and the units of measurement. Values are reported to four decimal places. Null values are written as -99.9999.

Body information

After each parameter, there is a one character gap and then a flag channel, which denotes the quality of the data.

The flags are as follows:-

Flag	Description
0	No quality control
1	Correct value
2	Interpolated value
3	Wrong value
9	Missing value

Example of start of a file:-

```
Site name:          Lowestoft
Country:           United Kingdom
Contributor:       Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory
Latitude:          52.4820
Longitude:          1.7516
Coordinate system: WGS84
Start date UT:     2004/07/01 00:00:00
End date UT:       2004/07/31 23:45:00
Sampling interval: 15
Datum information: The data refer to UK Admiralty Chart Datum (ACD)
Instrument type:   Bubbler
Precision:         Millimetre
Parameter 1:       Observed sea level (m)
Parameter 2:       Residual (observed - expected sea level) (m)

2004/07/01 00:00:00      1.0470 1      0.0683 1
2004/07/01 00:15:00      0.9790 1      0.0810 1
2004/07/01 00:30:00      0.9250 1      0.1032 1
2004/07/01 00:45:00      0.8750 1      0.1225 1
2004/07/01 01:00:00      0.8300 1      0.1372 1
```