

Site Scorecard

	Factor	Weighting	Score	Description
Horizon				
View to North horizon				
	0 to 15 degrees	3		Few if any trees or any obstructions to the horizon
	15 to 30 degrees	2		Some trees that obscure a significant proportion of the lower sky
	No good horizon	0		
View to West horizon				
	0 to 15 degrees	5		Few if any trees or any obstructions to the horizon
	15 to 30 degrees	3		Some trees that obscure a significant proportion of the lower sky
	No good horizon	0		
View to East horizon				
	0 to 15 degrees	5		Few if any trees or any obstructions to the horizon
	15 to 30 degrees	3		Some trees that obscure a significant proportion of the lower sky
	No good horizon	0		
View to South horizon				
	0 to 15 degrees	9		Few if any trees or any obstructions to the horizon
	15 to 30 degrees	4		Some trees that obscure a significant proportion of the lower sky
	No good horizon	0		
Lighting				
	No visible lights	11		No lights can be seen from the site
	more than 1 km away	8		Very distant lights only
	1 km to 100 m away	3		Occasional street light at distance
	less than 100m away	0		
Facilities				
Ground quality				
	Hardstanding	3		Concrete – not boards/ decking or paving stones
	Mown grass or gravel	2		i.e. a maintained lawn or gravel
	Rough ground, decking etc.	0		Uneven ground or sloping
Power				
	Mains power at observing site	1		
Protection				
	Some protection from wind	2		Could be a low wall or similar to act as a wind break
Other				
Owner				
	Can loan/rent equipment and advise	10		Host has equipment and expertise on offer
	Can advise/ charts etc. but no kit	5		Host has some experience but little else
	No experience	0		Guests have to provide own kit and expertise

Score

40 to 50	****
30 to 40	***
20 to 30	**
10 to 20	*
less than 10	no stars

Instructions for use

This scheme is for scoring a site as to its suitability for astronomical observations. It is based on weighted factors that are important to observers. For example if the site has a view to the North of say 18 degrees above the horizon then it would fall in the middle category and score 2 points. Therefore the number 2 should be copied into the "score" column; only one line should carry a score for each factor. Continue this process until all the attributes in the "score" column have been assessed. You can now add up the scores and check the star rating.