

List of graphics facilities at UK Met. Office

1. Main computer system, Bracknell

3 x Calcomp 960 pen-plotters via 915 and 925 controllers off line. A fourth 960 is planned. Tapes of plotting instructions are prepared on either IBM 360/195 or 370/158 mainframes. Used for operational chart plotting and batch work.

2 x Calcomp 1136 drum pen-plotters offline via 906 controller. Used only for batch work.

2 x Calcomp 1670 16mm and 35mm microfilm plotters (black and white), also via the 915 or 925 controllers, online or offline. Mostly 35mm film is used; hard-copy is produced on Xerox printers using magnifications up to either A4 or A2 size. Used for operational contour charts, special products and batch work.

2 x IBM 2250 Graphics VDU - very old, stroke-graphics, interactive.

(1 x Datagraphix COM unit - alphanumeric to microfiche, 270 pages, 48x reduction).

Considerable use is also made of zebra charts on a pre-printed background, produced on the IBM 3211 printers.

2. Communications system, Bracknell

Gresham-Lion grey-scale raster image VDU online to AUTOSAT, a PDP 11/60 system dedicated to the processing of satellite pictures.

Varian Statos electrostatic plotter online to Ferranti Argus 700E minicomputer. For developing and monitoring coded digital facsimile.

3. Outstations

Currently only at the Principal Forecast Office, Heathrow Airport, but two other installations are planned in the next 18 months. Graphics devices are online to a twin PDP 11/60 system:

2 x Benson 5342 pen-plotters 80 cm/sec, 4g acceleration.

2 x Benson-Varian 9222A 22-inch wide electrostatic plotters, 200 nibs per inch. Online access is through a Model 10/4 Graphware unit, which performs rasterisation.

2 or 3 x Gresham-Lion Supervisor 214 graphic VDUs: colour raster 512 x 512 resolution, 16 colours (4 memory planes), with keyboard and digitising tablet.