

PROBLEMS OF INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN GURVIL AND
FLOW SURVEY CONTRACTORS' FLOPPY DISC DATA

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Certain GURVIL users may have found that the raw flow survey data provided on floppy disc by certain contractors, cannot be transferred directly into GURVIL because of incompatibility between computer systems. (This at least applies to Insight Surveys).

Consequently the data must be entered manually in the format required for a GURVIL plot file and is painstakingly slow! However, there is, fortunately, a way of reducing the amount of work to a degree.

The vast majority of data items must be entered in the 10F8.0 format and be right justified. DO NOT USE A WORD PROCESSING PROGRAMME; simply create a new file in WASSPDAT and use record 28 to enter these data items. For the occasional lines which differ from this format, record 16 can be used. This will save much time and ensure that the formatting is correct.

The extension .DAT will be automatically given to the file name but this can simply be called up as normal in GURVIL. Also, when the file is typed out in MS-DOS the record card numbers will appear in columns 81 and 82. However, GURVIL will conveniently ignore these.

For such a file containing 11,000 data items, Chesterfield BC took approximately 40 man hours to prepare the flow survey data and then type it into the computer.

It is also worth noting that large files may have to be split into a number of smaller files.

Details of the required format can be obtained from Hydraulics Research Ltd.

Discussion on Mr. Barracloughs' presentation

A. Walker, H.R.Ltd.

The problem arises from the time when GURVIL was being written. Insight Surveys supplied H.R. with an example of their data format. Certain elements of that format were in binary and therefore H.R. could not read or produce software to convert this format. Insights' name had already been placed on the menu containing contractors data formats and was not removed when the files proved unformatable. Insight however said they would use a .PLT file format which does not require re-formatting.

K. MacGregor, Hydroscon Ltd.

Could a standard data format be established that would be acceptable to all users. Hydroscon have, to date, had to supply 13 different data formats including the .PLT format.

A. Drinkwater, W.R.C.

The new WAA/WRC document "A guide to short term flow surveys of sewer systems" contains a suggested standardised format for data transfer. Problems will continue to arise if users persist in specifying their own formats.

D. Walters, Bolton M.B.C.

Bolton experienced considerable problems getting W.R.C. data to run on GURVIL. Even after the file was re-formatted by W.R.C. the new format required editing on Wordstar before it was usable on GURVIL.