Our Computer Heritage

Where to see bits.

The following UK museums are amongst the places where pieces of early British computers from the period 1950 - 1965 have been deposited. In some cases the artefacts are on public display; in other cases they are held in reserve storage and can only be seen by appointment. Contact the museum's website for more details.

A: Science Museum, London: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk
B: National Museums Scotland: www.nms.ac.uk
C: Museum of Science & Industry (MSI) Manchester: http://msimanchester.org.uk/
D: The National Museum of Computing, Bletchley Park (TNMOC): www.tnmoc.org
E: Birmingham Museum: www.bmag.org.uk
F: The Jim Austin Computer Collection: www.computermuseum.org.uk
G: The ICT 1301 Resurrection Project: www.ict1301.co.uk
H: Centre for Computing History, Cambridge: www.computinghistory.org.uk

The *Our Computer Heritage* computers are listed by company in the six Tables given below, together with an indication in columns 3 and 4 of where artefacts are stored.

In addition, after the six Tables there are some photographs of various working historic machines that have been (or are being) restored or rebuilt by members of the Computer Conservation Society. Most of these are working machines on public display at the locations indicated on page 3.

The Elliott computers:

Group	Computers	Museums holding component or scale models	Museums holding more or less complete systems (but not usually operational ones)
E1	152 Nicholas 153	- - -	-
E2	401, 402 403 405	- - A	A A
E3	800 series 503	A A	A, B, D
E4	502	-	-
E5	900 series	A	A(4 systems), B (2 systems), D(2 systems), F, H
E6	4100 series	-	-

The Ferranti computers:

Group	Computers	Museums holding component or scale models	Museums holding more or less complete systems (but not usually operational ones)
F1	Mark I Mark I*	- A, B, C, D	-
F2	Mercury	B	-
F3	Pegasus Perseus Sirius	A, B, F - A	A, C A
F4	Orion 1 & 2	A, G, E, F	-
F5	Atlas 1 & 2	A, C, D, E, F, H	B
F6	Poseidon Hermes Apollo Argus	- - - A, D	 B B, C *(See also footnote)*, H

(An Argus 700 has been restored by the Bloodhound Missile Preservation Group)

The Leo computers:

Group	Computers	Museums holding component or scale models	Museums holding more or less complete systems (but not usually operational ones)
L1	LEO I	A	-
L2	LEO II	B	
L3	LEO III	A, B, D, F, H	B

The EMI computers:

Group	Computers	Museums holding component or scale models	Museums holding more or less complete systems (but not usually operational ones)
M1	EMIDEC 1100	D	-
M2	EMIDEC 2400	-	-

The English Electric computers:

Group	Computers	Museums holding component or scale models	Museums holding more or less complete systems (but not usually operational ones)
N1	DEUCE	A, C	-
N2	KDF9	A, D	-

The BTM, ICT and ICL computers:

Group	Computers	Museums holding component or scale models	Museums holding more or less complete systems (but not usually operational ones)
T1	HEC2M HEC4/BTM1200	- D	D (HEC1)
T2	BTM/ICT 1300	-	B, D
T3	ICT/ICL 1900 series	A, B, D	A (2 systems)

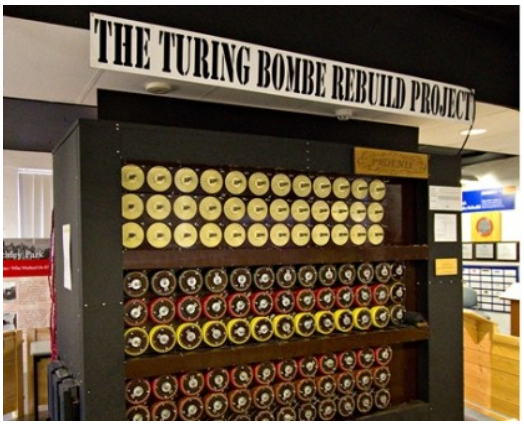
Where to see computers restored or rebuilt by the Computer Conservation Society.

Since its foundation in 1989, one of the aims of the Computer Conservation Society (CCS) has been: *to promote the conservation of historic computers and to identify existing computers which may need to be archived in the future*. Below is a selection of the CCS projects involving British-designed machines that were originally used within the period 1935 - 1968. Not all of them are featured in the technical sections of the *Our Computer Heritage* website because not all the machines are (or were) commercially-available stored-program computers.

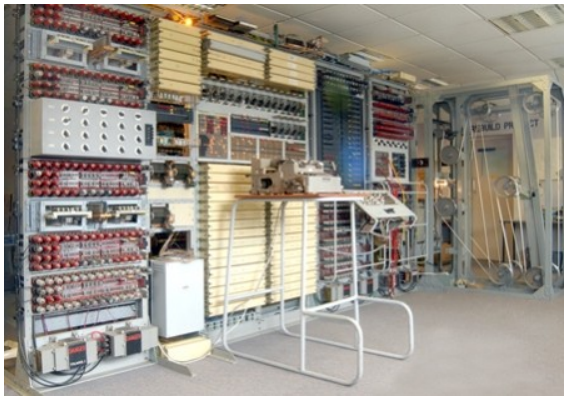
Name	***Date first available***	***OCH group of computers?***	***Comments***	***Current status and location***
Hartree's differential analyser	1935	-	Analogue solver of differential equations; electro-mechanical	Restoration suspended; Manchester Museum of Science & Industry
Bombe code-breaking machine	1940	-	Special- purpose; electro-mechanical	Reconstruction working; Bletchley Park
Colossus code-breaking machine	1943	-	Special-purpose; vacuum tubes	Reconstruction working; TNMOC, Bletchley Park
Manchester Small-Scale Experimental Machine (SSEM) or 'Baby'	1948	(F1)	The enhanced version of the SSEM was the prototype for the Ferranti Mark I	Reconstruction working; Manchester Museum of Science & Industry
Cambridge EDSAC	1949	(L1)	EDSAC was the prototype for LEO I	Reconstruction in progress, TNMOC Bletchley Park
Harwell dekatron Computer (aka WITCH)	1951	-	Relays and dekatron tubes; sequence controlled.	Restoration working; TNMOC, Bletchley Park
HEC1	1951	(T1)	-	In restoration, TNMOC, Bletchley Park
Elliott 401	1953	**E2**	-	In part restoration; Science Museum
Ferranti Pegasus	1956	**F3**	-	Working until June 2014, Science Museum
Elliott 803B	1960	**E3**	-	Restoration working; TNMOC, Bletchley Park
ICT 1301	1961	**T2**	-	Restoration suspended; TNMOC, Bletchley Park
Elliott 903	1965	**E5**	-	Restoration working; TNMOC, Bletchley Park
Elliott 905	1968	**E5**	-	Restoration suspended; TNMOC, Bletchley Park

Photographs of some of the CCS projects are given on pages four and five.

Hartree's Differential Analyser (2012)



Bombe



Colossus

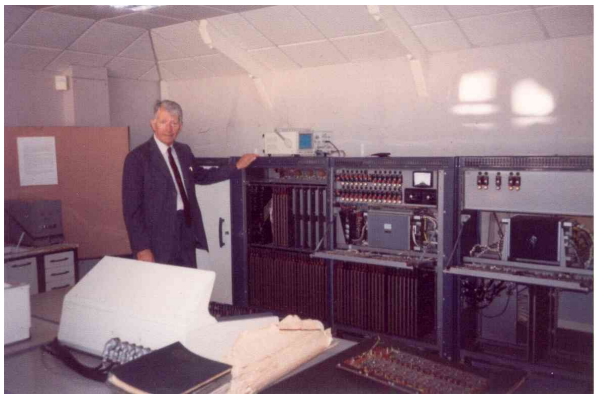
SSEM – (the Baby)

EDSAC re-build in progress (2014)

Elliott 401 (in 2001)

Harwell Dekatron computer

Ferranti Pegasus (in 2014)



Elliott 803B

ICT 1301 (in 2014)

Elliott 903

HEC1