

Historic K6 telephone boxes in Waverley



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29th November 2016

1. This report should be used as a guide to the location and heritage significance of the surviving historic K6 telephone boxes in Waverley. It is not a structural survey of the telephone boxes. Nor is it an assessment of the need for a public payphone in the location of each box.
2. BT invited the Council to reply to a consultation by 30 January 2017. This consultation concerns the proposal to remove payphones where low use suggests there is no longer a need. The removal of these payphones will also include the structures housing them.
3. Of the 48 telephone boxes proposed to be removed 27 are the K6 type designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The K6 kiosk was commissioned by the General Post Office in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. They were installed between 1936 and 1968 and are the most common type of cast iron telephone box surviving in the British Isles. As a result of the ubiquity of this model they have become internationally recognisable structures. They were often placed alongside a post box or outside a post office.
4. Among the reasons for listing K6 telephone boxes, Historic England state that the structure contributes to the street scene or rural landscape setting in which it stands and it is a representative example of this important C20 industrial design.
5. Given the high number of survivals it is necessary for Historic England to apply strict selection criteria when assessing boxes for designation. Designation will be based on the heritage value of individual boxes. The criteria for listing was agreed

by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2010 following discussions between Historic England (called English Heritage in 2010) and BT. These criteria can be found at Appendix 1.

6. There are 2175 listed K6 telephone boxes in England. Waverley has 10 listed structures. They are located at;

Castle Street, Farnham
Crownpits Lane, Godalming
Dyehouse Lane, Thursley
High Street, Bramley
Mill Lane, Godalming (a pair)
Rosemary Lane, Alfold
Tilford Street, Tilford
The Street, Womersley
Vann Lane, Hambledon
West Street, Farnham

7. This survey has identified the surviving K6 telephone boxes proposed to be removed. It has also identified three further boxes, presumably remaining in BT's ownership and not included on the list for proposed removal. It may be that other boxes exist within Waverley but it has not been possible to assess all as part of this survey.
8. Of these boxes some meet the criteria for selection used by Historic England. It is proposed that these remaining K6 telephone boxes are put forward for listing in order that the heritage of the Borough is preserved. They are;

Brook Road, Wormley GU8 5UD – A picturesque location in a rural hamlet and at the edge of a wood.

Churt Road, Hindhead GU26 6NR – A picturesque location popular during the inter war years when motoring became a leisure activity.

The Square, Rowledge GU10 4AA – A central location outside the post office and village pub. The pub predates the late nineteenth century post office and is a building of local merit (Hare & Hounds).

The Village, Ewhurst GU6 7PB – A village green location and outside the nineteenth century post office (Deblins Green, listed grade II). Although the post office had moved to another location in the early twentieth century, this box is viewed within a picturesque village setting surrounded by listed buildings. The Bull's Head is an attractive public house in a location that would have been popular with walkers and motorists during the inter war period.

Blackheath Lane, Blackheath GU4 8QT – A village location placed outside the early twentieth century post office. It is viewed as part of the conservation area although not sited within the boundary.

9. The remaining boxes are of heritage value but do not meet the criteria for listing as stated by Historic England. It is proposed that the Council make a case that despite these historic telephone boxes not meeting the listing criteria they should be retained as a part of the Borough's heritage. This is particularly important where they may be the only structure of historic and architectural interest visible in the public realm.

Appendix 1

LISTING CRITERIA FOR K6 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

This document has been agreed by DCMS, following discussions with BT

Overall Summary of Importance

The archetypal K6 was designed by the eminent architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (of Battersea Power Station and Liverpool Cathedral fame) in 1935 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V, and was a development on Scott's 1924 K2 design. The K6 kiosk is made of cast iron, with glazed door and sides beneath a domical roof; there are narrow panes on either side of the horizontal glazing. In the segmental upper structure on each side is a relief crown, placed above a glazed panel bearing the word TELEPHONE. Generally painted red, the Neoclassical design, influenced by the work of the Regency architect Sir John Soane, is of special architectural interest for the quality of the architectural design as applied to an industrially produced object of mass communication. Some 70,000 K6's were ultimately produced.

Need for Selectivity

PPG 15 states that "*...the listing of buildings primarily for historical reasons is to a greater extent a comparative exercise, and needs to be selective where a substantial number of buildings of a similar type and quality survive. In such cases the Secretary of State's aim will be to list the best examples of the type which are of special historic interest.*" It is therefore necessary to identify the best examples of the type for designation

Mid-C20 telephone kiosks are iconic national objects, and they often contribute to the appreciation of places. Selection is nonetheless required when assessing them for listing, given the high number of survivals. Because of their ubiquity, supplementary criteria are required to guide us in our selection-making. It is accepted that listing all examples is not appropriate. Although they possess clear aesthetic and practical value to communities, statutory designation needs to be based on the heritage value of the structures.

Criteria for Selection

Group value – This can involve proximity to one or more listed building dependant on grade and context. To be listable a kiosk needs to have a strong visual relationship with more than one listed building. However, if the setting was of exceptional special interest in its own right; or the kiosk was in proximity to a single Grade I listed building; or the single Grade II building it is nearby has a particular contextual relationship to the kiosk, such as a rural post office; then these examples may be deemed to meet the criteria. These are deliberately flexible to allow the comparative judgement necessary when listing a characteristic, but ubiquitous, heritage asset.

'Strong visual relationship' – This should mean a directly adjacent location in which both kiosk and listed building(s) can be readily taken in simultaneously by the viewer.

'One or more listed building' – the more listed buildings in the immediate vicinity of the kiosk, the stronger the case for designation. Contemporary mid C20 buildings will often have particular resonance with kiosks, but sometimes it is the juxtaposition with very different kinds of historic building that creates the special interest we seek to recognise through designation.

Settings of exceptional special interest – As with any other candidate for listing, group value with other designated buildings is not the only consideration. An isolated **rural** kiosk can have considerable presence: a judgment would have to be made as to the picturesque claims made for the setting, and for the particular contribution made to the landscape by the kiosk. Applicants for listing would need to articulate the claims of new candidates. Some **urban** kiosks may be some distance from listed buildings, but nevertheless make a crucial visual contribution to a prominent area: a kiosk on an esplanade, for instance, or a kiosk (or group of kiosks) placed at a significant point in town planning terms, such as a termination of an avenue. An interwar context might strengthen the claim in this regard.

Other forms of kiosk – Earlier telephone kiosks are generally listable on rarity grounds. Where K6's are adjacent to such earlier examples, a strong case exists for designating both variants.

Condition – Attention needs to be paid to the condition of the K6 kiosk. They should be in as near their original configuration as possible.

May 2006

CRITERIA FOR LISTING K8 TELEPHONE BOXES

The K8 telephone box was designed by Bruce Martin, following a competition held in 1965, and first appeared on streets in 1968. By 1983, 4000 had been produced. Again of cast iron, it too had a solid rear wall, with glazed sides and door. This time, the glazing consisted of single sheets of toughened glass, set within frames with rounded corners. Around the top of the kiosk were illuminated panels bearing the word TELEPHONE in capitals. While their broad similarity with K2s and K6s is evident, they lack any explicit classical references and instead offered a contemporary approach to the design challenge. Developments in glass manufacturing made possible the utilising of large sheets of reinforced glazing.

Very few of these kiosks now remain in situ – a recent estimate (from the Twentieth Century Society, which in 2007 started to campaign for the preservation of remaining examples) numbers the survivors at a mere dozen. While the design lacks the ageless appeal of the Scott designs for K2s and K6s, the K8 was a contemporary response to the challenge of kiosk design and, with the passage of time and the return to favour of 1960s design, its positive place in the story of communications technology design can now be recognised.

Because so few examples remain of this once-common type, selectivity is not so essential: the presence close by of already-listed buildings will be less important. Surviving examples which remain in good condition should therefore be regarded as strong candidates for listing.

October 2007

CRITERIA FOR LISTING SEVERAL K6 TELEPHONE BOXES ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER

When several K6 kiosks survive alongside each other, a judgment must be reached whether more than one warrants listing. Our view is that if one kiosk in a pair or row of identical K6 kiosks meets the statutory criteria then it follows that each kiosk in that row meets the criteria. Since no one kiosk in a pair or row can be more representative or significant than the others, and the kiosks cannot otherwise be compared, the recommendation in such cases ought to be to list each of the kiosks.

RHB

September 2008

Revised February 2010

Appendix 2

Listed K6 telephone boxes

Castle Street, Farnham
Crownpits Lane, Godalming
Dyehouse Lane, Thursley
High Street, Bramley
Mill Lane, Godalming (a pair)
Rosemary Lane, Alfold
Tilford Street, Tilford
The Street, Wonersh
Vann Lane, Hambledon
West Street, Farnham

Unlisted K6 telephone boxes proposed to be removed by BT (Revised address in brackets)

Applelands Close, Wrecclesham GU10 4TL (Boundstone Road, GU10 4TQ)
Aarons Hill, Godalming GU7 2LG
Avenue Road, Cranleigh GU6 7JY (GU6 7LE)
Baynards, RH12 3AD (Cox Green Road RH12 3AD)
Beacon View Road, Elstead GU8 6DT
Birtley Road, Bramley GU5 0JA
Blackheath Lane, Blackheath GU4 8QT
Brook Road, Wormley GU8 5UD
Churt Road, Hindhead GU26 6NL (GU26 6NR)
Critchmere Hill, GU27 1LS
Deanery Road, Godalming GU7 2PG
Durfold Wood, Plaistow RH14 0PL
Eight Acres, Hindhead GU26 6RZ
Gasden Lane, Witley GU8 5RJ
Lion Lane, Haslemere GU27 1JL
Lords Hill Common, Shamley Green GU5 0UZ

Parsons Green, Haslemere GU27 1EE
Petworth Road, Witley GU8 5PL
Petworth Road, Wormley GU8 5SJ
Skinners Lane, Chiddingfold GU8 4XT (Petworth Road, Chiddingfold GU8 4UP)
Spring Grove, Godalming GU7 3SS
Sunny Down, Witley GU8 5RP
Smithwood Common, Cranleigh GU6 8QP
Telephone Exchange, Dunsfold GU8 4LA
The Green, Ewhurst GU6 7RR (GU6 7SG)
The Street, Ewhurst GU6 7PA (GU6 7RH)
The Street, Hascombe GU8 4JG (GU8 4JR)
The Village, Ewhurst GU6 7PB
Woodside Road, Chiddingfold GU8 4RA (GU8 4RB)

**Unlisted K6 telephone boxes not included on proposed
removal list but assessed as part of this survey**

Bookhurst Road, Cranleigh GU6 7DN
Frensham Road, Frensham GU10 3DS
The Square, Rowledge GU10 4AA