

The Telephone Box Timeline

1921: K1

The first standard design wasn't introduced until 1921 and named Kiosk No.1 (K1). This was a concrete structure with about 150 initially ordered costing £35 each. Over the years demand for these continued and the cost per kiosk reduced dramatically to £13. This photograph shows the actual K1 located here on the island in Bembridge, which you can visit.



1929: K3

After the success of the last kiosk design, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was approached once again to design a new concrete kiosk, the K3. Intended for use nationwide, unlike the K2 which was limited to London, 12,000 had been installed by 1935.

1934: K5

The Kiosk No.5 (K5) was introduced this year, designed to be assembled and disassembled for easy pop-up use at exhibitions. However, there is little evidence of these suggesting they never reached more than the prototype stage.



This K6 celebrates
90 years
in 2026!

1958: K7

Architect Neville Conder was approached by the Post Office to create a sleek, modern design, dedicated the name Kiosk No. 7. Unfortunately this design never reached further than the prototype stage where it was tested in London 1962, due to the aluminium material mixing badly with English weather.

1981: KX

The Post Office is privatised and British Telecom wanted a new Kiosk with a fresh new look. The 'KX' kiosks were introduced by 1985 and looked much more modern, the KX100 looking rather similar to Neville Conder's K7 design in 1958.



2007: Street Talk 6

Despite this decline in payphone use, the 'Street Talk 6' was introduced by BT, in partnership with JCDcaux (French outdoor advertising company). It was a freestanding unit with a pay phone on one side and an advert display on the rear. The Street Talk 6 marked the very end of the KX range.

1924: K2

A new commission was put in place to design a new cast-iron kiosk. Various architects created designs, but it was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott whose design was ultimately selected by the Post Office and was named Kiosk No. 2 (K2).

1930: K4

The Kiosk No.4 was designed in 1924 by the Post Office Engineering Department but was not approved until 1930. These kiosks were much larger due to being both a telephone box and a stamp dispenser on the exterior. These kiosks weren't as popular due to size, difficulty finding suitable locations and noise that came from the stamp machines disturbing callers.

1936: K6

In 1935 Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was commissioned to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. Titled Kiosk No.6 (K6) and coming into service in 1936 means this year marks 90 years since its installation.

It was designed to take the best qualities from the Kiosk No.2 and expand upon this design, hence why they look similar.

A scheme titled the 'Jubilee Concession' was introduced whereby telephone boxes were provided in every town and village that had a Post Office. This specific Ventnor Kiosk would have been one of the first to appear in that year; it was made by the Carron Company in Scotland in the first half of 1936, as indicated by its serial number!

Coincidentally, that same year was the 300th year of the Post Office. Another scheme was introduced titled the 'Tercentenary Concession'. A call box was provided wherever local authorities would pay an annual £4 fee for five years.

Due to its popularity the K6 has become the most recognisable of all telephone boxes, serving as a British icon, with approximately 11,000 still remaining today.

1968: K8

Come 1965 architects Douglas Scott and Bruce Martin were commissioned by the Post Office to create another modern design that incorporated the best features of the previous Kiosks. Bruce Martin's design was settled upon and by 1968 it was newly introduced becoming the successor to the K6.

1996: KX+

The KX100 is replaced by a newer model, the KX+ (KX Plus), which was similar in design but had a domed roof used to house equipment.

Come the end of the century, the use of public payphones declined rapidly with the introduction of mobile phones and revenues dropped. A programme was put into place to enable removal of telephone kiosks and the production of the modern KX's was stopped.

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(01983) 852061 was the telephone number of this kiosk until 2024



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