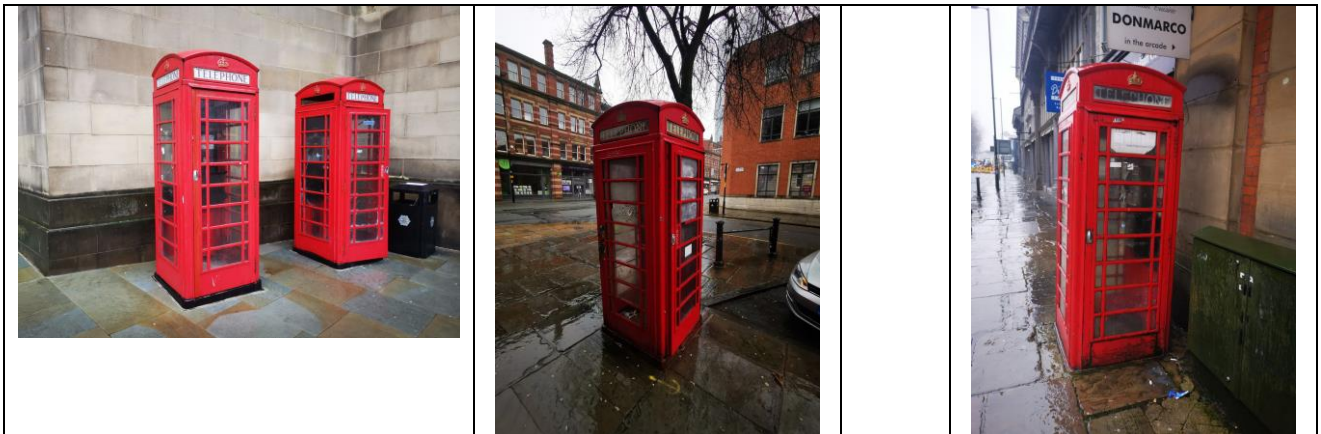


HERITAGE STATEMENT

K6 Heritage Phone Box Locks

MANCHESTER



Feb 2021

1 INTRODUCTION

The red telephone box, a telephone kiosk for a public telephone designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, is a familiar sight on the streets of the United Kingdom, Malta, Bermuda and Gibraltar.

Despite a reduction in their numbers in recent years, the traditional British red telephone kiosk can still be seen in many places throughout the UK, and in current or former British colonies around the world. The colour red was chosen to make them easy to spot.

From 1926 onwards, the fascias of the kiosks were emblazoned with a prominent crown, representing the British government. The red phone box is often seen as a British cultural icon throughout the world. In 2006 the K2 telephone box was voted one of Britain's top 10 design icons, which included the Mini, Supermarine Spitfire, London tube map, World Wide Web, Concorde and the AEC Routemaster bus. Although production of the traditional boxes ended with the advent of the KX series in 1985, many still stand in Britain.

In 1935 the K6 (kiosk number six) was designed to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V. It was consequently sometimes known as the "Jubilee" kiosk. It went into production in 1936. The K6 was the first red telephone kiosk to be extensively used outside London, and many thousands were deployed in virtually every town and city, replacing most of the existing kiosks and establishing thousands of new sites. In 1935 there had been 19,000 public telephones in the UK: by 1940, thanks to the K6, there were 35,000.

The design was again by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and was essentially a smaller and more streamlined version of the K2, intended to be produced at a considerably cheaper cost, and to occupy less pavement space. The principal differences between the two designs were:

The K6 has since become a British icon, but it was not universally loved at the start. The red colour caused particular local difficulties and there were many requests for less visible colours. The Post Office was forced into allowing a less strident grey with red glazing bars scheme for areas of natural and architectural beauty. Ironically, some of these areas that have preserved their telephone boxes have now painted them red. The paint colour used most widely today is known as "currant red" and is defined by a British Standard, BS381C-Red539. This slightly brighter red was introduced with the K8 model in 1968, but went on to be used across the estate on previous models too. Hence, for complete historical accuracy, any kiosks in pre-1968 settings should really be painted in the previous, and slightly darker, shade BS381C-Red538.

This Heritage Statement has been prepared by Kevin Stott from the Public Realm team Manchester Council in support of a full planning application and application for listed building consent for minor alterations to the grade II* listed four K6 telephone kiosks

In order for Manchester Council to adopt these four boxes from BT we are seeking listed building consent to then secure the boxes upon adoption completion.

2 The Heritage Assets

Manchester City council are currently in process of taking possession of 4no red K6 type telephone boxes from BT. The telephone boxes are grade 2 listed and are located at:

- 1no St John Street off Deansgate <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1219441>
- 2no St Peters Square outside the old Town hall extension <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1254628>
- 1no St John Street off Deansgate <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1270788>

The boxes were first listed in October 1987 by British Telecom. Their heritage category is defined as a listed buildings.

'Section 16 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework'

We have considered the Impact of the changes that this will have against the asset In line with this framework.

16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Paragraphs 184 to 202

184. Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as [World Heritage Sites](#) which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value ⁶¹. These assets are an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations ⁶².

185. Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:

(a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

(b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;

(c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and

(d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

186. When considering the designation of conservation areas, local planning authorities should ensure that an area justifies such status because of its special architectural or historic interest, and that the concept of conservation is not devalued through the designation of areas that lack special interest.

187. Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environment record. This should contain up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in their area and be used to:

(a) assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment; and

(b) predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.

188. Local planning authorities should make information about the historic environment, gathered as part of policy-making or development management, publicly accessible.

Proposals affecting heritage assets

189. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

191. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision.

192. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

(a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;

(b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and

(c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

Considering potential impacts

193. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

194. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

(a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;

(b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional ⁶³.

195. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

(a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and

(b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and

(c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and

(d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

196. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

197. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

198. Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

199. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible ⁶⁴. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

200. Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

201. Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm under [paragraph 195](#) or less than substantial harm under [paragraph 196](#), as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.

202. Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.

3. Assessment of Significance

The NPPF defines the significance of a heritage asset as:

“The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.”³

Listed Buildings

Listed buildings are defined as designated heritage assets that hold architectural or historic interest. The principles of selection for listed buildings are published by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and supported by Historic England Listing Selection Guides for each building type.

Assessment

The following assessment of significance is proportionate to both the significance of the identified heritage asset and sufficient so as to understand the impact of the Proposed Works, given their nature and extent. The assessment has been undertaken on the basis of published information, archival research and on-site visual survey.

Architectural Interest

Telephone kiosks. Type K6. Designed 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Made by various contractors. Cast iron. Square kiosks with domed roofs. Unperforated crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and doors.

Historic Interest

The K6 telephone kiosks are of historic interest. They are around 80 years old and are a British icon. They are at serious risk of being lost unless they are adopted and brought back to a decent standard. They need to be secured and protected. There is a risk that these could be lost if they are not adopted. If left, in time they may be disposed of by BT because they have fallen into an unrepairable state.

4. Impact Assessment

The key heritage issue to be taken into consideration is therefore the effect of the works on the significance and the special interest of the grade II listed boxes. We intend to respect this interest and to make the minimal changes to secure these assets.

We propose 2no Yale P-M444 brass security bolts located near the top and bottom of the doors as shown on the attached elevations. A small brass escutcheon plate will cover the keyholes which will be painted with the same colour paint for extra discretion. The recognized colour of the phone box is British Standard 381C-Red539. By colour coordinating the plate this will also protect the look of the phone boxes and their heritage.

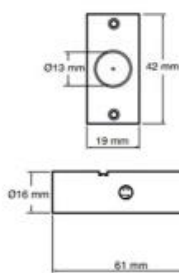
These assets will be enhanced and protected by securing them with the proposals. This will allow Manchester council to adopt them and then bring them up to a good standard as they are currently in poor condition and there is a danger we may lose them.

The assets are in public places, therefore by making the necessary changes this will allow us to conserve them. This will bring an improved environmental, social and cultural impact.

This will make a positive impact on the surrounding environment with respect to other historic buildings within close proximity such as the central library and the town hall. The boxes are in high footfall areas and very much in the public eye.

The impact to the boxes from a visual aspect with reference to the minor changes will be minimal. The changes are discreet and subtle. They are needed to preserve the assets.

PR44994 - Proposal – Yale P-M444 Door Security Bolt

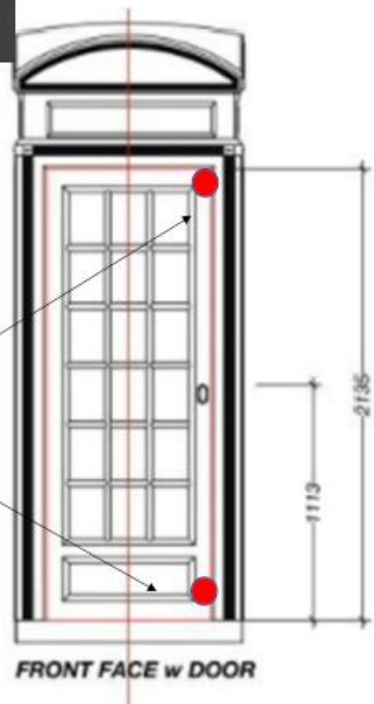


Proposal Notes

For added security we propose to cover the escutcheon / star keyhole with a raised profile blank cover plate which will be secured with security fixings to prevent access to the star key hole

The plate can be painted to match the original K6 currant red colour BS381C-Red539

Alternatively the plate can be specified in chrome, brass or brushed metal.



5 Summary and Conclusion

The proposed locks will be discrete and will not take away from the original appearance of the phone box. The standard will be improved. Manchester council will then be able to adopt the boxes. We will secure them, clean and maintain them.

There will be no harm to the significance of the grade II listed status.

We hope we have detailed our proposals and their impact to you. We feel these changes will benefit the boxes now and, in the future, to preserve their history.