

Federation of Old Cornwall Societies – Post Box Survey 2009-2010
Print off fill in and attach photo and mail it to Andrew Langdon,
34 Dobbs Lane, Truro TR1 3NB



1. Address of post box: _____
2. Royal Mail Post Box number:
3. Type: Pillar _ Pedestal _ Wall _ Mounted _ Pole _ Mounted _ Other
4. Sovereign's symbol or motif: VR _ GR _ ER _ EIIR _ EVIR _ Other
5. Does the post box display an embossed Crown? Yes _ No _
6. Is there any manufacturer's name or mark in the casting of the box?

7. Are there any unusual features on the post box?
8. Is the site or the position of the letter box unusual?
9. Is the post box still in use? Yes/No
10. Any other observations?

Recorder details:

Name and contact details:

Society: Date

The aim of this survey is to encourage the recording of general artifacts throughout Cornwall as a team. The Federation of Old Cornwall Societies is in a much better position than most history groups and societies, as we have a network of societies throughout the county. We should be using this to our advantage and working together as a Federation to record historical data.

Although several societies have recorded Victorian post boxes in their area, no one has surveyed and recorded all of the post boxes in Cornwall particularly the rural ones. It is surprising how many different types there are. Some of the changes to detail are subtle and require a keen eye to spot the differences.

Who can take part in the survey? The idea was for society recorders to record the post boxes in each society's area. However, any-one can take part, either as part of a team within a society or individually. The results written on recording sheets can be collected together by the society recorder and then passed, posted or emailed to Andrew Langdon, the Federation Archaeology Recorder who will collate the results and present a report at the Federation AGM. If an individual society wishes to retain copies of the survey, the original forms can be photocopied and a copy sent in.

Check List

1. Where possible take a location shot, one that shows the post box, but also shows its location, and setting. The address of the post box, please state the name of the road or street, the name or number of any house it is outside of.
2. The Royal Mail Post Box number is shown on the white face plate that appears on all post boxes that are in use. It is normally at the bottom of the plate and consists of the first part of the postal code, plus a number. For example TR1 112. Please note post boxes which are no longer in use and therefore particularly important to record. They are usually painted black with the letter opening sealed up.
3. On the form please draw a circle around the type of post box you are recording, a pillar box is an upright cylindrical pillar, a pedestal box is a small post box set on a pole or steel support. Wall mounted boxes can be either set into an existing wall or set into a brick pier or buttress. The pole mounted post boxes are actually fixed to a telegraph pole with brackets. Circle around *other* and add your own note for any that do not meet the standard types.
4. The Sovereign's symbol or motif denotes the age of the post box, whether it is Victorian, Edwardian etc., again there are many subtle differences, and not one type of Victorian box. Add any symbol or motif if not on the recording sheet.
5. If the post box displays a crown, one can cross out either yes or no accordingly.
6. There is often a manufacturer's name or mark on the metalwork, sometimes it is difficult to read due to layers of red paint; however some post boxes look the same but were produced by different companies.
7. Record any unusual features about the post box, sometimes the post boxes have an additional white surround and not every box was painted red. Record any additional features added to or fixed to the post box.
8. Record any unusual positions that the post boxes are in, do they reflect a change in society, a bygone age?
9. Is the post box still in everyday use? Cross out either yes or no.

Please add your name, contact details if you wish and your Old Cornwall Society name.

Photography: This form can be saved as a MSWord document on your computer and the form can be filled in and the image inserted and emailed, or one can fill out the form by hand and attach a photograph, either way is ok, it is the information that is important.

Health and Safety: Although most post boxes are easily accessible, for obvious reasons, however some, particularly redundant ones can be beside busy roads. Please take the utmost care when recording and photographing these post boxes, **DO NOT STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD TO TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH, OR PUT YOURSELF AT ANY RISK .**

**Many thanks, Andrew Langdon, Federation Archaeology Recorder, 34 Dobbs Lane, Truro TR1 3NB
Tele: 01872 271382, email : aglangdon@btinternet.com**