

Thousands of UK's red phone boxes  
to be saved from closure  
英國數千座紅色電話亭將得以保存

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英國電信監管機構表示，將保留英國各地數千座公用電話亭。在移動信號差或事故高發地區，以及在當地社區仍有需要的情況下，電話亭將可以繼續使用。

The UK's first phone boxes started **popping up** in 1921, with the **iconic red design** appearing five years later. At their peak in 1992, BT **operated** 92,000 of them.

英國首批公用電話亭從 1921 年開始出現，標誌性的紅色設計在五年後才面世。在 1992 年的鼎盛時期，由英國電信集團運營的電話亭有 9 萬 2 千座。

But as mobiles became part of everyday life, many phone **kiosks** were removed or re-used for services like community libraries and pop-up coffee shops. There are now just 21,000 **payphones** left.

但隨著手機成為日常生活的一部分，很多電話亭被相繼拆除或改造成社區圖書館和快閃咖啡館等用途。現在只剩下 2 萬 1 千台公用電話了。

Ofcom wants to protect 5,000 phone boxes, particularly in poor mobile **coverage** areas. It says they still provide a valuable **emergency function**, with 150,000 **999 calls** made from phone boxes last year.

英國通信管理局希望保護 5000 座電話亭，特別是在移動信號覆蓋率低的地區。該機構表示，這些電話亭仍提供寶貴的緊急求救功能，去年通過公用電話亭撥打的英國 999 緊急求救電話就有 15 萬通。

### 1. 詞彙表

popping up	湧現，出現
iconic	標誌性的，經典的
design	設計
operated	運營，運作
kiosks	（英國）公用電話亭
payphones	投幣式公用電話
coverage	覆蓋
emergency function	緊急求救功能
999 calls	999 電話（英國緊急求救電話號碼）

### 2. 閱讀理解：請在讀完上文後，回答下列問題。（答案見下頁）

1. When did the iconic red design of phone box first start appearing in the UK?
2. What has caused the demise of the phone box?
3. How many phone boxes does Ofcom want to protect?
4. In which areas does Ofcom want to protect phone boxes?

### 3. 答案

1. When did the iconic red design of phone box first start appearing in the UK?

**The iconic red design started appearing in 1926.**

2. What has caused the demise of the phone box?

**The use of mobile phones has led to many phone boxes being removed or re-used.**

3. How many phone boxes does Ofcom want to protect?

**Ofcom wants to protect 5,000 phone boxes.**

4. In which areas does Ofcom want to protect phone boxes?

**It particularly wants to protect phone boxes in poor mobile phone coverage areas.**