

# Edinburgh Police Boxes



Edinburgh used to have many more police boxes actually used by the police than it does now and 23 are being marketed for sale in 2014 by the Scottish Police Authority with help from the City of Edinburgh Council.

142 boxes designed by City Architect Ebenezer MacRae who died in 1951 were originally installed in 1933. These boxes were manufactured by Carron Ironworks in Falkirk.

The boxes used to have sirens on the top and were used by police officers on the beat to phone in to the station with a note of where they were and perhaps get instructions on what they might do next.

In 2012, 22 of the police boxes were put up for sale by Lothian and Borders Police. These were in Cowgate, Cranston Street, Croal Place (Albert St), Dalkeith St, Joppa, Drumsheugh Gardens, Easter Road, Hunter Square, Lawnmarket, Magdala Crescent, Market Street, Marshall Street, Melville Drive, Newbattle Terrace, Newcraighall Road (Wisp), Princes Street (West End), Quality Street, Regent Road, Rutland Square, The Shore, Leith, Whitehouse Loan, West Register Street, Whitepark and Gorgie.

On 25 May 1933 – Bailie Rutherford Fortune formally inaugurated the new Edinburgh Police Box system by speaking to headquarters by means of the loudspeaker at one of the boxes. Chief Constable Ross and Mr F J Milne Post Office Secretary were also photographed at this inauguration

In 1993 the Edinburgh Evening News reported that Edinburgh was to get its own tourist police with bilingual bobbies posted in police boxes. Eleven were to be refurbished for the tourist season. We don't think this ever happened but perhaps you

could let us know if you have more information!

There is a fairly up to date map of them [here](#) classified as to police division and use.

Other useful sites for information and photos are [Tardisbuilders](#) and [Flickr photos with geotags](#)

Below is the list of original locations. Some of these may have been moved so may no longer be there, but it would be great if you would have a look next time you are passing and if you find one then please send us a photo. [We have set up a special storyboard over here](#) for photos of police boxes in Edinburgh. We would love it if you send us your snaps!

Abbeymount A Division 42

Albert Street B Division 6

Ardmillan Terrace at Lavatory C Division 9

Arthur Street King's Park A Division 21

Baileyfield Road A Division (Portobello) 5

Balgreen Road at Gorgie Road C Division 11

Balgreen Road at Saughtonhall Drive C Division 29

Barnton Hotel C Division 36

Bath Street at Promenade A Division (Portobello) 6

Bath Street D Division 12

Belhaven Terrace Morningside C Division 21

Blackford Avenue at Electric Power Station A Division 17

Bonnington Toll D Division 4

# Boswall Green D Division 22





Braid Hills Road at Road to Clubhouse A Division 26

This box is owned by Gail Smith who hired Angus Self a joiner to refurbish it. Angus is the great-grandson of Roderick Ross who was Chief Constable of Edinburgh. In 1933 he was responsible for installing police boxes in the capital. There is a free e-book which you can access [here](#) which takes you through the renovation process. The box is now a police museum, but more interestingly is home to a small family.

There is a small family who live in the police box called the Swimeasys. They have a website [here](#) with videos!

Braid Hills Road at Howe Dean A Division 27

Braid Avenue at number 55 A Division 36

Bridge Road Colinton C Division 23

Bridge Street D Division 14

Brights Crescent A Division 33

Broughton Road at McDonald Road B Division 7. You can see the Broughton Road site on RCAHMS [here](#)

Bruntsfield Links A Division 7

Burlington Street D Division 3

Cambridge Street A Division 12

Cameron Toll on Old Dalkeith Road A Division 45

Canongate – at foot A Division 5

Canongate at Milton House School (now Royal Mile School) A Division 6

Canonmills B Division 8



Charterhall Road Blackford Hill Gate A Division 24. You can see this site on RCHAMS [here](#).

Clark Road (Pillar) D Division 24

Clockmill Lane A Division (Portobello) 2

Colinton Road at Happy Valley (Pillar) C Division 41

Colinton Road at Firrhill Water Filters





Comely Green Steps London Road at Stairs to Lower London Road and Comely Green Crescent – a police officer apparently died at the foot of these stairs. A Division 43

Corstorphine Road near Saughtonhall Drive C Division 31

Corstorphine Road near Pinkhill Station C Division 33

Cowgate at foot of Pleasance – Listed

Craigentenny Road at Craigentenny Avenue

Craighall Road D Division 19

Craigmillar Bowling Green A Division (Portobello) 9

Cramond School – C Division 37

Cramond Beach (Pillar) C Division 38

Cranston Street A Division 4 Listed  
You can see this site on RCAHMS [here](#).

Crewe Road D Division 26

Croal Place (Albert Street)

Dalkeith Street at Morton Street Joppa A Division (Portobello)  
7

Dalmeny Street D Division 7

Dean Terrace Stockbridge B Division 20 Listed

Dean Street at School B Division 10

Dean Path Dean Village C Division 26  
You can see this site on RCAHMS [here](#).

Drum Street Gilmerton between Drum Street and Newtoft Street  
A Division 40

Drummond Place at Dundonald Street B Division 17 Listed  
You can see this site on RCAHMS [here](#).

Drummond Street – Pleasance A Division 2

Drumsheugh Gardens Listed

Duddingston Crescent Crossroads (Pillar) A Division  
(Portobello) 12

Duddingston Road West and Peffermill Road and another off  
Milton Road West

Duddingston Road at Woodlands A Division (Portobello) 10

Duddingston War Memorial A Division (Portobello) 14

Dundee Terrace C Division 27

East Montgomery Place B Division 5

East Preston Street A Division 30

Easter Road between Sunnyside and Albion Road

Ettrick Road C Division 40

Fairmilehead A Division 37

Fountainbridge C Division 3

Frogston Road



George Square

George Street Bridge D Division 16

George Street at Frederick Street B Division 15

Glasgow Road Maybury C Division 16





Gorgie Road White Park

Granton Square D Division 25

Gray's Loan C Division 20

Grassmarket A Division 9 Listed  
You can see this site on RCAHMS [here](#).

Greenbank Terrace at Hospital Gates C Division 22

Hawkhill Avenue in Lochend Park D Division 9

Haymarket Crossing (Pillar) C Division 25

Henderson Gardens D Division 1

Heriot Row B Division 19 Listed

High Riggs Tollcross A Division 14

High School Wynd A Division 11

High Street

Hope Park Crescent A Division 29

Hunter Square/Tron Listed

Hutchison Crossway C Division 28

Inverleith Place B Division 14

James Place D Division 10

Jock's Lodge – Restalrig Road South – A Division (Portobello)  
3

Kaimes Road Crossroads A Division 47

Lady's Wynd

Lanark Road and Baberton Avenue

Lanark Road Slateford C Division 13

Lanark Road opposite Fair View C Division 45

Lanark Road at Juniper Green Station C Division 46

Lasswade Road at Captain's Road (Pillar) A Division 48

Lauder Road at Grange Road A Division 34

Lauriston Place at Tollcross

Lawnmarket A Division 1 Listed

Leamington Terrace at Gilmore Place C Division 18

Leith Walk at foot (Pillar) D Division 6

Lennie Port (Pillar) C Division 35

Liberton Gardens at Liberton Place

Liberton Crossroads A Division 39

Liberton Dams (Pillar) A Division 44

Links Gardens

Little King Street

Lochend Park

Lomond Park D Division 21

London Road Gardens B Division 4

You can see this site on RCAHMS [here](#).

Longstone School – Longstone Road at Kingsknowe Road East C  
Division 32

Lothian Road and Cambridge Street

Magdala Crescent C Division 5

Marchmont Crescent A Division 10

Marionville Road A Division (Portobello) 11

Marischal Place Blackhall C Division 17

Marshall Street near Potterrow? Has this been replaced? A

## Division 23



Market Street – at foot of Cockburn Street A Division 3 Listed

Maybury Road

Mayfield Road at Depot Gates A Division 35

Melville Drive Jawbone Walk A Division 18

Merchiston Avenue between Gilmore Place and Dorset Place C  
Division 19

Mill Lane Taylor Gardens D Division 2

Middle Meadow Walk A Division 15

Montgomery Street

Morningside Drive C Division 39

Morningside Road

The Mound B Division 13 Listed

Mountcastle Drive North

Morrison Street C Division 2

Murrayfield Avenue C Division 12

Newcraighall Road at the Wisp and Niddrie Mains Road

Newbattle Terrace A Division 20 Listed

Newhaven Road – Victoria Park D Division 17

Newhaven Fish House D Division 23

Niddrie Mill Crossroads A Division (Portobello) 13

Northfield Broadway Portobello A Division (Portobello) 1

Northfield A Division 46

Orchard Brae at School B Division 18

Orwell Terrace (Caledonian Crescent) C Division 4

Oxgangs Road at Redford Road (Pillar) C Division 43

Parkside Street A Division 28





Pier Place Newhaven

Portland Place D Division 15

Prestonfield Avenue West End A Division 31

Prestonfield Avenue at Peffermill Road A Division 16

Princes Street opposite South Charlotte Street B Division 16  
Listed

Prince Regent Street

Quality Street

Queen Street opposite St David Street B Division 11

Ravelston Dykes C Division 6

Randolph Place at Cab Shelter C Division 7

Richmond Lane

Rose Street B Division 3

Rutland Square C Division 1 Listed



St John's Road Corstorphine C Division 14

St Leonard's Street

St Ninian's Row Low Calton B Division 9

St Patrick Square A Division 25

Saughton Road near Dovecote Road C Division 34

Seafield Place D Division 11

Seafield Road D Division 18

Shandon Crescent corner of Shandon Place and Slateford Road C Division 8

Simon Square A Division 22

Sleigh Drive A Division (Portobello) 4

Smith's Place off Leith Walk near Claremont Park D Division 5

The Shore Leith D Division 13. You can see this site on RCHAMS [here](#).

The Square Newcraighall A Division (Portobello) 8



Stenhouse Road C Division 30

Straiton A Division 38

Trinity Bridge D Division 20

Tron Church A Division 8

Turnhouse Road C Division 15

Union Place B Division 2

Vanburgh Place D Division 8

Waverley Market Princes Street (pillar) B Division 1

West Bow Grassmarket

West End of Princes Street (Pillar)

Wester Hailes Road at Power Station C Division 44

West Mains Road A Division 32

West Register Street B Division 12 Listed

West Port Grassmarket A Division 13





White Park Gorgie Road C Division 10



Whitehouse Loan near Thirlestane Road A Division 19 Listed.  
This is marketed for sale in 2014.

Here is the current list of properties which the council are marketing as at 28 August 2014. This includes 23 police boxes and gives you the details of how to go about acquiring one or more of the structures and what to do about keeping it on site or moving it.

[http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/current\\_property\\_list\\_28\\_August\\_2014.pdf](http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/current_property_list_28_August_2014.pdf)