



## Designation Consultation

This designation consultation is open for comment until 09/07/2026

### Give us your comments

Historic Environment Scotland consult with those who are directly affected by designation proposals – including owners, occupiers and tenants – and with the planning authority.

We also welcome comments from interested persons or groups.

When we consult about a designation case we will have carried out research and set this out in a **report of handling**. This report is an assessment produced for consultation and it sets out our view, including a proposed decision. The assessment is not intended to be a definitive account or description of the site or place. We consider the comments received before we take a final decision.

We consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place.
- Whether sites or places meet the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

You can find more guidance on providing comments and how we handle your information on our [website](#).

Information on how we treat your personal data is available on our [Privacy Notice](#).

### How to make a comment

Please send your comments to [designationconsultations@hes.scot](mailto:designationconsultations@hes.scot) and provide us with the case reference. You can also make comments through our [portal](#) by clicking on the link 'email your comments about this case'.

**If you are the owner, occupier or tenant or the planning authority please email us at: [designations@hes.scot](mailto:designations@hes.scot).**

If you are unable to email your comments please phone us on 0131 668 8914.



## Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300076468
<b>Name of Site</b>	The Kings, 2-8 Main Street, Kelty
<b>Postcode (if any)</b>	KY4 0AA

<b>Local Authority</b>	Fife
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NT 14375 94212
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building
<b>Designation No. and category of listing (if any)</b>	N/A
<b>Case Type</b>	Designation

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	31/10/2024
<b>Decision Date</b>	Pending

## 1. Proposed decision

New Statutory Listing Address	2-8 (even numbers) Main Street (former Kelty Gothenburg Public House), excluding interiors, conservatory and covered shelters to rear, Kelty	New category of listing	C
-------------------------------	--	-------------------------	---

Our assessment using the selection guidance shows that the building meets the criteria of special architectural or historic interest. The proposed decision is to list the building at category C.

## 2. Designation and Development Proposals

### 2.1 Designation Background

The first listing surveys for Fife Council were undertaken in the 1950s and 1960s, and the buildings were formally added to the lists in 1972. No area resurvey of the parish of Beath (which includes Kelty) has since taken place. We do not have information about any previous detailed assessment of this building for listing.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.



## 3. Assessment

---

### 3.1 Assessment information

We received a request to designate Kelty Gothenburg Public House on 31/10/2024. (Designations request forms are published on our portal and will be available to view during the lifetime of the case and until 3 months after the case is closed.)

The proposer provided the following information and views in their request form:

- The history of the building/site
- Their views on special architectural and historic interest
- Information about previous development proposals

We informed the planning authority (Fife Council) on 22/10/2025 that we had received a designation request. They provided the following comments about the potential for listing: “Whilst of neither great antiquity nor great architectural distinction, the building is of considerable cultural significance to Kelty and to the surrounding historic mining villages, in their close connection during the late Victorian and early Edwardian periods with the Gothenburg system of social reform.”

Our policy states that ‘our assessments may involve a site visit, and will aim to make use of the best available evidence.’ (See [Designation Policy and Selection Guidance](#) p.7.) We decide on a case by case basis whether a site visit is required to inform our assessments.

In this case we consider that we have sufficient information to inform our assessment of the building’s special architectural or historic interest. The present assessment is desk-based, using available information and has included reference to recent photographs.

### 3.2 Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

We have found that the building meets the criteria for listing.

We carried out an assessment using the selection guidance to decide whether the site or place is of special architectural or historic interest. See **Annex A**.

The listing criteria and selection guidance for listed buildings are published in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019), Annex 2, pp. 11-13, <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

## 4. Consultation

---



## 4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 11/06/2026 to 09/07/2026.

We have consulted directly with the: owner(s), and/or occupier(s) and the planning authority.

The consultation report of handling is published on our portal for comment from interested parties.

## 4.2 Designation consultations

### *Comments we consider*

We will consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place and whether it meets the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

### *Comments we don't consider*

We do not consider comments and representations on non-relevant/non-material issues, such as:

- Economic considerations
- Abusive or offensive remarks
- Whether you personally like, or do not like, a proposal

Our video about consultations explains how you can comment on our designations decisions, and what we can and can't take into account when considering your views. <https://youtu.be/ZlqU51tRA6g>.

---

## Designations Service

Heritage Directorate  
Historic Environment Scotland

<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:designations@hes.scot">designations@hes.scot</a> , 0131 668 8914
----------------	--



## ANNEX A

### Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

---

#### 1. Building name

Former Kelty Gothenburg Public House, 2-8 Main Street, Kelty

---

#### 2. Description and historical development

##### 2.1 Description

A two-storey gabled public-house on a corner site, built 1899-1900 and extended in 1903 and 1907 by Andrew Scobie of Dunfermline. The building is L-shaped on plan and constructed in squared-and-snecked sandstone with stone skews, slated roofs and gable stacks. It has a seven-bay elevation to Station Road and a three-bay elevation to Main Street with a canted corner entrance bay to the southwest with a curved corner conical tower above. The building is prominently located on the principal crossroads of Kelty at the south end of Main Street.

The street elevations are asymmetrical and interspersed with three prominent gabled bays with gables flanking the corner turret. Each has an apex chimneystack (the western one on Station Road has been truncated) and a segmental pediment over the first-floor windows with bracketed moulded cornice and surmounted by engaged ball finials. The windows throughout are a mixture of single openings and bipartites with a central stone mullion, all with plain stone margins and replacement casement windows. Some openings have been blocked up to the ground floor.

The main entrance is in the angled corner bay and has keystoned, round arched doorway; the door (a replacement) is recessed with a plain fanlight above. The curved corner tower corbels out above this, with a curving tripartite window, conical roof, finial and parapet. A moulded string course extends along both the street elevations and wraps around the corner tower at first-floor level with a timber signage fascia below.

There are multiple secondary entrances on the two principal elevations including two built up with blockwork on Main Street. The rear elevations are largely roughcast rendered. The north-facing gable of the Main Street wing has a tall round arched window and the walling has been painted over with a mural (around 2019). To the rear (north) are a pair of single-storey outshots with piended roofs, and other later 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century extensions. These include a single storey conservatory and covered shelters.

The interiors are understood to largely date from the late 20<sup>th</sup> to early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

##### 2.2 Historical development

[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)

Historic Environment Scotland, Longmore House,  
Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Historic Environment Scotland  
Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**  
VAT Number: **GB 221 8680 15**



The Kelty Gothenburg Public House was built in 1900 and is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Revised 1913, Published 1915) marked as a public house beside the Oakfield crossroads. In the 1850s the site had been occupied by a small coal pit, but it was vacant by the 1890s. The village of Kelty was largely developed after 1872 when the Fife Coal Company bought the pits of the Beath and Blairadam Colliery at Kelty and began expanding operations there. Over the next two decades, there was a large amount of development to the east of Main Street, particularly along the branch of the crossroads extending towards Kelty Station (renamed Station Road). This included the Gothenburg Pub, the bowling green and the parish kirk (listed at category C, ref: [LB43859](#)).

The Kelty Gothenburg Public House operated on the model of the Gothenburg Public House System, a method of controlling the consumption of spirits which had originated in the 1860s in Gothenburg, Sweden. The system saw alcohol licenses restricted to approved retailers organised as a trust to reinvest profits from the sales of alcohol into the community to provide educational and recreational facilities, with the stakeholders receiving a maximum of 5% return. The first Gothenburg public house in Scotland was set up at Hill of Beath near Kelty in 1896 by John Ross, a Dunfermline solicitor who was agent to the Fife Coal Company and known for his involvement in educational and social reform. The Gothenburg System became popular in the mining communities of central Scotland, which were growing rapidly in the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century and required amenities to support the miners. At its height there were more than 20 Gothenburg pubs (known as 'Goths') in Fife, as well as others in the Lothians, Stirlingshire and Ayrshire.

The Kelty Public House Society was established on 1 January 1900 by John Ross to introduce the Gothenburg System to Kelty, despite strong opposition at a public meeting the previous autumn. Their premises was constructed at Ross's expense for £3,500 possibly to designs by Andrew Scobie of Dunfermline who extended the building in 1903 and 1907. The building had a large bar with a separate jug compartment (a type of off-license for selling alcohol to take away) and four rooms off the bar. In the wing on Main Street was a restaurant room with a separate street entrance. On the floor above was a flat for the bar manager and a large function room with a capacity of 70, used for cricket club dinners, Burns' Suppers and concerts.

Like other 'Goths', the aim of the Kelty public house was to discourage drunkenness, particularly the consumption of low-quality spirits. Beer and wine were encouraged as alternatives, and the bar was closely policed by the manager to maintain respectability.

By 1921, Kelty was described as having 'the most important Gothenburg in Scotland' (Dundee Courier, 21 Feb 1921, p. 2) and the Society operated three different public houses in the village with profits of £3,514. To distinguish it from the society's other



establishments, the original public house was thereafter named 'Gothenburg No. 1' or 'No. 1 The Goth'.

The Kelty Gothenburg was still operating according to the original principles in 1960 but became a regular public house later in the century and continued to trade as No. 1 The Goth until around 2019. The eastern part of the building was divided off and used as a separate restaurant in the 1990s.

---

### 3. Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

To be listed a building must be of 'special architectural or historic interest' as set out in the [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#). To decide if a building is of special interest for listing we assess its cultural significance using selection guidance which has two main headings – architectural interest and historic interest (see Designation Policy and Selection Guidance, 2019, Annex 2, pp. 11-13).

The selection guidance provides a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions. The special architectural or historic interest of a building can be demonstrated in one or more of the following ways.

#### 3.1 Architectural interest

The architectural interest of a building may include its design, designer, interior, plan form, materials, regional traditions, and setting and the extent to which these characteristics survive. These factors are grouped under two headings:

##### 3.1.1 Design

Kelty Gothenburg Public House is a good surviving example of a purpose-built public house that operated on the model of the Gothenburg Public House System. Gothenburg pubs were designed in a variety of architectural styles. Kelty Public House has some notable features including a prominent corner entrance with its Scots Baronial style tower and good quality stonework throughout.

The external appearance of Kelty Public House has remained largely unaltered. Some openings have been blocked up, there are some modern additions to the rear, and windows have been replaced. However, these changes are minimal and do not detract from the overall character of the building.

The additions to the rear, which include a conservatory and covered shelters, as well as the interiors are not of special interest and are excluded from the listing.

##### 3.1.2 Setting

Kelty Gothenburg Public House is located on a corner site along one of the main thoroughfares and is prominent within its setting.



The original building plot of the pub is largely unaltered. The Kelty Kirk and Hall (listed at category C, ref: [LB43859](#)), is near-contemporary in date (1894-96) and is located directly opposite the public house. Other 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings (a public house and a picture theatre) have since been replaced by modern housing development and commercial buildings. The former Gothenburg pub now remains as a notable historic building in a multi-period townscape.

## 3.2 Historic interest

Historic interest is in such things as a building's age, rarity, social historical interest and associations with people or events that have had a significant impact on Scotland's cultural heritage. Historic interest is assessed under three headings:

### 3.2.1 Age and rarity

Public houses are not a rare building type and can be found in settlements across Scotland. Kelty Gothenburg Public House in Kelty is of special historic interest as an early and relatively rare surviving example of a purpose-built 'Goth' pub that survives largely in its original form and with much of its early 20<sup>th</sup>-century character still evident to the exterior.

Gothenburg pubs, or 'Goths', were popular around the turn of the century in various mining areas in Scotland, especially in Fife and Lothian. Kelty Gothenburg Public House is one of the earliest surviving 'Goth' pubs in Scotland, opening in 1900 shortly after the first one opened in 1896 in the nearby in the Hill of Beath (see section 2.2). Other early examples include the Dean Tavern in Newtongrange (1899) (listed at category at C, ref: [LB46971](#)), 'Glenraig', in Ballingry, Fife (1905), Bowhill Public House, also in Fife (1904) (listed category C, ref: [LB43654](#)), 'Black Bull' in Dalkeith (1905-06) (listed at category B, ref: [LB24335](#)) and Prestongrange Gothenburg pub in Prestonpans (1908) (listed at category B, ref: [LB40324](#)). The examples in Newtongrange, Prestonpans, Fallin and Armadale still operate under the Gothenburg system (2026).

### 3.2.2 Social historical interest

Social historical interest is the way a building contributes to our understanding of how people lived in the past, and how our social and economic history is shown in a building and/or in its setting.

Gothenburg public houses, also known as 'Gothenburgs' or 'Goths' (originating in the Temperance Society of Gothenburg, Sweden) were drinking places, run by a committee, with profits distributed to worthy causes. There was a growing concern about the abuse of alcohol and drunkenness among the working classes during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Campaigners at the time looked to the example set in Gothenburg in Sweden.



Kelty Gothenburg Public House has special historic interest as it illustrates the growing aspirations of the working population to engage in sociability whilst also carrying out charitable activities to provide local amenities for the benefit of the wider community. The nearby bowling green, which was funded by the Kelty Public House Society, is still in use today.

### 3.2.3 Association with people or events of national importance

There is no association with a person or event of national importance.

---

## 4. Summary of assessment

Kelty Gothenburg Public House meets the criteria of special architectural or historic interest for the following reasons:

- It has special historic interest for its links to the Temperance Movement and the Swedish Gothenburg public house system, providing improved quality of life in Scotland's mining communities.
- It is amongst the earliest public houses built as part of the Gothenburg movement.
- It remains largely unaltered to its exterior and retains much of its original early 20<sup>th</sup> century character to its principal elevations.

In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the interiors, conservatory and covered shelters to rear are excluded from the listing.

## 5. Category of listing

---

Once a building is found to be of special architectural or historic interest, it is then classified under one of three categories (A, B or C) according to its relative importance. While the listing itself has legal weight and gives statutory protection, the categories have no legal status and are advisory. They affect how a building is managed in the planning system.

Category definitions are found at Annex 2 of Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019) <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

### 5.1 Level of importance

Kelty Gothenburg Public House's level of importance is category C.

Buildings listed at category C are defined as 'buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are representative examples of a period, style or type.'



Taking into account the loss of internal features, category C is considered to be the most appropriate level of listing.

## 6. Legal exclusions

---

In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the interiors, conservatory and covered shelters to rear are excluded from the listing.

The internal plan form has been altered, and the interiors have no early 20<sup>th</sup> century fixtures or fittings remaining. The additions to the rear are of standard design for their date and type.

## 7. References

---

National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) ID 380835:

<https://www.truve.scot/place/380835>

(accessed on 29/04/2026)

### Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1854, published: 1856) Fife, Sheet 30. Six inches to the mile. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (revised 1913, published: 1915) Fifeshire XXXIV.3. 25 inches to the mile. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (revised 1961, published: 1962) National Grid Map: NT1494-NT1594 - AA. 1:1250. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

### Printed Sources

Dundee Courier (21 Feb 1921) *Kelty Gothenburg Grants*. p.2.

St Andrews Citizen (29 December 1900) *In the Village of Kelty*. p.3.

Edinburgh Evening News (17 September 1898) *Kelty's Views on the Public-House Experiment*. p.4.

Arbroath Herald (10 July 1902) *The Kelty "Gothenburg" Pub: Village Bowling Green Presented*. p.6.



Bonnar, R. (1964) *Stewartie*. London: Camelot Press. p.15.

Durland, K. (1904) *Among the Fife Miners*. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd.

Rowntree, J. & Sherwell, A. (1903) *British 'Gothenburg' Experiments and Public-House Trusts*. London: Hodder & Stoughton. pp.74-86.

Kelty Public-House Society (1909) *Rules of the Kelty Public-House Society, Limited*. Dunfermline: R.K. Lindsay & Co.

## Online Sources

Scottish Mining Website, *Beath Parish* at <http://www.scottishmining.co.uk/35.html> [accessed 23/02/2026]

Historic Environment Scotland, *The Goths of Fife and the Lothians* at <https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2019/05/goths-fife-lothians/> [accessed 23/02/2026]

Dictionary of Scottish Architects, *Scobie & Son* at [https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/apex/r/dsa/dsa/architects?p8\\_id=203128](https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/apex/r/dsa/dsa/architects?p8_id=203128) [accessed 23/02/2026]

## 8. Indicative Map

---

A map of the proposed listed building is attached separately.