

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 074

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**Area:** *Srath Uachail* (Strath Oykel): *Achadh Uraigil, Inbhir nan Allt, Tulach, Doire a'Chatha, Alltais, Alltais Beag, Achadh an t-Sabhail, Lianasaid Mhòr, Lianasaid Chruaidh & Inbhirean*

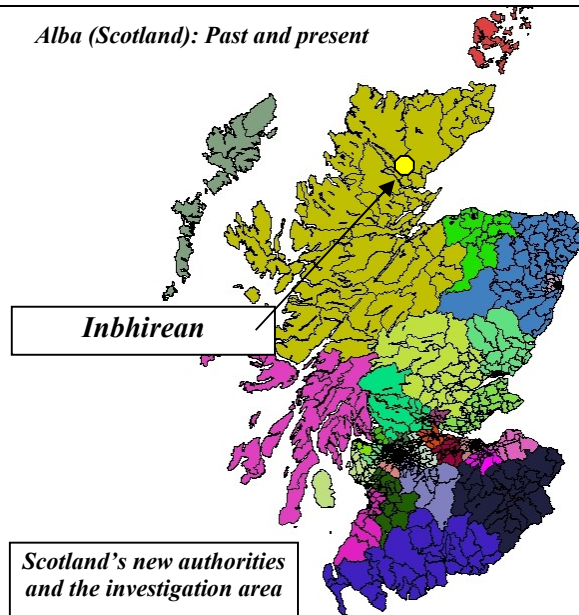
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Achirugle, Invernauld, Tulach, Durcha, Newlands, Netherton, Altass, Little Altass, Achintoul, Linsidemore, Linsidecrov & Inveran)

**Number of households:** 82      **Population present at census night:** 380

**Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig:** 62.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Creich	Rosehall	1	1 - 19

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

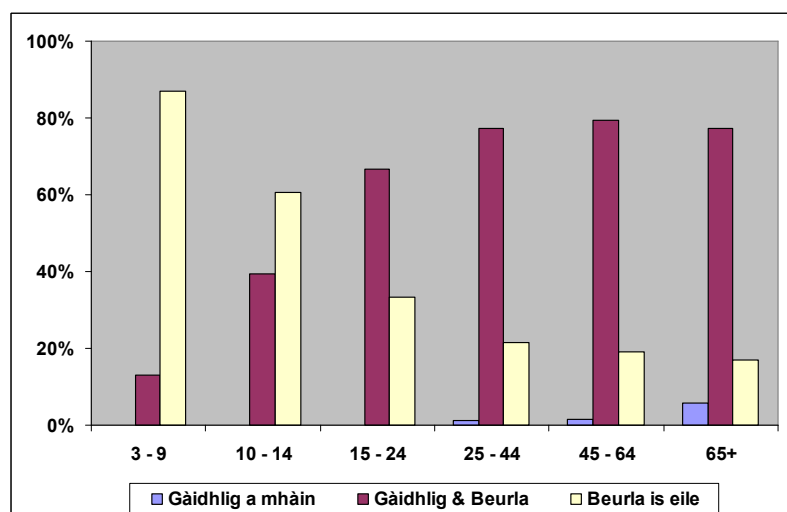
The language was still strong among the local population – apart from the very young. The overall percentage of Gàidhlig speakers was diluted by the presence of a significant number of Lowland farmers and servants in the district. They were very reluctant to use the language of their neighbourhood. The few Gàidhlig monolingual persons were mostly elderly.

The language was especially strong in crofting communities like *Lianasaid Mhòr* (Linsidemore) where almost 90 % of residents still spoke the traditional language.

## Area description:

The district covers a few settlements in the lower part of *Srath Uachail* (Strath Oykel) between *Inbhir nan Allt* (Invernauld) and *Inbhirean* (Inveran) in the county of *Cataibh* (Sutherland).

The scattered population was very heterogeneous with a significant minority of Lowland Scots and English people. A few crofters lived side by side with landed gentry on the large estates of the area.



**Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all**

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	Population enumerated				Usually resident population (3+)			
	Total	Aged 0-2	Deaf & dumb	Visitors etc. <sup>3</sup>	Total <sup>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>62.5 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6.3 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>46</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15.2 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39.4 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>56</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>66.7 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>87</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>78.5 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>80.9 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>56</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>83.0 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>63.8 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>61.0 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>64.9 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>96.0 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>88.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24.6 %</b>

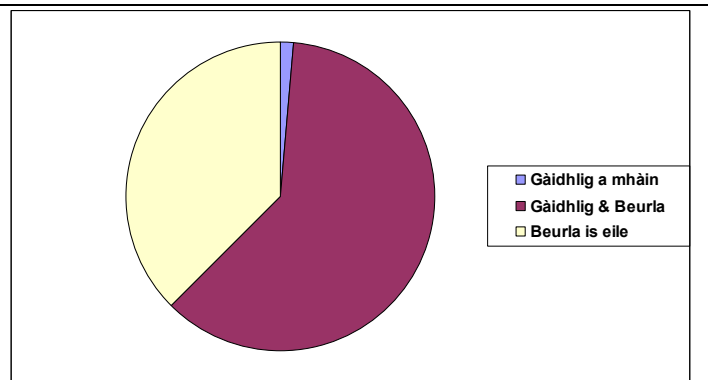
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Dornoch, Lairg and Assynt (Sutherland), Kincardine and Edderton (both Ross & Cromarty).

<sup>2</sup> Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

<sup>3</sup> People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers, or other similar terms.

<sup>4</sup> Number of enumerated persons who were (1) older than 2 years of age, who were (2) not deaf & dumb and who (3) did not live only temporarily in the area.



Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all

## Background of Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profiles:

The 1891 census was the first such enumeration exercise with an unequivocal language question. After more than 100 years the original census forms are publicly available for detailed analysis. During research concerned with the “Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Studies” a vast number of such local statistics have been gathered about the Gàidhlig speaking population of Scotland in that year. As many of these results could not be included in the reports these concise factsheets are a welcome way to publish some of the “local gems”. More information is provided at [http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP\\_english.htm](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm).

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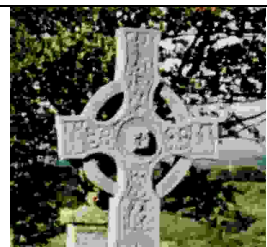
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Alltais &amp; Inbhirean</i>	82	349	5	213	62.5 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Achadh Uraigil &amp; Inbhir nan Allt</i> (Achuirghill & Invernauld)	31	128	3	64	52.3 %
<i>Tulach &amp; Alltais</i> (Tullich & Altass)	33	132	2	81	62.9 %
<i>Lianasaid Mhòr</i> (Linsidemore)	13	57	0	51	89.5 %
<i>Lianasaid Chruaidh &amp; Inbhirean</i> (Linsidecroy & Inveran)	5	32	0	17	53.1 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	16	92	0	59	64.1 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	8	41	0	29	70.7 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	3	23	0	4	17.4 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	9	46	0	3	6.5 %
Households with no children (0-14)	46	147	5	118	83.7 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	53	244	2	145	60.2 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	2	9	0	5	55.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	2	0	2	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	7	38	0	22	57.9 %
Living on private means	3	7	1	6	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	15	49	2	33	71.4 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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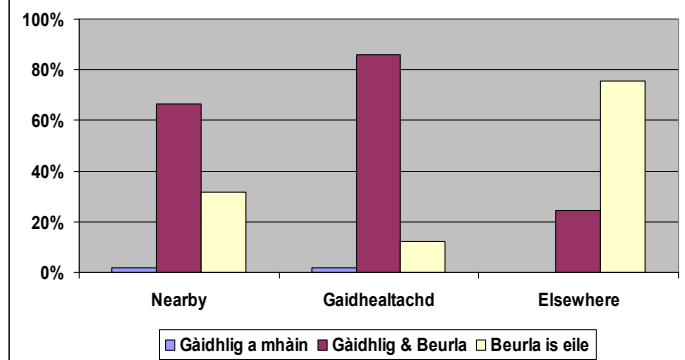
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A significant majority of locally born residents spoke Gàidhlig and English. However, only a few of the significant number of “Lowlanders” could speak the local tongue.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Creich or in the parishes Dornoch, Lairg and Assynt (Sutherland), Kincardine and Edderton (both Ross & Cromarty).

<sup>2</sup> Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby<sup>1</sup> (2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*<sup>2</sup>, or (3) elsewhere

## Remarks:

1. Five persons in the district were enumerated as speaking Gàidhlig but not English. The youngest monolingual resident was a 32-year-old servant. She was part of the household of a 80-year-old crofter who did not speak English, too. Both were born in the parish of *Loch Bhraoin* (Lochbroom) further west. The remaining three monolingual Gàidhlig speakers were all elderly women. One of them originated also from *Loch Bhraoin*, the two others had been born in the local parish.
2. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 380 persons of all ages. 218 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and five persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 58.7 %. This figure was an underestimate of 3.8 % compared with the more realistic figures considering only the usually resident population.