

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 116

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**Area:** *Dail Riata (Mid Argyll): Creiginis, Am Bàrr Breac, Bàrr a'Mhuilinn, Àird Fheàrna, An Dail, An Àird*

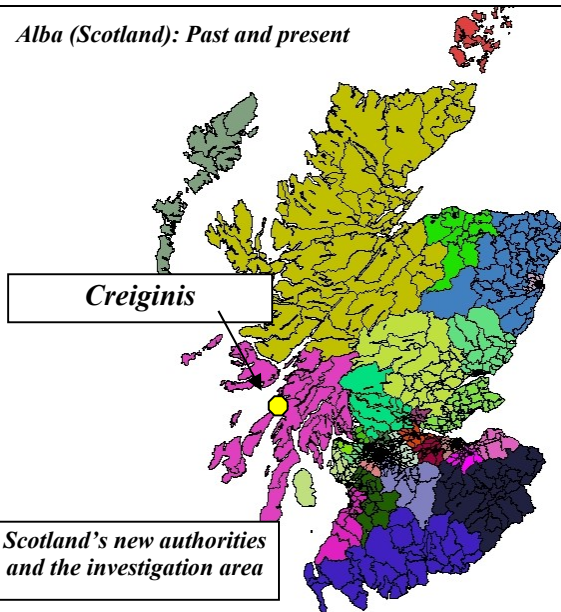
(Names of enumeration locations on census form): Barbreck, Barranoil, Barravullin, Ardfern, Daill, Craignish, Airds

**Number of households:** 84      **Population present at census night:** 394

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 79.9 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Craignish	Craignish	1 2 3 4	1 – 3 1 – 6 1 – 6 1 - 5

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



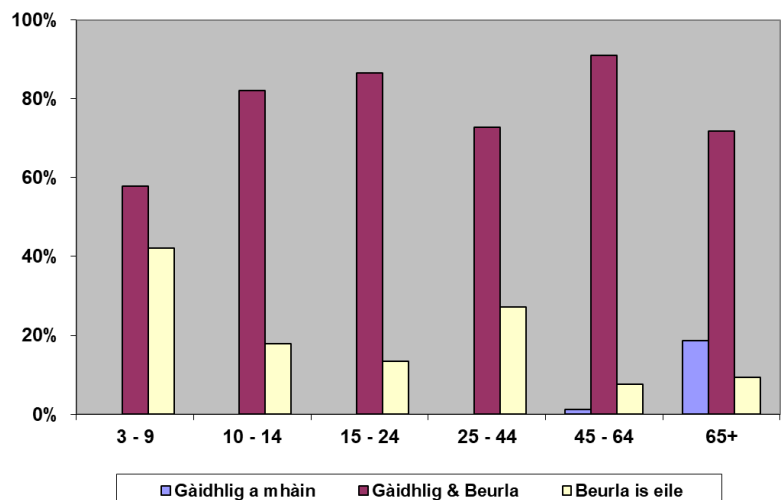
## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

In this coastal community the Gàidhlig language was widely spoken by those born locally or in the adjacent *Gaidhealtachd*. This was in stark contrast to very young children (where English seemed to be the preferred language of upbringing) and, of course, most incomers from the Lowlands or even England.

In the small crofting settlements on the *Creiginis* (Craignish) peninsula and the hinterland of *Bàrr a'Mhuilinn* (Barravullin) Gàidhlig did prevail the strongest.

## Area description:

*Creiginis* (Craignish) is a small hilly peninsula on the west coast of *Earra-Ghaidheal* (Argyll). This rocky coast was home to a very diverse population with fundamental differences to earn its livelihood. On the one hand, the “local folk” were engaged in crofting activities and some fishing endeavours in the coastal bays on their doorsteps. On the other hand, the landed gentry and industrial magnates tried to support their fortunes engage shepherds and gamekeepers. Most of these people had Lowland backgrounds and tended not to speak the language of the land.



**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>394</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>79.9 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35.3 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>67.5 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>82.1 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>86.6 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>72.8 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>92.3 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>90.6 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>78.3 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>81.4 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>86.1 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>95.5 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>87.9 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>48.5 %</b>

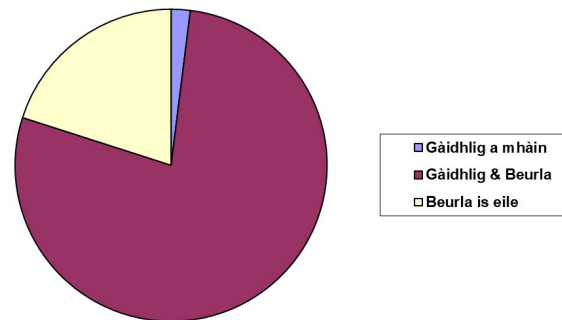
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Kilmartin or Kilninver & Kilmelford (both Argyll).

<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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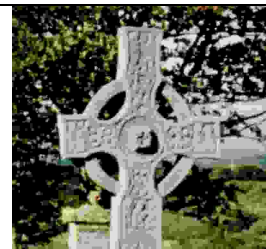
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Area: *Dail Riata (Mid Argyll): Creiginis, Am Bàrr Breac, Bàrr a'Mhuilinn, Àird Fheàrna, An Dail, An Àird*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Creiginis &amp; Àird Fheàrna</i>	84	354	7	276	79.9 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Am Bàrr Breac</i> (Barbreck)	10	50	3	36	74.0 %
<i>Bàrr a'Mhuilinn</i> (Barvullin)	31	127	2	98	79.5 %
<i>Àird Fheàrna &amp; An Dail</i> (Ardfern & Daill)	23	84	2	67	82.1 %
<i>Creiginis &amp; An Àird</i> (Craignish & Airds)	20	93	1	74	81.7 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	30	148	3	133	91.9 %
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	8	34	1	29	88.2 %
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	6	31	0	13	41.9 %
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	5	32	0	8	25.0 %
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	35	109	3	93	88.1 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	29	144	3	111	79.2 %
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	8	38	1	34	92.1 %
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	3	14	0	4	28.6 %
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	18	70	1	52	75.7 %
<b>Living on private means</b>	1	6	0	2	33.3 %
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	5	23	0	22	95.7 %
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	15	51	2	43	88.2 %
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	5	8	0	8	100.0 %

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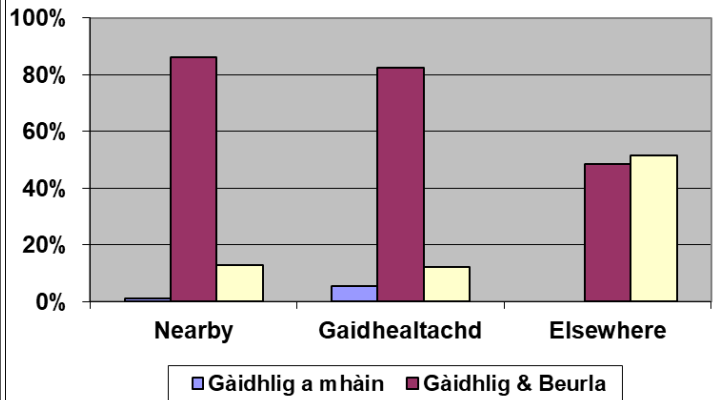
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was widely spoken by those born locally or in the adjacent *Gaidhealtachd*. This was in contrast to very young children (where English seemed to be the preferred language of upbringing) and, of course, most incomers from the Lowlands or England.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Craignish or in the adjacent parishes of Kilmartin or Kilninver & Kilmelford (both Argyll).

<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. Official census figures reported 266 bilingual inhabitants and seven monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 394 persons (68.3 %). The usually resident population of just 354 inhabitants, however, consisted of 283 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (79.9 %) including seven older people “with no English”.