

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: Diùra (Isle of Jura): An Ceann Uachdrach, Lethallt, Cnoc an t-Sabhail, Gleann Gharrasdail, Àird Lusa, Inbhir Lusa, Lusa Dhìomhain, Am Maol Buidhe, An Tairbeart, Achadh an Tairbeirt, Rubh' an t-Sàilein, Coire na h-Earadh, An Lag, Àird Mhèanaid, Sgeir Mhuile, Àird Fheàrnail, An Cnoc Crom & Leargaidh Breac

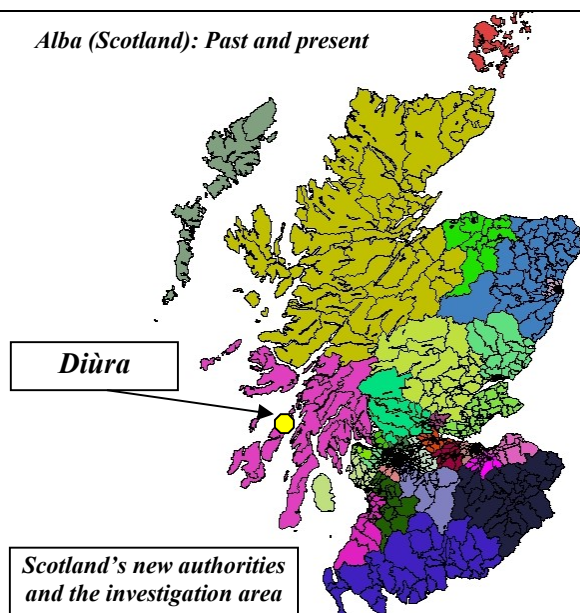
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Kenuachrach, Lealt, Knockintavil, Glengarisdale, Ardlussa, Inverlussa, Lussagiven, Mulbuie, Tarbert, Achintarbert, Ruantallen, Corrynahayra, Lagg, Ardmenish, Skervaul Lighthouses, Ardfenal, Knockrom, Corranhouse & Lergybreck)

Number of households: 73 Population present at census night: 287

Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig: 94.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Jura	Jura	1	1 - 4
			2	1 - 4
			3	1 - 3
			4	1 - 8

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

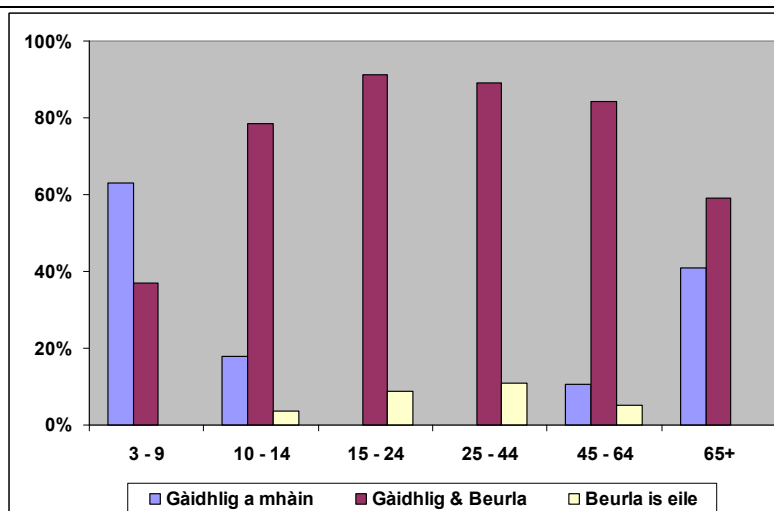
The locally born population of this part of the island was almost exclusively Gàidhlig-speaking. Among the pre-school children and the elderly many residents did not speak English. In fact, the majority of the handful of “English only” returns came from the landowners’ family at Ardlussa House and the lighthouse keepers at Sgeir Mhuile (Skervuile).

All hamlets and dwellings in the northern part of Diùra (Jura) were practically Gàidhlig speaking with the sole exceptions mentioned above.

Area description:

The area under consideration covers the northern half of the mountainous and sparsely populated Hebridean island of Diùra (Jura). As such it was part of the county of Earra-Ghaidheal (Argyll) in 1891.

Besides a few crofter families all inhabitants in one way or another were dependent on work supplied by the landowners – employed as shepherds, gamekeepers or other servants in stately home or garden.



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. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	287	16	0	10	261	44	202	94.3 %
3-4	7		0	0	7	6	1	100 %
5-9	21		0	1	20	11	9	100 %
10-14	31		0	3	28	5	22	96.4 %
15-24	47		0	1	46	0	42	91.3 %
25-44	65		0	1	64	0	57	89.1 %
45-64	60		0	3	57	6	48	94.7 %
65+	40		0	1	39	16	23	100 %
Gender								
Female	139	5	0	3	131	27	94	92.4 %
Male	148	11	0	7	130	17	108	96.2 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	222	15	0	8	199	40	156	98.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	13	0	0	1	12	2	10	100 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	28	0	0	0	28	2	24	92.9 %
Other places	24	1	0	1	22	0	12	54.5 %

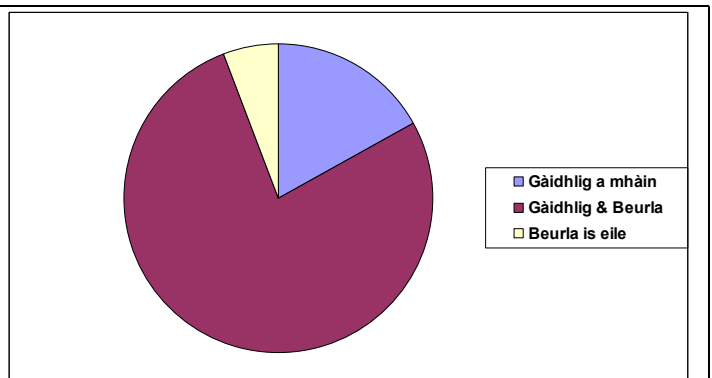
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Colonsay & Oronsay, Kilchoman, Kildalton or Killarow & Kilmeny (all Argyll).

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

³ People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers, or other similar terms.

⁴ 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.

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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Taobh Tuath Diùra	73	261	44	202	94.3 %
Individual communities					
<i>Lethallt & An Ceann Uachdrach</i> (Lealt & Kinuachdrach)	10	33	2	31	100 %
<i>Àird Lusa & Am Maol Buidhe</i> (Ardlussa & Mulbuie)	10	43	4	36	93.0 %
<i>An Lag & Coire na h-Earadh</i> (Lagg & Corrynahera)	7	24	6	18	100 %
<i>An Tairbeart & Rubh' an t-Sàilein</i> (Tarbert & Ruantallen)	7	22	10	9	86.4 %
<i>Àird Mhèanais</i> (Ardmenish)	5	25	5	19	96.0 %
<i>Tigh Solus Sgèir Mhuile</i> (Skervuile Lighthouse Establishment)	5	12	0	6	50.0 %
<i>Àird Fheàrnail</i> (Ardfernal)	11	31	10	21	100 %
<i>An Cnoc Crom</i> (Knockcrom)	12	56	7	49	100 %
<i>Leargaidh Breac & An Còrran</i> (Largybreck & Corran)	6	15	0	13	86.7 %
Language of parents					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	14	73	15	58	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	17	71	14	54	95.8 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	4	0	1	25.0 %
Households with no children (0-14)	41	113	15	89	92.0 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	26	118	22	92	96.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	13	43	6	37	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	13	0	9	69.2 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	7	0	7	100 %
Living on private means	1	7	0	4	57.1 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	6	21	1	17	85.7 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	18	51	15	36	100 %
Remaining occupations	1	1	0	0	0.0 %

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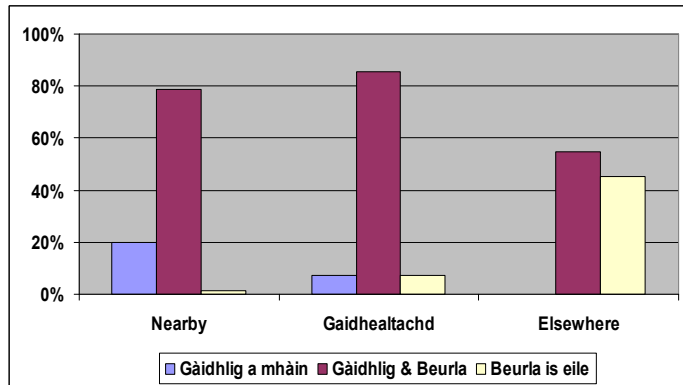
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The locally born population was almost exclusively Gàidhlig speaking – around 20% of them did not speak English. English monolingual persons were mostly confined to people born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:

¹ Born in the parishes of Jura, Colonsay & Oronsay, Kilchoman, Kildalton or Killarow & Kilmeny (all Argyll).

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



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby¹
(2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*², or (3) elsewhere

Remarks:

1. Fifteen persons were enumerated as not speaking Gàidhlig. Six were found in the lighthouse establishments on *Rubh' an Lèim* and *Sgeir Mhuile* and as such they were not really part of the local community. Additional “English only” returns came from the wife and the two children of the land proprietor at Ardlussa House, a housekeeper and his servant, a 15-year-old son of a local farmer and three farmer’s servants at *An Tairbeart*. Most of them were born in the Lowlands.
2. In original census report terms, the island district had a population of 287 persons of all ages. 209 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 37 were counted as monolingual Gàidhlig speakers. This led to an “official” population share of Gàidhlig speakers of 85.7 %. This figure was an under-estimate of 8.6 % compared with the more realistic figures considering only the usually resident population aged three years or over.