

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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**Area:** *An Ros Meadhonach (Mid Ross): Achadh nan Clèireach, Innis Beithe, An t-Allt Giuthais, Glascarnach, Coire Mùillidh, An Goirtean, A'Ghairbhe, Cill Fhinn & An Cnoc Glas*

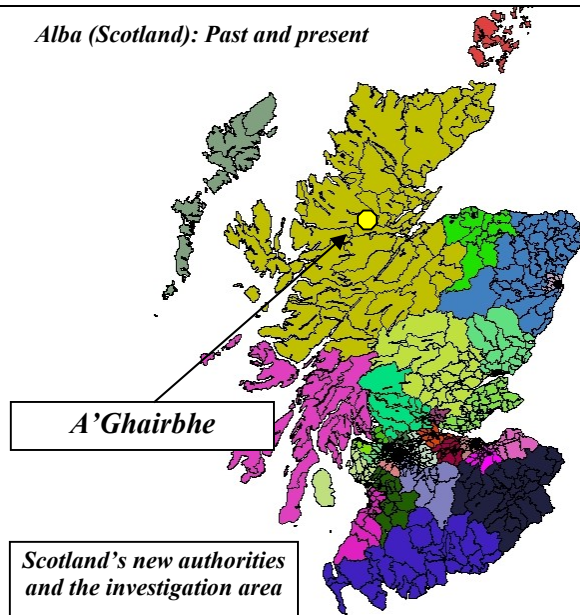
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Achnaclerach, Inchbae, Blackbridge, Kirkin, Altguish, Glascarnoch, Strathdirie, Corriemoillie, Gorstan, Garve, Killin & Knockglass)

**Number of households:** 71      **Population present at census night:** 283

**Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig:** 84.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Contin	Kinlochluichart	1	1 - 2
			2	1 - 14

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

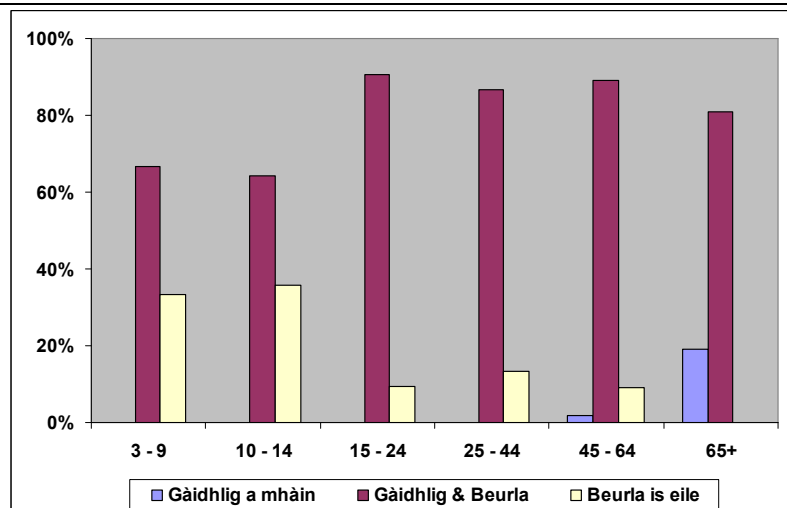
The language was still overwhelmingly spoken by the usually resident population. Only among the very young “English only” had made any headway in the area in 1891. Half of the “no Gaelic” returns came from residents who were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. All Gàidhlig monolingual persons on the other hand were born nearby and they belonged to the older generation.

The traditional language was strongest in the tiny communities of *Coire Mùillidh* (Corriemoillie) and *Bràigh Call & Ceann Locha* (Hazelbrae & Lochend) where everybody spoke Gàidhlig at the time.

## Area description:

The district described is situated right in the centre of the ancient county of *Ros & Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) on the main road connection to Ulapul (Ullapool). It comprises a small number of settlements with *An Goirtean* (Gorstan) and *A'Ghairbhe* (Garve) being by far the most important ones.

Most residents were working either for the local estates or the railway company – the number of locally born crofters was relatively small.



**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>283</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>84.3 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>83.3 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>63.3 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>64.3 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>90.7 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>74</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>86.6 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>90.9 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>86.5 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>82.2 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>90.4 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>93.8 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>84.8 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>52.5 %</b>

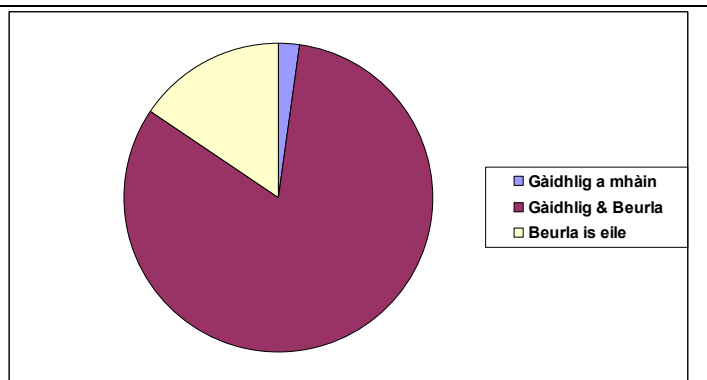
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Lochbroom, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Kincardine, Urray and Fodderty (all 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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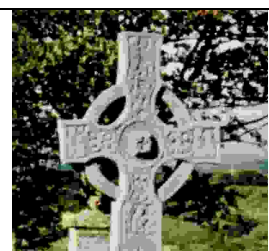
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	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>An t-Allt Giuthais &amp; A'Ghairbhe</i>	71	255	6	209	84.3 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Innis Beithe &amp; Drochaid Dubh</i> (Inchbae & Blackbridge)	4	10	0	5	50.0 %
<i>An t-Allt Giuthais &amp; Glascarnach</i> (Aultguish & Glascarnoch)	4	18	0	16	88.9 %
<i>Coire Mùillidh</i> (Corriemoillie)	4	18	1	17	100 %
<i>An Goirtean</i> (Gorstan)	14	37	1	31	86.5 %
<i>A'Ghairbhe</i> (Garve)	37	126	4	94	77.8 %
<i>Bràigh Call &amp; Ceann Locha</i> (Hazel Brae & Lochend)	8	46	0	46	100 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	15	85	0	85	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	4	26	1	23	92.3 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	6	0	1	16.7 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	5	29	0	3	10.3 %
Households with no children (0-14)	46	109	5	97	93.6 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	12	50	1	46	94.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	9	31	1	24	80.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	7	42	0	31	73.8 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	11	45	0	35	77.8 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	8	23	0	17	73.9 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	24	64	4	56	93.8 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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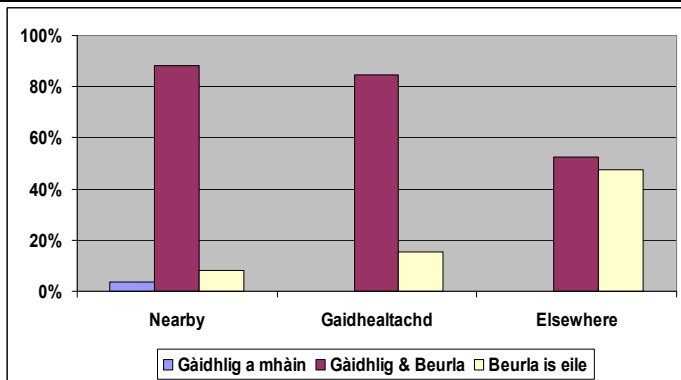
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost half of all “English only” speakers found in the district were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*. All Gàidhlig monolingual persons on the other hand were born nearby.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Contin or in the parishes of Lochbroom, Lochcarron, Gairloch, Kincardine, Urray and Fodderty (all 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. Six usually resident persons in the district were enumerated as speaking Gàidhlig but not English: Three annuitants (58, 74 and 86 years old respectively), a cottar aged 65, a 70-year-old shepherd and a 76-year-old domestic servant.
2. In original census report terms, the district had a population of 283 persons of all ages. 232 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and six persons spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 84.1 %. This percentage was almost the same as the normally more realistic figure considering only the usually resident population.