Alba 1891: *Gàidhlig* (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 137

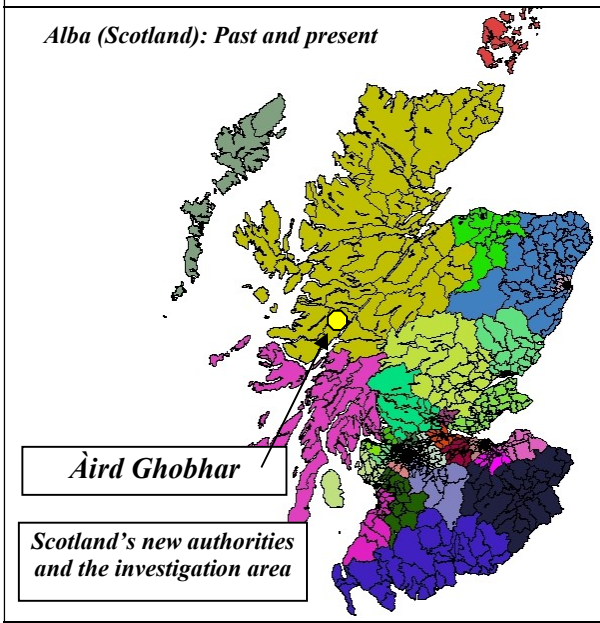
Area: ***Àird Ghobhar (Ardgour)*: *Goirten a'Chladaich, Sròn a'Chreagain, Trinnsleig, Achadh a'Phùbaill, Blàthaich, Dubhaisgidh & Garbhan***

(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Gortincladich, Stronechraggan, Trislaig, Achaphubuil, Blaich, Duisky, Garvan, Drimsallie)

Number of households: 70 Population present at census night: 293

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking *Gàidhlig*: 93.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Inverness-shire	***Kilmallie***	Kilmallie	15 16 17	1 – 6 1 – 7 1 – 6 (part)

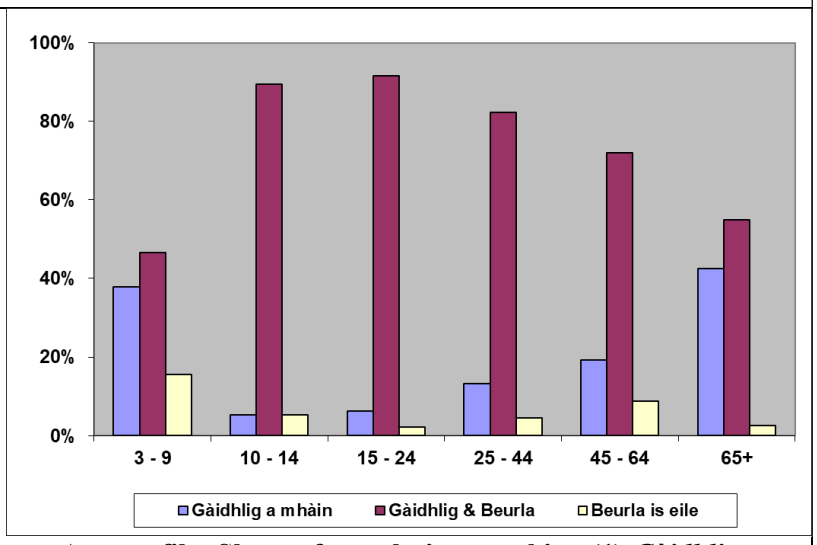


State of *Gàidhlig* in 1891:
Gàidhlig was still very strongly used in this community. With the tiny exception of three migratory families (with gamekeeping and estate managing duties), almost no one could ignore the local tongue.

In this area *Gàidhlig* monolingualism was still apparently widespread among pre-school children and the older generation.

Area description:
The area investigated is situated in the civil parish of *Àird Ghobhar* (Ardgour) on the western shores of *An Linne Dhubh* (Loch Linnhe) and southern shores of *Loch Iall* (Loch Eil).

This is a mountainous land with just a narrow land strip suitable to crofting. The hinterland was used in these days as source of income for the landlords: gamekeepers, and shepherds were often the sole inhabitants.



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	Visi-tors etc. [3]	Total[4]	*Gàidhlig*	*Gàidhlig* & English	*Gàidhlig* speakers (%)
Age								
Total	**293**	**7**	**0**	**9**	**277**	**58**	**201**	**93.5 %**
3-4	**15**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**14**	**6**	**4**	**71.4 %**
5-9	**31**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**31**	**11**	**17**	**90.3 %**
10-14	**22**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**19**	**1**	**17**	**94.7 %**
15-24	**49**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**48**	**3**	**44**	**97.9 %**
25-44	**71**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**68**	**9**	**56**	**95.6 %**
45-64	**57**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**57**	**11**	**41**	**91.2 %**
65+	**41**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**40**	**17**	**22**	**97.5 %**
Gender								
Female	**152**	**3**	**0**	**5**	**144**	**33**	**101**	**93.1 %**
Male	**141**	**4**	**0**	**4**	**133**	**25**	**100**	**94.0 %**
Place of birth								
Born in parish	**203**	**5**	**0**	**2**	**196**	**47**	**146**	**98.5 %**
In neighbouring parish[1]	**34**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**31**	**7**	**24**	**100.0 %**
***Gaidhealtachd* elsewhere[2]**	**26**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**24**	**4**	**20**	**100.0 %**
Other places	**30**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**26**	**0**	**11**	**42.3 %**

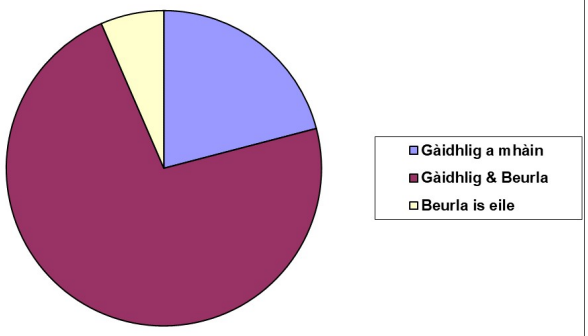
Notes:

[1] Parishes of Ardnamurchan, Morvern (both Argyll), or Kilmallie (Inverness-shire).

[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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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	*Gàidhlig*	*Gàidhlig* & English	*Gàidhlig* speakers (%)
Àird Ghobhar: Garbhan & Blàthaich	**70**	**277**	**58**	**201**	**93.5 %**
Individual communities					
Sròn a'Chreagain & Trinnsleig **(Stroncreggan & Trioslaig)**	**15**	**62**	**14**	**42**	**90.3 %**
Achadh a'Phùbaill & Blathaich **(Achuphubuil & Blaich)**	**35**	**142**	**30**	**106**	**95.8 %**
Dubhaisgidh **(Duisky)**	**8**	**31**	**2**	**26**	**90.3 %**
Garbhan **(Garvan)**	**12**	**42**	**12**	**27**	**92.9 %**
Language of parents					
Both parents *Gàidhlig* speaking	**14**	**72**	**18**	**54**	**100.0 %**
Single parent *Gàidhlig* speaking	**16**	**70**	**16**	**53**	**98.6 %**
One parent *Gàidhlig* speaking	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**
No *Gàidhlig* speaking parent	**5**	**20**	**0**	**4**	**20.0 %**
Households with no children (0-14)	**35**	**115**	**24**	**90**	**99.1 %**
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	**54**	**219**	**54**	**161**	**98.2 %**
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	**5**	**21**	**3**	**10**	**61.9 %**
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	**2**	**8**	**0**	**7**	**87.5 %**
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	**3**	**11**	**1**	**10**	**100.0 %**
Living on private means	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-**
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	**1**	**8**	**0**	**3**	**37.5 %**
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	**3**	**5**	**0**	**5**	**100.0 %**
Remaining occupations	**2**	**5**	**0**	**5**	**100.0 %**

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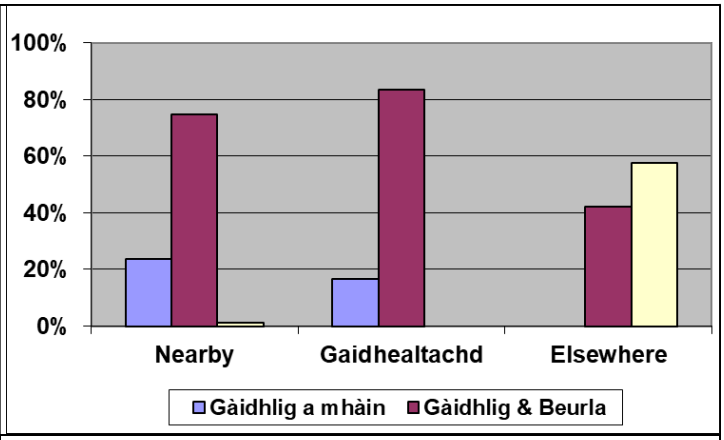
Place of birth and *Gàidhlig* speaking:
The *Gàidhlig* language was spoken by almost everyone except those born outside the *Gaidhealtachd*.

Notes:
[1] Born either in Ardgour or in the adjacent parishes of Ardnamurchan, Morvern (both Argyll), or Kilmallie (Inverness-shire).

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



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

Remarks:

1. **Official census figures reported 215 bilingual inhabitants and 62 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 305 persons (90.8 %). The usually resident population of 277 persons, on the other hand, consisted of 259 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (93.5 %) including 58 inhabitants "with no English".**

2. **Just 18 persons were returned "with no Gaelic". These figures were mainly caused by just three families: Two gamekeepers' families from Fife and Berwickshire (combining eight English monolinguals), and one estate managers' family from Fife (five English monolinguals in total). Added to that could be the somewhat dubious three blank entries of a local crofter couple. Whether this was intended or just an oversight - we will never know.**