

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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

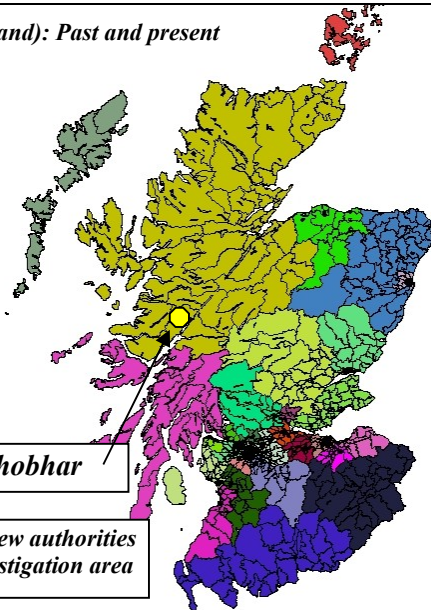
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Gortincludich, Stronechraggan, Trislaig, Achaphubuil, Blaich, Duisky, Garvan, Drimsallie)

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
<i>Inverness-shire</i>	<i>Kilmallie</i>	Kilmallie	15	1 – 6
			16	1 – 7
			17	1 – 6 (part)

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

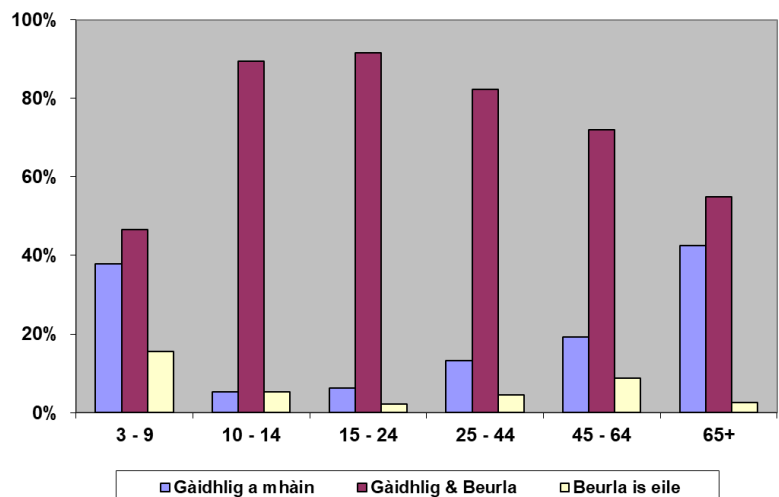
Gàidhlig was still very strongly used in this community. With the tiny exception of three migratory families (with gamekeeping and estate managing duties), almost no one could ignore the local tongue.

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	Visitors 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 parish¹	34	0	0	3	31	7	24	100.0 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	26	1	0	1	24	4	20	100.0 %
Other places	30	1	0	3	26	0	11	42.3 %

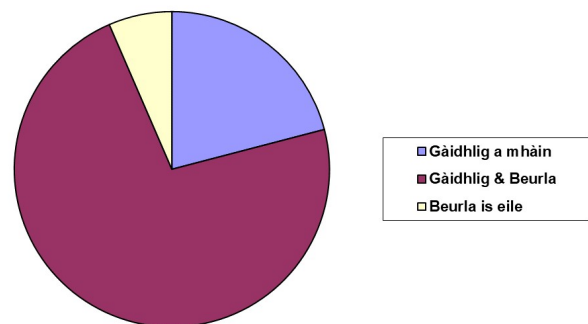
Notes:

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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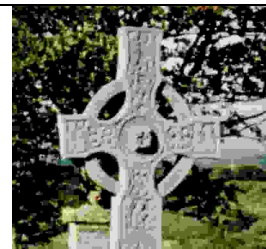
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àird Ghobhar: Garbhan & Blàthaich</i>	70	277	58	201	93.5 %
Individual communities					
<i>Sròn a'Chreagain & Trinnsleig</i> (Stroncreggan & Trioslaig)	15	62	14	42	90.3 %
<i>Achadh a'Phùbaill & Blathaich</i> (Achuphubuil & Blaich)	35	142	30	106	95.8 %
<i>Dubhaisgidh</i> (Duisky)	8	31	2	26	90.3 %
<i>Garbhan</i> (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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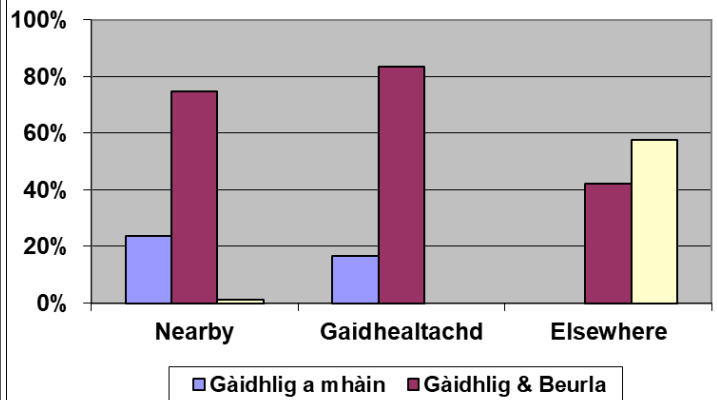
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

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) nearby¹
(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 gamekeeper’s families from Fife and Berwickshire (combining eight English monolinguals), and one estate manager’s 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.