

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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**Area:** *Taobh Siar Rois (Wester Ross): Àird Heisleag, Ceann an Locha, Doire Aonar, Inbhir Bàn, Camas nan Eilean, A'Cheannmhor*

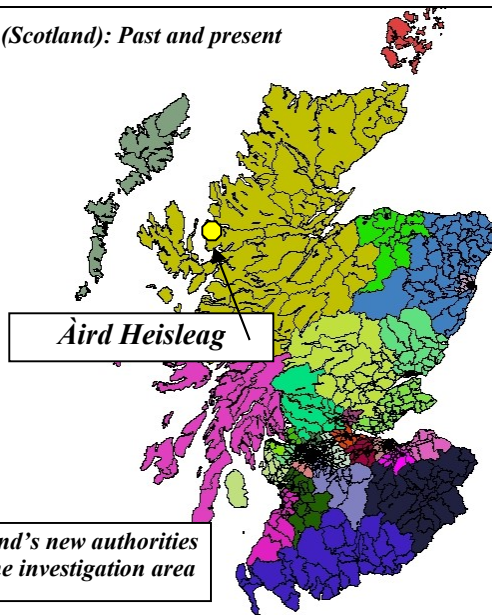
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Kinloch, Dirriner, Inverbain, Ardheslaig, Craikoch, Kenmore, Camusnellan)

**Number of households:** 35      **Population present at census night:** 137

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 100.0 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Xshire</i>	<i>Yparish</i>	RgDistr	1	1 - 7
			2	1 - 7

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The language was universally used in all crofting hamlets west of the small fishing village of *Sildeag* (Shieldaig).

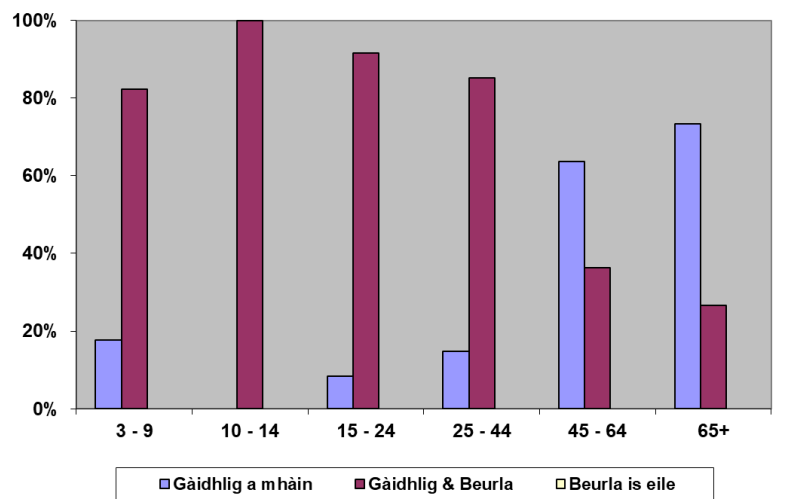
Almost a third of all speakers were monolingual – mostly very young children and older people. In between these age groups the school policy of “English only” instruction had its effects.

In 1891 no respondent replied that he/she “did not have the Gaelic”.

## Area description:

This region of interest lies on a remote peninsula on the Scottish west coast. Here the small crofting hamlets were clinging on a narrow coastal strip, which had been their ancestor’s refuge after the infamous Highland clearances.

Most (almost sole) occupation was the traditional self-reliant crofting system with small allotments and common grazing of sheep and cattle. In addition, the nearby fishing village of *Sildeag* (Shieldaig) provided further work opportunities.



**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>	137	4	0	1	132	41	91	100.0 %
<b>3-4</b>	5	0	0	0	5	3	2	100.0 %
<b>5-9</b>	12	0	0	0	12	0	12	100.0 %
<b>10-14</b>	16	0	0	0	16	0	16	100.0 %
<b>15-24</b>	24	0	0	0	24	2	22	100.0 %
<b>25-44</b>	27	0	0	0	27	4	23	100.0 %
<b>45-64</b>	34	0	0	1	33	21	12	100.0 %
<b>65+</b>	15	0	0	0	15	11	4	100.0 %
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	75	3	0	0	72	26	46	100.0 %
<b>Male</b>	62	1	0	1	60	15	45	100.0 %
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	123	4	0	0	119	38	81	100.0 %
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	8	0	0	0	8	3	5	100.0 %
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	4	0	0	0	4	0	4	100.0 %
<b>Other places</b>	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	100.0 %

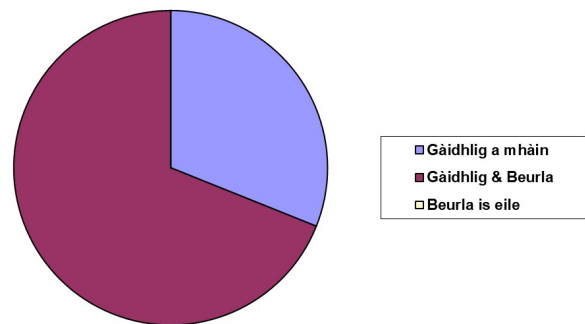
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Lochcarron or Gairloch (both 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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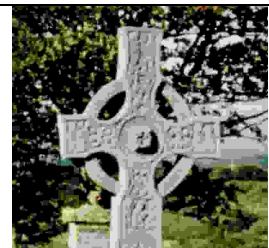
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àird Heisleag &amp; A'Cheannmhor</i>	35	132	41	91	100.0 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Ceann Locha, Doire Aonar &amp; Inbhir Bàn (Kinloch, Dirriner &amp; Inverbain)</i>	11	41	16	25	100.0 %
<i>Àird Heisleag (Ardheslaig)</i>	14	48	16	32	100.0 %
<i>A'Cheannmhor &amp; Camas nan Eilean (Kenmore &amp; Camusnellan)</i>	10	43	9	34	100.0 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	13	73	17	56	100.0 %
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	5	20	4	16	100.0 %
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	17	39	20	19	100.0 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	23	87	30	57	100.0 %
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	4	27	4	23	100.0 %
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	1	6	2	4	100.0 %
<b>Living on private means</b>	3	4	2	2	100.0 %
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	1	4	0	4	100.0 %
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	3	4	3	1	100.0 %

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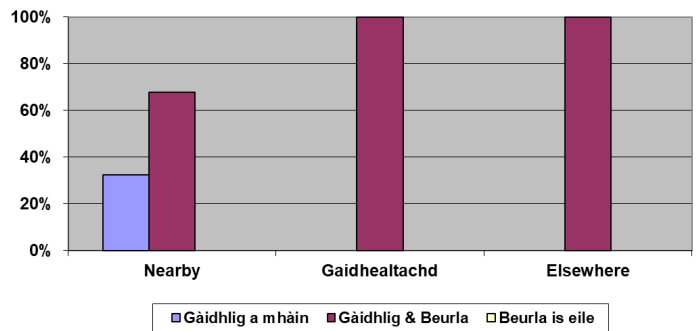
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken universally by all residents.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Applecross or in the adjacent parishes of Lochcarron or Gairloch (both 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. Official census figures reported 86 bilingual inhabitants and 48 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 137 persons (97.8 %). The usually resident population, however, consisted of 132 Gàidhlig-speakers (100 %) including 41 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. There was no entry of a “not Gaelic speaking” resident in the census records.