

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 152

Page 1 of 4

**Area:** *Latharan (Latheron): Smiorail, Buoltach, Achadh an Gobhail, Lapan, Paidheag, Cnocannan & Mànn Latharan a'Phuill*

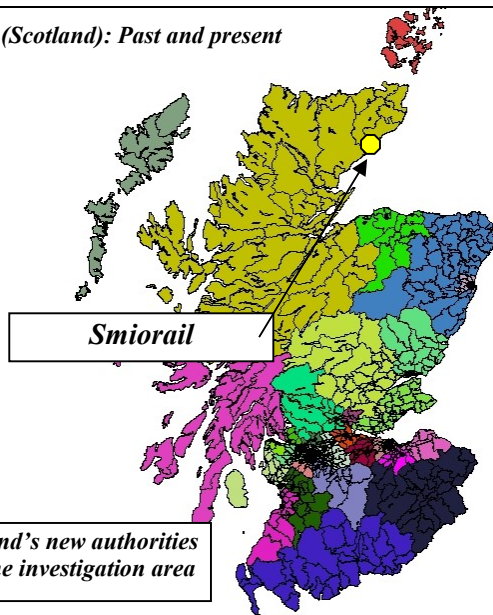
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Upper Smerral, Lower Smerral, Buoltach, Achingoul, Lapan, Paidhag, Knockinnan Latheronwheel Mains)

**Number of households:** 105    **Population present at census night:** 439

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 38.3 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Latheron	Latheron	13	1 - 19

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

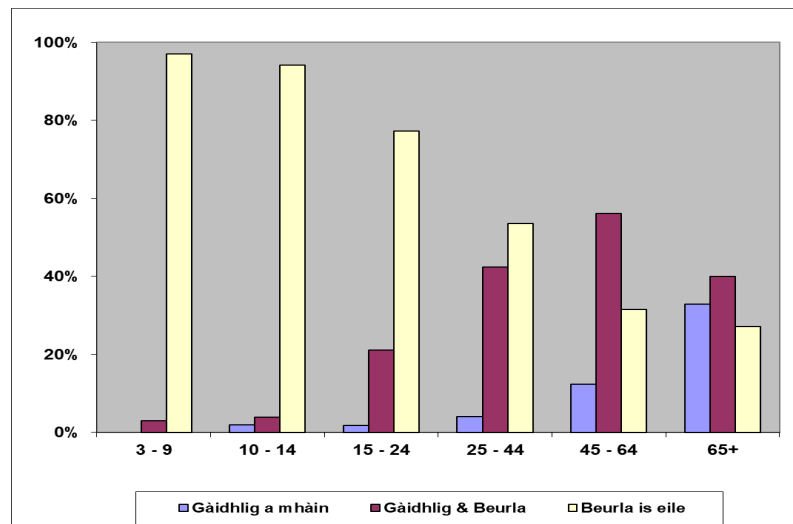
A substantial part of the inhabitants still spoke Gàidhlig – mainly in the older generation. Effective inter-generational language transmission, however, seems to have seized in the 1850s in this district.

The language was strongest in crofting families. Women were more likely to speak Gàidhlig than men. There was even a considerable number of inhabitants who did not speak English. The share of speakers was especially high in the tiny crofting communities of *Smiorail* (Smerral), *Buoltach* and *Paidheag* with a share of more than 40 % of the population.

## Area description:

The district was part of the wide open hinterland of the fishing villages of *Latharan* and *Latharan a'Phuill* (Latheronwheel) on the east coast of Caithness – Scotland's northernmost mainland county.

Main occupations of the inhabitants were crofting activities, often in combination with work in the local fishing fleet. Some of the men left temporarily their families for job opportunities in the booming Central Belt.



**Age profile: Share of population speaking (1) Gàidhlig, (2) Gàidhlig & English, or (3) no Gàidhlig at all**

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 152

Page 2 of 4

Area: *Latharan (Latheron): Smiorail, Buoltach, Achadh an Gobhail, Lapan, Paidheag, Cnocannan & Mànn Latharan a'Phuill*

	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>439</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>38.3 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4.3 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5.8 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22.8 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46.5 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>68.4 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>72.9 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>35.1 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>42.5 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>39.3 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15.4 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16.7 %</b>

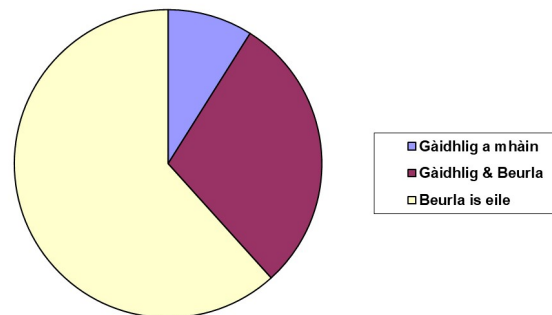
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Kildonan (Sutherland), Halkirk, Watten or Wick (all Caithness).

<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 & Beurla, 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).

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

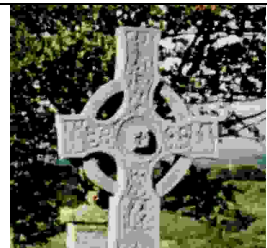
No. 152

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Latharan (Latheron): Smiorail, Buoltach, Achadh an Gobhail, Lapan, Paidheag, Cnocannan & Mànn Latharan a'Phuill*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Latharan: Smiorail &amp; Buoltach</i></b>	<b>105</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>38.3 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Smiorail Uarach</i> (Upper Smerral)	18	61	13	13	42.6 %
<i>Smiorail Ìorach</i> (Lower Smerral)	17	76	8	30	50.0 %
<i>Buoltach</i> (Buoltach)	23	76	11	22	43.4 %
<i>Achadh an Gobhail</i> (Achingoul)	7	31	2	7	20.0 %
<i>Lapan &amp; Paidheag</i> (Lapan & Paidhag)	10	39	2	16	46.2 %
<i>Cnocannan</i> (Knockinnan)	17	65	0	23	35.4 %
<i>Mànn Latharan a'Phuill</i> (Latheronwheel Mains)	13	54	0	7	13.0 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41.6 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>46.9 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.7 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.8 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>52.4 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>41.4 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60.0 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10.0 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25.7 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

© Text and statistics: Copyright Kurt C. Duwe. All rights reserved except private and non-commercial use. Any other use has to be cleared by the author Kurt C. Duwe, Jägerstr. 120a, 21079 Hamburg, Germany ([duwe@linguae-celticae.de](mailto:duwe@linguae-celticae.de)) and it may also fall under restrictions of the Crown Copyright of census data. Statistics have been derived from 1891 census returns published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). The use of this material here is permitted under Licence No. C02W0003665. Crown Copyright of census data is acknowledged. The digital boundaries shown on the Scotland map are courtesy of Ordnance Survey as part of the Geography Products provided by GROS. Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website: [http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP\\_english.htm](http://www.linguae-celticae.de/GLP_english.htm)



# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 152

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Latharan (Latheron): Smiorail, Buoltach, Achadh an Gobhail, Lapan, Paidheag, Cnocannan & Mànn Latharan a'Phuill*

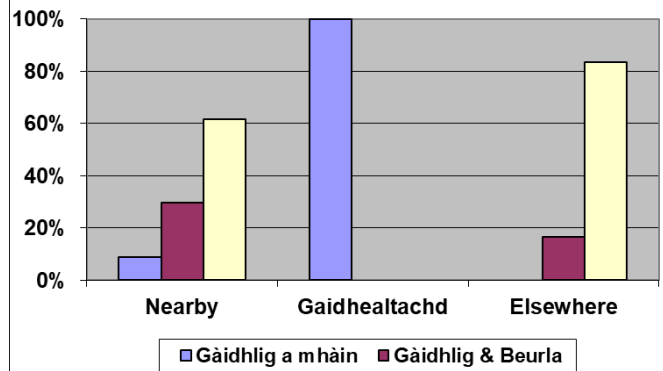
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by roughly a third of locally born inhabitants – contrary to the widely held belief that Caithness was a wholly “Lowland” county.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Latheron or in the adjacent parishes of Kildonan (Sutherland), Halkirk, Watten or Wick (all Caithness).

<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 118 bilingual inhabitants and 37 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 439 persons (35.3 %). The usually resident population of 402 inhabitants, however, consisted of 154 Gàidhlig-speakers (38.3 %) including 36 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. XXXXXXX
3. VVVVVVV