

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 175

Page 1 of 4

**Area:** *Loch Abar (Lochaber): Cam Dhàil, Banbhaidh, Taobh Lòchaidh, Caol, A'Chorpaich, Bad Abrach & An Annaid*

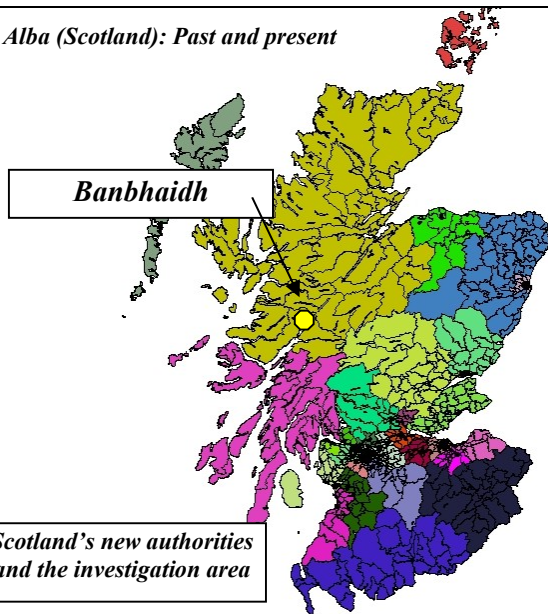
(Names of enumeration locations on census forms: Camghael, Banavie, Lochyside, Caol, Corpach, Badabrac, Annat)

**Number of households:** 115    **Population present at census night:** 504

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 85.5 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Inverness-shire</i>	<i>Kilmallie</i>	Kilmallie	13	1 - 20
			14	1 - 4; 8- 13

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

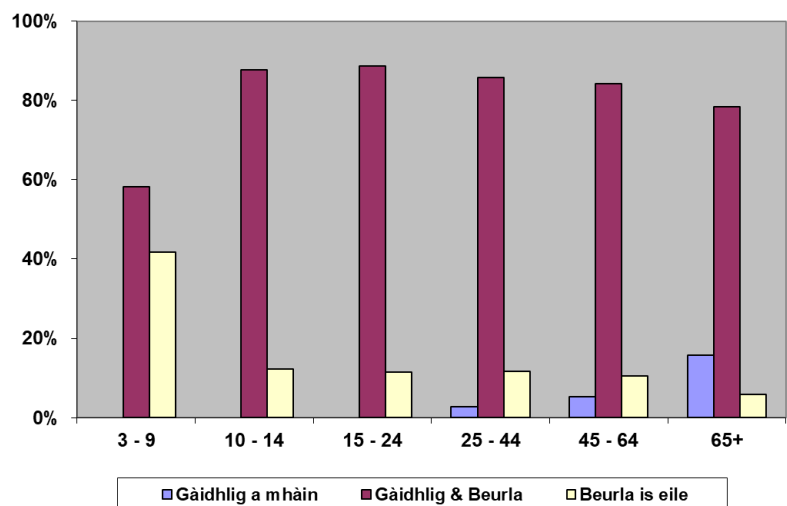
The Gàidhlig language was used widely among local inhabitants in the communities of this coastal area. There were even still people using the local language exclusively - especially among the very young and the elderly.

The relatively high number of English monoglots counted in 1891 was due to the activities around the Caledonian Canal. Among the major reasons were the need of specialists to operate the canal. This could be seen in the census results of *Taobh Lòchaidh* (Lochyside) and *A'Chorpaich* (Corpach).

## Area description:

The investigation area is centred on the southern end of the Caledonian Canal. It comprises several settlements on the northern shore of *An Linne Dhubh* (Loch Linnhe) on the outskirts of *An Gearasdan* (Fort William).

Besides the still actively pursued work in crofting and some fishing the canal itself provided major work possibilities. Among these opportunities were to be found around the locks at *Banbhaidh* (Banavie) and especially the canal administration at *A'Chorpaich* (Corpach).



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

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No. 175

Page 2 of 4

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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>504</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>85.5 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>67.4 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>87.7 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>88.6 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>88.4 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>89.5 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>94.1 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>85.2 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>85.8 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>87.4 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>86.1 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>97.5 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>52.2 %</b>

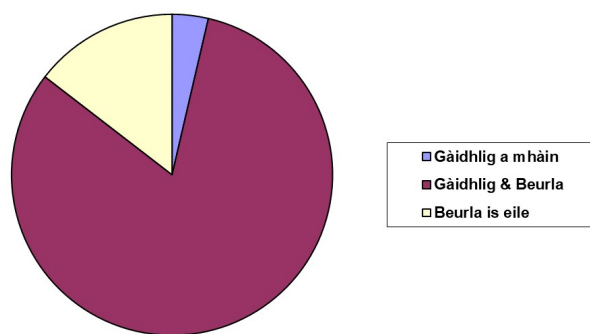
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Kilmonivaig, Arisaig & Moidart, Glenelg (all Inverness-shire) or Lismore & Appin (Argyll).

<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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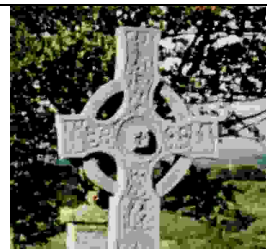
No. 175

Page 3 of 4

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Banbhaidh, Caol &amp; A'Chorpaich</i></b>	<b>115</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>85.5 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Cam Dhàil</i> (Camaghael)	11	45	0	45	100.0 %
<i>Banbhaidh</i> (Banavie)	31	116	4	101	90.5 %
<i>Taobh Lòchaidh</i> (Lochyside)	12	48	2	36	79.2 %
<i>Caol</i> (Caol)	8	38	4	31	92.1 %
<i>A'Chorpaich</i> (Corpach)	46	173	4	131	78.0 %
<i>Bad Abrach</i> (Bad Abrach)	4	11	2	8	90.9 %
<i>An Annaid</i> (Annat)	3	9	0	8	88.9 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>89.4 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>97.8 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>60.0 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7.1 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>85.7 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>91.4 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25.0 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>72.7 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78.0 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>75.0 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>

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Page 4 of 4

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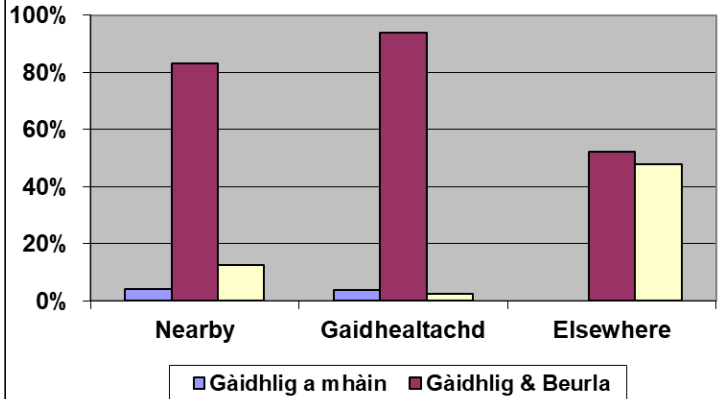
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by almost everyone who was born nearby or in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. From elsewhere came especially men engaged in the running of the Caledonian Canal.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Kilmallie or in the adjacent parishes of Kilmonivaig, Arisaig & Moidart, Glenelg (all Inverness-shire) or Lismore & Appin (Argyll).

<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 408 bilingual inhabitants and 18 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of 523 persons (81.5%). The usually resident population of 440 persons, however, consisted of 376 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (85.5%) including 16 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. The sixteen “Gaelic only” returns were provided entirely by inhabitants older than 25 of age.