

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Suaineard (Sunart): Àird na Staing, Bun an Uillt & Camas a'Choirc*

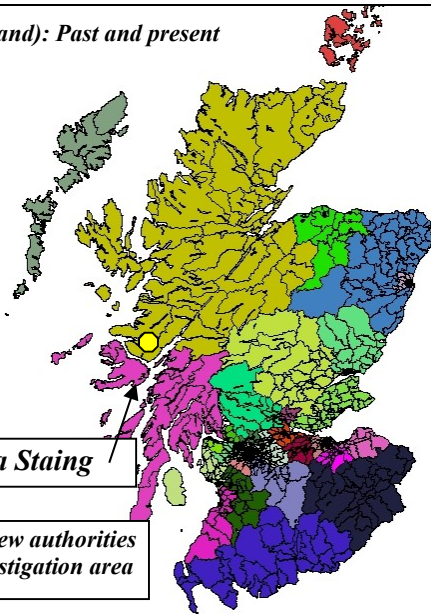
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Bunalteachan, Ardrie, Camusiniè, Camuschork, Longrigg, Ardnastaing)

Number of households: 29      Population present at census night: 143

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 93.8 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Xshire</i>	<i>Yparish</i>	RgDistr	1	1 - 6
			2	7 - 11

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

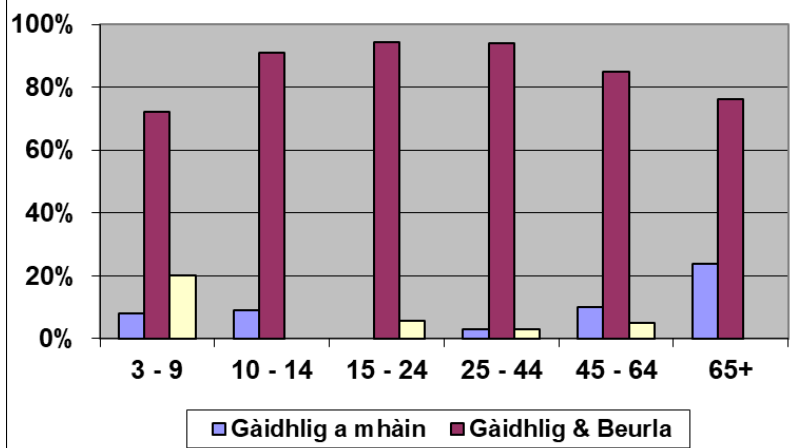
The overwhelming majority of usually resident persons was Gàidhlig speaking. Apart from the nearby village of *Sròn an t-Sithein* (Strontian) the language was spoken by virtually everyone in the area.

On the other hand, just eleven residents were reported as not speaking English. Almost all monolingual Gàidhlig speakers lived in *Camas a'Choirc* (Camuschork) and were either very young or belonged to the older generation.

## Area description:

The district investigated lies in the eastern part of the parish of Àird nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan) in the northernmost mainland portion of the old county of Earra-Ghaidheal (Argyll). It comprised the crofting communities of *Àird na Staing* (Ardnastang) and *Camas A'Choirc* (Camuschork) near the village of *Sròn an-t Sithein* (Strontian).

Major employer at the time were the famous lead mines. The other main occupation in the area was crofting - besides some work as shepherds, gamekeepers, or servants for the local estates.



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>	143	11	0	4	128	11	109	93.8 %
<b>3-4</b>	6	0	0	0	6	1	3	66.7 %
<b>5-9</b>	19	0	0	0	19	1	15	84.2 %
<b>10-14</b>	11	0	0	0	11	1	10	100.0 %
<b>15-24</b>	18	0	0	0	18	0	17	94.4 %
<b>25-44</b>	34	0	0	1	33	1	31	97.0 %
<b>45-64</b>	22	0	0	2	20	2	17	95.0 %
<b>65+</b>	22	0	0	1	21	5	16	100.0 %
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	79	5	0	2	72	9	58	93.1 %
<b>Male</b>	64	6	0	2	56	2	51	94.6 %
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	107	11	0	2	94	10	79	94.7 %
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	13	0	0	1	12	0	12	100.0 %
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	15	0	0	0	15	1	14	100.0 %
<b>Other places</b>	8	0	0	1	7	0	4	57.1 %

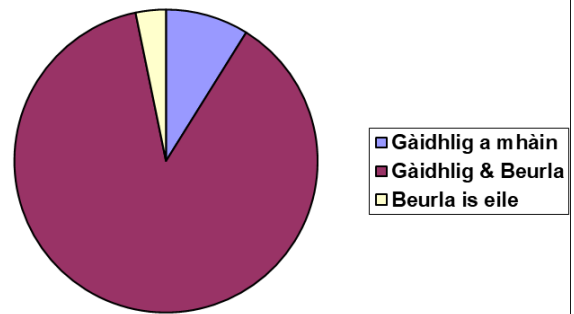
**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Ardgour, Morvern (both Argyll), Arisaig & Moidart or Kilmallie (both Inverness-shire).

<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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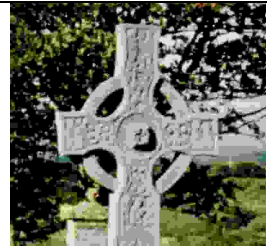
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Area: *Suaineard (Sunart): Àird na Staing, Bun an Uillt & Camas a'Choirc*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àird na Staing &amp; Camas a'Choirc</i>	29	128	11	109	93.8 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Camas a'Choirc &amp; Bun an Uillt (Camuschork)</i>	13	63	10	50	95.2 %
<i>Àird na Staing (Ardnastang)</i>	16	65	1	59	92.3 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	9	49	6	42	98.0 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	32	2	30	100.0 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	7	0	3	42.9 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	1	8	0	5	62.5 %
Households with no children (0-14)	11	32	3	29	100.0 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	11	47	10	34	93.6 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	4	0	4	100.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	7	0	3	42.9 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	8	42	0	41	97.6 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	2	8	0	8	100.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	6	20	1	19	100.0 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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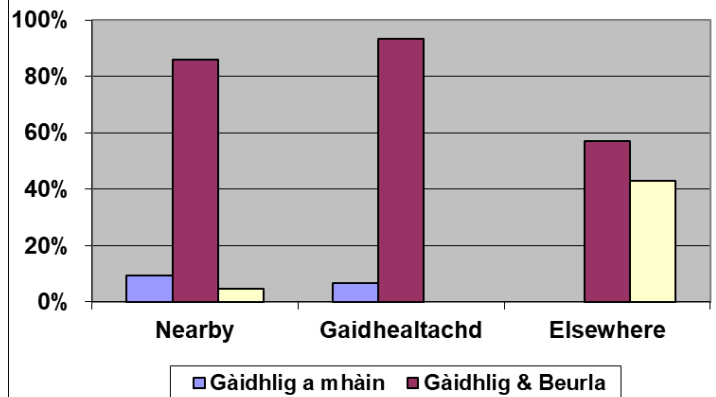
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was universally spoken by both locally born people and incomers from other parts of the *Gaidhealtachd*. Even many of those originating from further afield spoke the language.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Ardnamurchan or in the adjacent parishes of Ardgour, Morvern (both Argyll), Arisaig & Moidart or Kilmallie (both Inverness-shire).

<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 109 bilingual inhabitants and 11 monolingual *Gàidhlig*-speakers out of a total population of just 143 persons (83.9 %). The usually resident population of 128 persons consisted of 120 *Gàidhlig*-speakers (93.8 %) including 11 inhabitants “with no English”.
2. Most people not speaking *Gàidhlig* were as follows: A crofter’s wife from Orkney living together with sister-in-law and grandniece with Lowland connections and a schoolmaster’s wife from Aberdeenshire and her five children.