

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 197

Page 1 of 4

Area: *Narann (Nairn): Deilgnidh & Ceann Drumaidh*

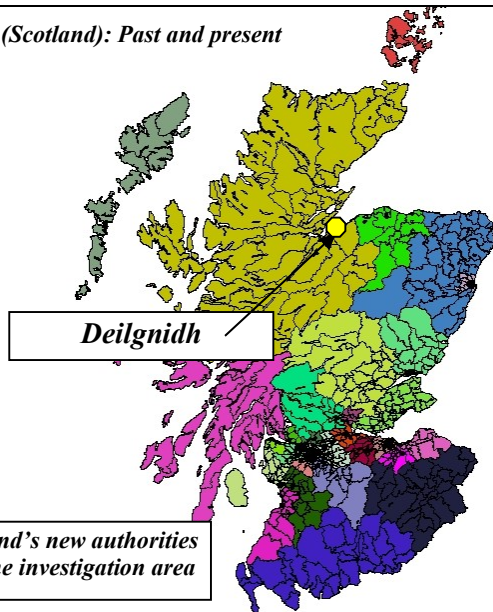
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Crofton, Delnies Cottage, Easter Delnies, Fisherton, Sunnyhillock, Newlands of Delnies, Carse of Delnies, Elon Cottage, Cabbach Cottage, Blackcastle, Kildrummie, Little Kildrummie, Stoneford Bridge, Hazelford, Drumdivan, Old Mill Delnies, Wester Delnies, Delnies House)

Number of households: **59** Population present at census night: **290**

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: **33.2 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Nairnshire</i>	<i>Nairn</i>	Nairn	13	1 – 12

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

Major parts of the adult population still spoke Gàidhlig in the area. Especially the overwhelming part of the elderly inhabitants did so.

On the contrary, younger folk very seldomly used the traditional language, if at all.

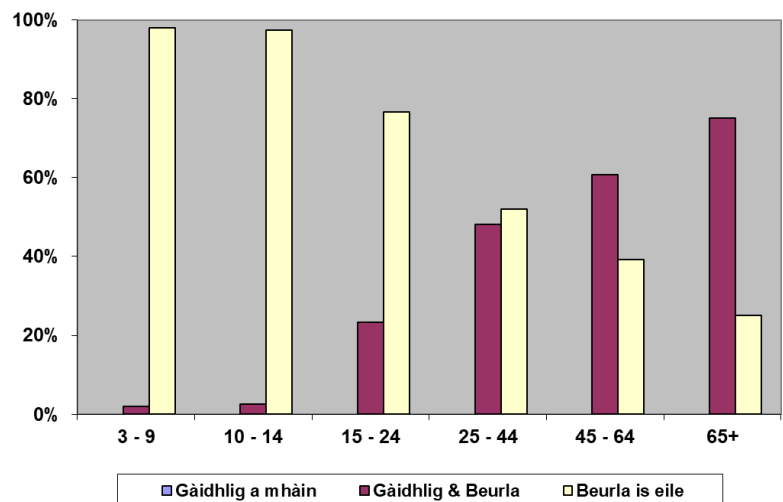
The language was clearly indigenous in the parish as almost half of the speakers were either born in the parish or in nearby communities.

## Area description:

The scattered communities under consideration were living on and near the shores of the *Linne Mhoireibh* (Moray Firth) on the doorstep of the county town of *Inbhir Narann* (Nairn).

The inland portion of the district around *Ceann Drumaidh* (Kildrummie) was fertile farmland.

Nearshore some salmon fishing folk earned its living. In contrast wealthier contemporaries played golf in the dunes of an old and ancient golf club.



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

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No. 197

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>290</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>33.2 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.4 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.6 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23.4 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>48.1 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>60.8 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>75.0 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31.8 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>34.6 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15.5 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>52.1 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>70.2 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9.8 %</b>

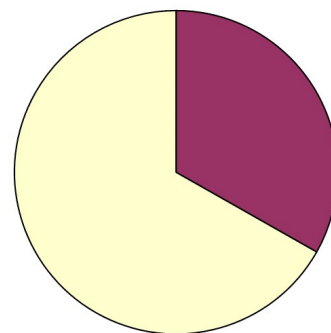
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Auldearn, Ardlach, Cawdor, Croy (all Nairnshire), Ardersier, Petty, Croy & Dalcross (all 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.



■ Gàidhlig a mhàin  
■ Gàidhlig & Beurla  
□ Beurla is eile

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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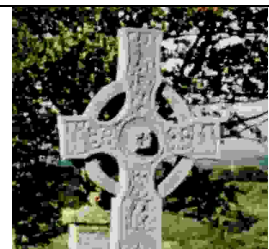
No. 197

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Narann (Nairn): Deilgnidh & Ceann Drumaidh*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Deilgnidh &amp; Ceann Drumaidh</i>	59	262	0	87	33.2 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Deilgnidh</i> (Delnies)	42	187	0	60	32.1 %
<i>Ceann Drumaidh</i> (Kildrummy)	17	75	0	27	36.0 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	13	67	0	31	46.3 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	9	33	0	20	60.6 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	36	0	11	30.6 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	13	78	0	2	2.6 %
Households with no children (0-14)	17	48	0	23	47.9 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	21	100	0	23	23.0 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	6	22	0	12	54.5 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	8	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	5	21	0	10	47.6 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	4	0	1	25.0 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	21	96	0	34	35.4 %
Remaining occupations	4	11	0	7	63.6 %

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Page 4 of 4

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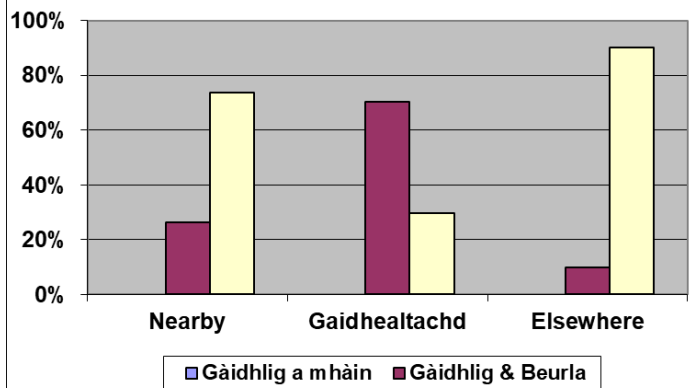
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken by many older people whether born locally or at least in neighbouring parishes. Incomers from the wider *Gaidhealtachd* spoke mostly Gàidhlig of course.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Nairn or in the adjacent parishes of Auldearn, Ardelach, Cawdor, Croy (all Nairnshire), Ardersier, Petty, Croy & Dalcross (all 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 88 bilingual inhabitants out of a total population of 290 persons (30.3%). The usually resident population of 262 persons, however, consisted of 87 Gàidhlig-speakers (33.2%).
2. There were no residents “with only Gaelic” recorded.