

Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

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Area: *Narann (Nairn): Pàirc na Malairt & Achadh Rèidh*

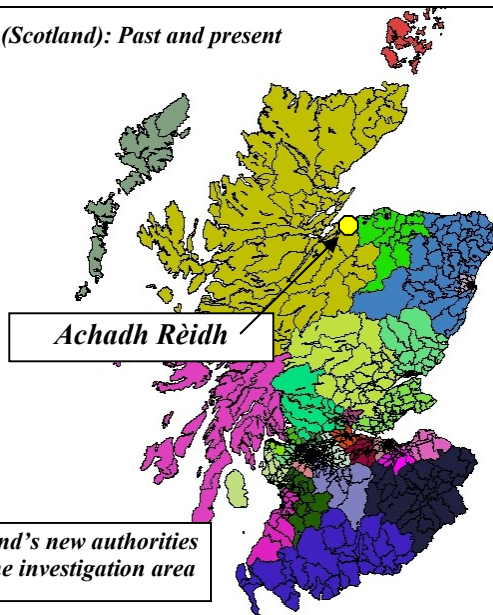
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Tradespark, Swimming Bath, Inverkavine, Firthside, Seabank Road, Newton Square, Achareidh Farm, Lochdhu Cottage)

Number of households: 58 Population present at census night: 248

Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 25.8 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
<i>Nairnshire</i>	<i>Nairn</i>	Nairn	11	1 – 12

Alba (Scotland): Past and present



State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The language was very much confined to older people. Youngsters were not anymore enumerated as *Gàidhlig*-speakers in this census.

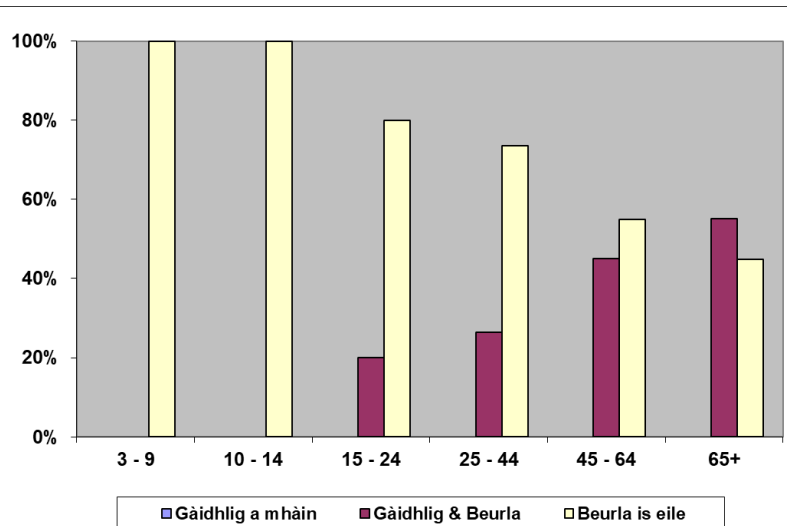
Slightly stronger embedded was the traditional tongue in the more lower-class society of *Pàirc na Malairt* (Tradespark) than in the more prosperous neighbourhood of the farm of *Achadh Rèidh* (Achareidh). Most speakers originated from the western Highlands and very few residents were born nearby.

Area description:

Both investigation objects were essentially western “suburbs” of the county town of *Inbhir Narann* (Nairn) on the southern shore of the *Linne Mhoireibh* (Moray Firth).

Pàirc na Malairt (Tradespark) was more or less a planned village, whereas *Achadh Rèidh* (Achareidh) with its farm still remained at the time a more rural community.

Main occupations were related to work in the neighbouring town and to agricultural activities in the surrounding farmland.



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. ³	Total ⁴	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
Age								
Total	248	17	0	2	229	0	59	25.8 %
3-4	11	0	0	0	11	0	0	0.0 %
5-9	27	0	0	0	27	0	0	0.0 %
10-14	28	0	0	0	28	0	0	0.0 %
15-24	30	0	0	0	30	0	6	20.0 %
25-44	53	0	0	0	53	0	14	26.4 %
45-64	51	0	0	0	51	0	23	45.1 %
65+	31	0	0	2	29	0	16	55.2 %
Gender								
Female	132	6	0	1	125	0	36	28.8 %
Male	116	11	0	1	104	0	23	22.1 %
Place of birth								
Born in parish	46	8	0	0	38	0	4	10.5 %
In neighbouring parish¹	59	3	0	1	55	0	9	16.4 %
Gaidhealtachd elsewhere²	52	1	0	0	51	0	39	76.5 %
Other places	91	5	0	1	85	0	7	8.2 %

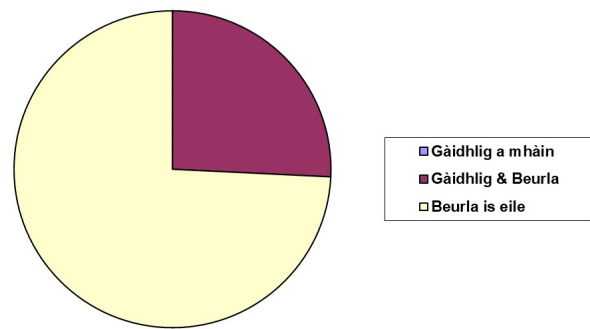
Notes:

¹ Parishes of Auldearn, Ardclach, Cawdor, Croy (all Nairnshire), Ardersier, Petty, Croy & Dalcross (all Inverness-shire).

² Other parishes in Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.

³ People described as visitors, boarders, lodgers, or other similar terms.

⁴ 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.

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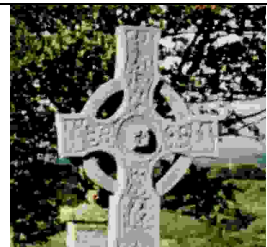
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Area: *Narann (Nairn): Pàirc na Malairt & Achadh Rèidh*

	Households	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	<i>Gàidhlig</i>	<i>Gàidhlig</i> & English	<i>Gàidhlig</i> speakers (%)
<i>Pàirc na Malairt & Achadh Rèidh</i>	58	229	0	59	25.8 %
Individual communities					
<i>Pàirc na Malairt</i> (Tradespark)	48	190	0	48	28.1 %
<i>Achadh Rèidh</i> (Achareidh)	10	58	0	11	19.0 %
Language of parents					
Both parents <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	4	20	0	10	50.0 %
Single parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	2	8	0	3	37.5 %
One parent <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking	6	29	0	7	24.1 %
No <i>Gàidhlig</i> speaking parent	15	86	0	1	1.2 %
Households with no children (0-14)	31	86	0	38	44.2 %
Occupation of head of household					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	9	46	0	11	23.9 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	3	0	3	100.0 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	3	23	0	0	0.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	8	29	0	6	20.7 %
Living on private means	4	12	0	6	50.0 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	7	29	0	4	13.8 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	17	60	0	23	38.3 %
Remaining occupations	9	27	0	6	22.2 %

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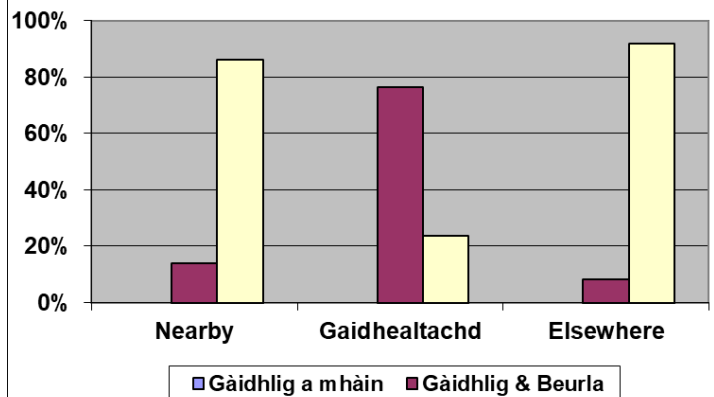
Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The language was spoken mainly by inhabitants born in the wider *Gaidhealtachd*. Locally born Gàidhlig-speakers were a tiny minority in 1891.

Notes:

¹ Born either in Nairn or in the adjacent parishes of Auldearn, Ardelach, Cawdor, Croy (all Nairnshire), Ardersier, Petty, Croy & Dalcross (all Inverness-shire).

² Born in other parishes of Scotland with more than 50 % Gàidhlig speakers in the 1891 census.



Speakers according to place of birth (1) nearby¹ (2) in remaining *Gaidhealtachd*², or (3) elsewhere

Remarks:

1. Official census figures reported 60 bilingual inhabitants out of a total population of 250 persons (24.0%). The usually resident population of 229 persons, however, consisted of 59 Gàidhlig-speakers (25.8%).
2. There were no records of inhabitants “with Gaelic only”.