

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 021

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**Area: Stòr (Stoer): An Druim Beag, Cùl-Cinn an Droma Bhig & An Nead**

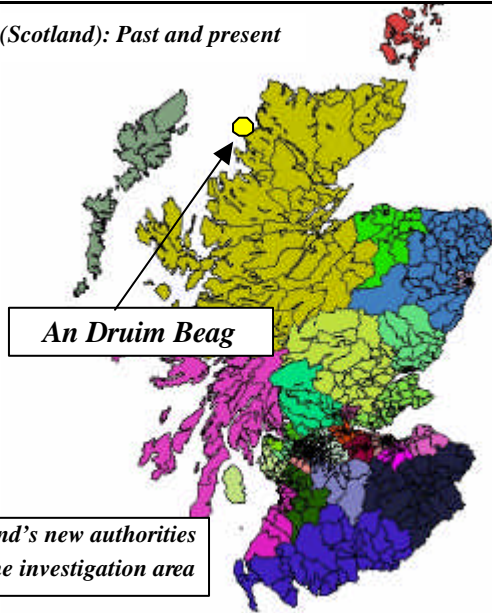
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms : Drumbeg, Culkeine Drumbeg, Nedd)

**Number of households: 84      Population present at census night: 356**

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 97.6 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Sutherland	Assynt	Stoer	4	1 - 17

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*

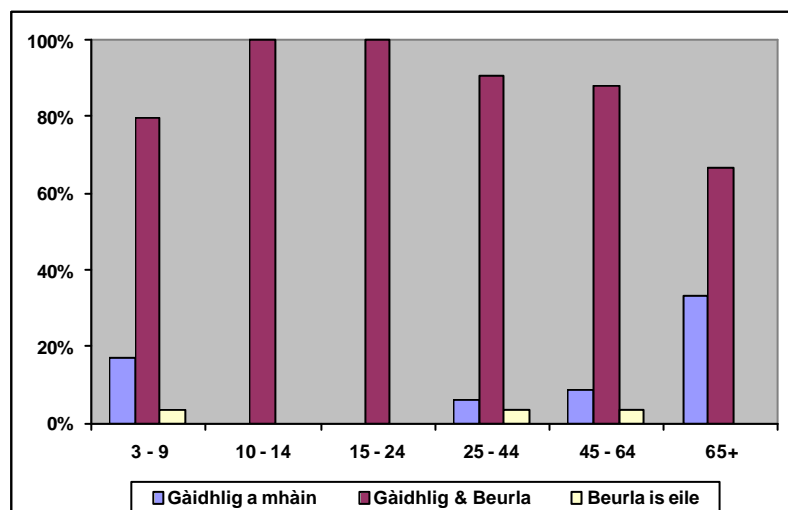


## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

The local population spoke overwhelmingly Gàidhlig in the district. Around 10 % of all speakers were still monolingual (mainly at pre-school age and among the elderly). Most of these “Gaelic only” returns came from female residents. The age profile was very evenly distributed. Prominent among the few English monoglots were school teachers and merchants. Strongest Gàidhlig community was *Cùl-Cinn an Droma Bhig* (Culkein Drumbeg) with 100 % speakers of the traditional language.

## Area description:

The district is part of the remote *Stòr* (Stoer) peninsula in the parish of *Asainn* (Assynt). Almost all residents in this part of *Cataibh* (Sutherland) were occupied with crofting and fishing. In these small hamlets of *An Druim Beag*, *Cùl-Cinn an Droma Bhig* and *An Nead* victims of the “Clearances” had settled after they were forced to leave better pastures in the hinterland.



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>1</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>97.6 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>89.5 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>96.4 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>96.3 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>98.3 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>96.9 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>99.4 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25.0 %</b>

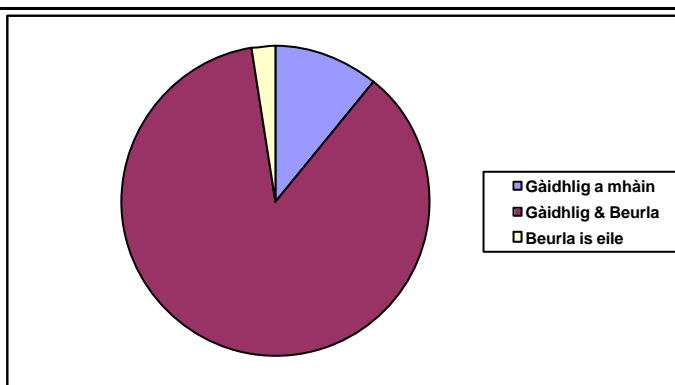
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Lochbroom, Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty); Eddrachillis, Creich (both Sutherland).

<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 fact-sheets are a welcome way to publish some of the “local gems”. More information is provided at [http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP\\_english.htm](http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm).

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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>An Druim Beag</i>	84	338	37	293	97.6 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>An Druim Beag</i> (Drumbeg)	34	133	12	116	96.2 %
<i>Cùl-Cinn an Droma Bhig</i> (Culkein Drumbeag)	24	113	11	102	100 %
<i>An Nead</i> (Nedd)	26	92	14	75	96.7 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	35	184	16	166	98.8 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	1	4	0	4	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	-
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	-
Households with no children (0-14)	48	150	21	123	96.0 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	68	302	33	267	99.3 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	1	0	1	-
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	2	4	0	1	25.0 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	15	0	12	80.0 %
Living on private means	0	0	0	0	-
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	10	16	4	12	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

The few people without Gàidhlig originated (with just two exceptions) from Lowland places. Gàidhlig monolinguals were born all in places nearby.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Assynt or in the adjacent parishes of Lochbroom and Kincardine (both Ross & Cromarty) or Eddrachillis and Creich (both Sutherland).

<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. Just eight persons did not speak Gàidhlig. Among them were two tobacco dealers from Orkney, a crofter's wife from Caithness and a teacher family all born and raised in Doric-speaking Kincardineshire. After 1872 it was quite usual to send teachers into the Highlands who were totally ignorant of the language of their scholars! Two children aged 3 years were also reported without "G&E" or "G" marked on their census papers. Further research in the 1901 census, however, showed that one child could be traced at *An Nead*. It spoke Gàidhlig ten years later.
2. Official census figures in this northern part of *Asainn* (Assynt) reported 301 bilingual inhabitants and 41 monolingual Gàidhlig-speakers out of a total population of 356 persons (96.1 %). The usually resident population consisted of 330 Gàidhlig-speakers (97.6 %) and only eight non-speakers of the local language.