

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 035

Page 1 of 4

**Area:** *Toirbheartan (Torridon): Camas Roill, Loidse Beinn Damh, An Annaid, Am Baile Nodha, Gleann Toirbheartan, Am Fasag, Am Ploc, An Coire & Taigh Toirbheartan*

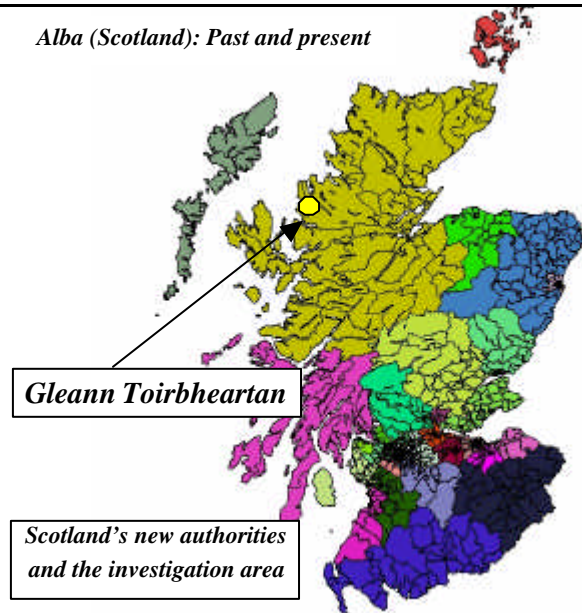
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Camustroll, Bendamph Lodge, Annet, Newton, Glen Torridon, Fasaick, Plock, Coire, Mains of Torridon)

**Number of households:** 51      **Population present at census night:** 204

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 87.6 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Applecross	Shieldaig	3	1 – 12; 21

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*

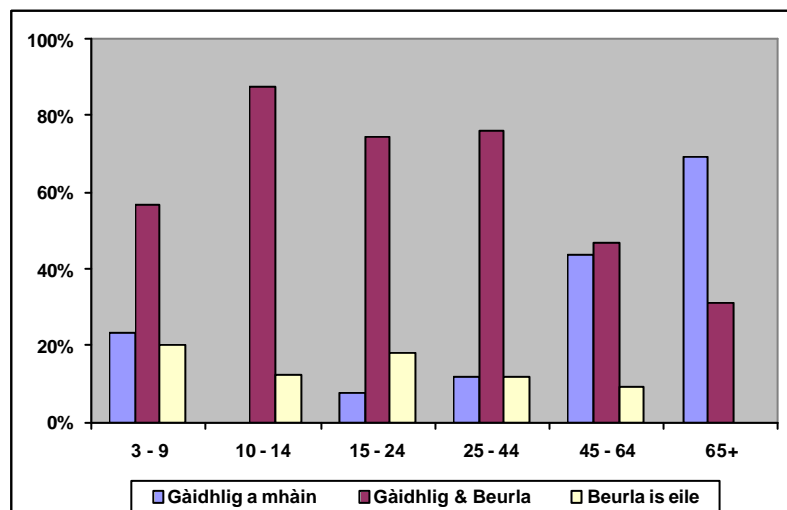


## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

In this area two discrete language communities existed. The first was an English dominated society associated with the estates of Torridon and Ben Damph. Almost all members of this exclusive group were born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* and did not speak the local language at all. The second community was made up of the inhabitants of the local hamlets where Gàidhlig was universally spoken – notably in *An Annaid* (Annet) and *Am Fasag*. A quarter of all Gàidhlig speakers still did not speak English – mostly in the older age groups.

## Area description:

The district comprises the dwellings on the head of *Loch Toirbheartan* (Loch Torridon) on the western seaboard of *Ros is Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty). In the neighbourhood of crofting hamlets like *Am Fasag* (Fasag) and *An Annaid* (Annet) two stately homes were occupied by lowland landowners and their servants: Bendamph Lodge and Torridon House. The estates provided some employment also for local people although crofting and fishing of course remained the most important occupations to earn a living in this remote corner of the Highlands.



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

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 035

Page 2 of 4

Area: *Toirbheartan (Torrison): Camas Roill, Loidse Beinn Damh, An Annaid, Am Baile Nodha, Gleann Toirbheartan, Am Fasag, Am Ploc, An Coire & Taigh Toirbheartan*

	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>204</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>87.6 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>62.5 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>86.4 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>87.5 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>82.1 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>88.1 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>90.6 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>86.9 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>88.5 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>97.2 %</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>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20.8 %</b>

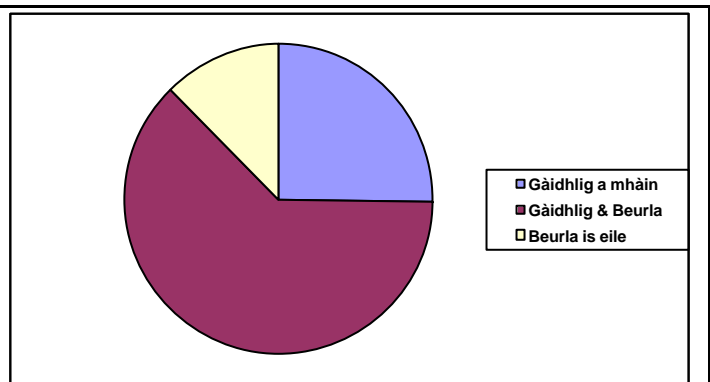
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Parishes of Gairloch and Lochcarron (both Ross & Cromarty).

<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 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).

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

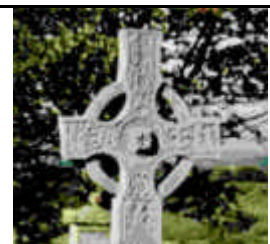
No. 035

Page 3 of 4

Area: *Toirbheartan (Torrison): Camas Roill, Loidse Beinn Damh, An Annaid, Am Baile Nodha, Gleann Toirbheartan, Am Fasag, Am Ploc, An Coire & Taigh Toirbheartan*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b><i>Gleann Toirbheartan</i></b>	<b>51</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>87.6 %</b>
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<b><i>Camas Roill &amp; Loidse Beinn Damh</i></b> (Camustroll & Bendamph Lodge)	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13.3 %</b>
<b><i>An Annaid</i></b> (Annet)	<b>17</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b><i>Am Baile Nodha &amp; Gleann Toirbheartan</i></b> (Newton & Glen Torrison)	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b><i>Am Fasag</i></b> (Fasag)	<b>19</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b><i>An Coire &amp; Am Ploc</i></b> (Coire & Plock)	<b>6</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>67.9 %</b>
<b><i>Taigh Toirbheartan</i></b> (Mains of Torrison)	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>83.3 %</b>
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>96.8 %</b>
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50.0 %</b>
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25.0 %</b>
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>96.7 %</b>
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>97.2 %</b>
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26.7 %</b>
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Living on private means</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53.3 %</b>
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>85.7 %</b>
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>

© Text and statistics: Copyright Kurt C. Duwe. All rights reserved except private and non-commercial use. Any other use has to be cleared by the author Kurt C. Duwe, Jägerstr. 120a, 21079 Hamburg, Germany ([duwe@linguae-celticae.de](mailto:duwe@linguae-celticae.de)) and it may also fall under restrictions of the Crown Copyright of census data. Statistics have been derived from 1891 census returns published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). The use of this material here is permitted under Licence No. C02W0003665. Crown Copyright of census data is acknowledged. The digital boundaries shown on the Scotland map are courtesy of Ordnance Survey as part of the Geography Products provided by GROS. Additional individual profiles may be downloaded from a special page on the Linguae Celticae website: [http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP\\_english.htm](http://www.linguae-celticae.org/GLP_english.htm)



# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 035

Page 4 of 4

Area: *Toirbheartan (Torrison): Camas Roill, Loidse Beinn Damh, An Annaid, Am Baile Nodha, Gleann Toirbheartan, Am Fasag, Am Ploc, An Coire & Taigh Toirbheartan*

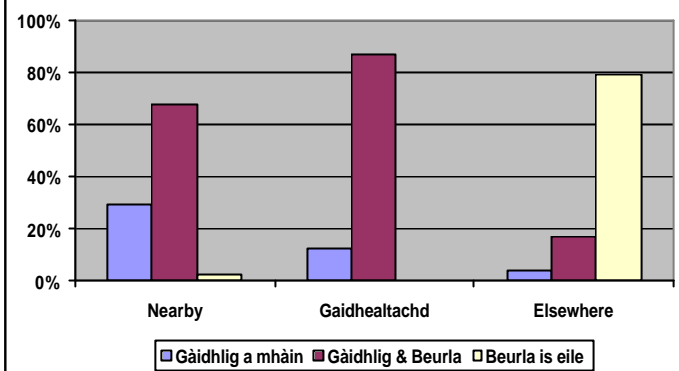
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

Almost all persons born in the *Gaidhealtachd* were Gàidhlig speakers. On the other hand persons born elsewhere were very unlikely able to speak Gàidhlig.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Applecross or in the adjacent parishes of Gairloch and Lochcarron (all Ross & Cromarty).

<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. There was quite a substantial number of residents who did not have a “G&E” or “G” marked on their registration sheets. The vast majority of this English speaking community was associated with the estates of *Beinn Damh* (Bendamph) or *Toirbheartan* (Torrison). Landowners and servants alike were overwhelmingly born in the Lowlands or even England and had apparently no close contact with the local population.
2. In original census report terms the whole community in total had a population of 204 persons of all ages. 114 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” and 53 persons were reported as monolingual Gàidhlig speakers. These figures lead to an “official” share of Gàidhlig speakers of 81.9 %. A comparison with the more realistic statistics of this fact-sheet reveals that this percentage was a slight under-estimate of 5.7 % caused by the inclusion of under-three olds in the official population base.