

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 038

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**Area:** *Àth Tharracaill (Acharacle): Croitean Àird Tobha, Gob Seileadh, Àird Tobha, Bail' Ùr Àird Tobha, Paire Àirigh Bheagaig, Àirigh Bheagaig, Allt Bèithe, An Goirtean Eòrna, Innis Dubh, An Goirtean Fheàrna & Ceann Tràgha*

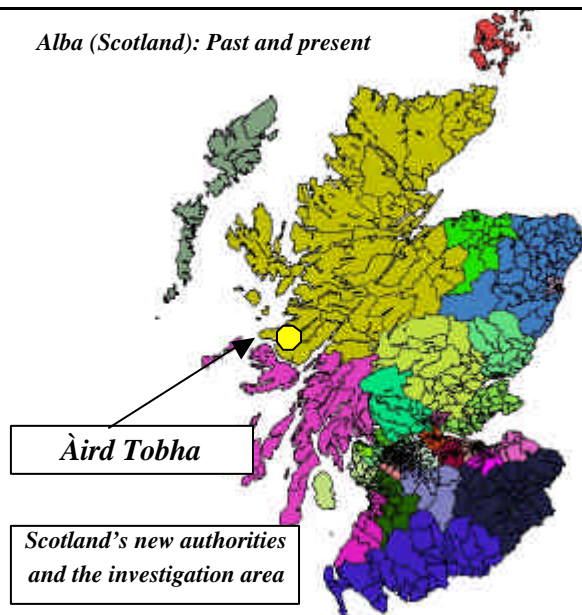
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Ardtoe Crofts, Gobshellach, Ardtoe, Newton, Park Arivegaig, Arivegaig, Aultbea, Gorteneorn, Innisdubh, Gortenfern, Kintra, Raelands)

**Number of households:** 55      **Population present at census night:** 274

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig:** 99.2 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Argyll	Ardnamurchan	Aharacle	2 3	1 (part)– 7 1 - 10

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

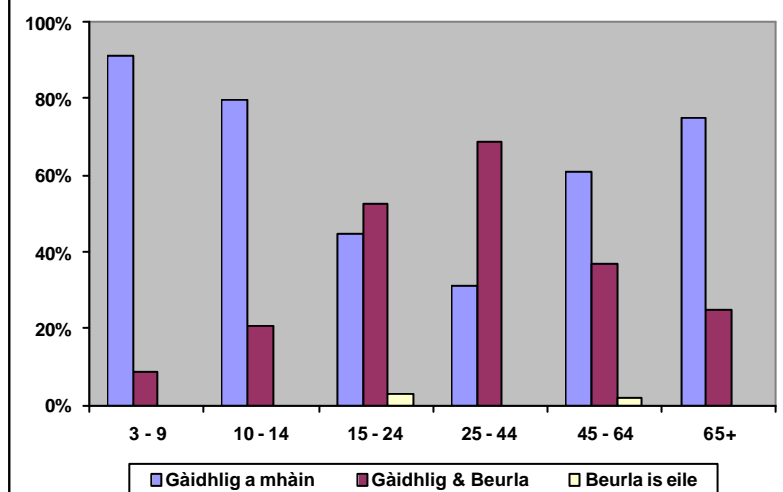
The majority of the usually resident population spoke nothing but *Gàidhlig*. In fact just two persons were counted as not speaking the language. Even all persons born beyond the Highland line were found to speak the language of the community. Apart from the generation aged between 15 and 44 most persons spoke *Gàidhlig* only.

The largest proportions of *Gàidhlig* monolingual residents were returned from the settlements of *Àird Tobha* (Ardtoe) and *Àirigh Bheagaig* (Arivegaig).

## Area description:

The district covers the relatively flat country west of the village of *Àth Tharracaill* (Acharacle) in north-western *Earra-Ghaidheal* (Argyll). The largest settlements in this area were the hamlets of *Àird Tobha* (Ardtoe), *Ceann Tràgha* (Kintra) and *Àirigh Bheagaig* (Arivegaig).

Main occupation of the inhabitants was crofting at the time.



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>274</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99.2 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>34</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>40</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>97.4 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>65</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>47</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>97.8 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>99.3 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>99.1 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>99.1 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100 %</b>

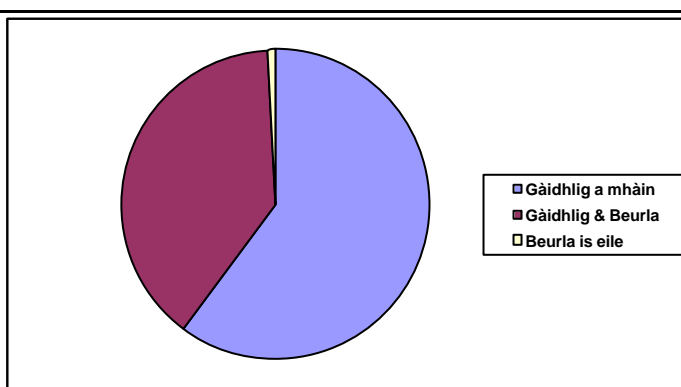
## Notes:

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

<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).

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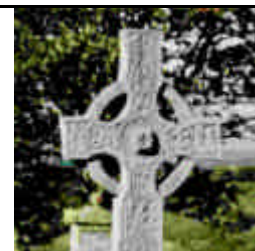
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	House -holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àird Tobha &amp; Àirigh Bheagaig</i>	55	255	154	99	99.2 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Ceann Tràgha: Croitean Àird Tobha</i> (Kentra: Ardtoe Crofts)	10	32	17	15	100 %
<i>Gob Seileadh</i> (Gobshellach)	3	13	8	5	100 %
<i>Àird Tobha</i> (Ardtoe)	7	41	27	13	97.6 %
<i>Bail' Ùr Àird Tobha</i> (Newton of Ardtoe)	11	45	22	23	100 %
<i>Pairc Àirigh Bheagaig &amp; Àirigh Bheagaig</i> (Park Arivegaig & Arivegaig)	13	74	55	19	100 %
<i>Allt Bèithe &amp; An Goirtean Eòrna</i> (Aultbea & Gorteneorn)	3	15	8	6	93.3 %
<i>An Goirtean Fheàrna &amp; Innis Dubh</i> (Gortenfern & Innisdhu)	8	35	17	18	100 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
<b>Both parents Gàidhlig speaking</b>	19	111	75	36	100 %
<b>Single parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	12	60	37	23	100 %
<b>One parent Gàidhlig speaking</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>No Gàidhlig speaking parent</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Households with no children (0-14)</b>	24	84	42	40	97.6 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
<b>Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.</b>	46	220	140	78	99.1 %
<b>Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar</b>	1	1	0	1	100 %
<b>Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.</b>	4	16	5	11	100 %
<b>Living on private means</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Manager, coachman, cook, etc.</b>	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.</b>	4	18	9	9	100 %
<b>Remaining occupations</b>	0	0	0	0	-

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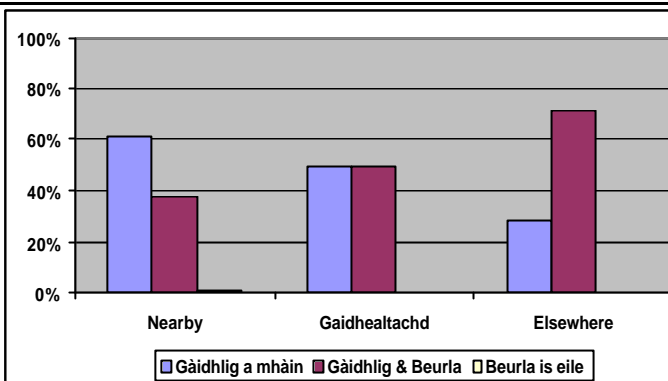
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

A majority of those born nearby spoke only Gàidhlig. All persons born outside the *Gaidhealtachd* spoke Gàidhlig, too.

### Notes:

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

<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 two persons were returned as not speaking Gàidhlig. A 58 years old crofter's wife in *Àird Tobha* and an imbecile 15 years old crofter's son in *Allt Bèithe* did not have a "G&E" or "G" marked on their enumeration sheets. Whether this meant that both were "English only" speakers remains doubtful nonetheless.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 274 persons of all ages. 104 enumerated inhabitants spoke "Gaelic and English" and 164 were counted as monolingual Gàidhlig speakers. This led to an "official" share of Gàidhlig speakers of 97.8 %. Even this high percentage was an under-estimate of 1.4 %!