

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 095

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**Area: *Narann (Nairn): Drochaid Dhulfhasaidh, Flionais, Beannchar, Ruigh Phuill, Na Bothachan, Tom Lòin, Paìt Musach, Lùb Fhlèisteir, Drochaid Lagaidh, Ceapanach, Lainn a'Choirce, Achadh Ghobhar & Cnoc an Eòrna***

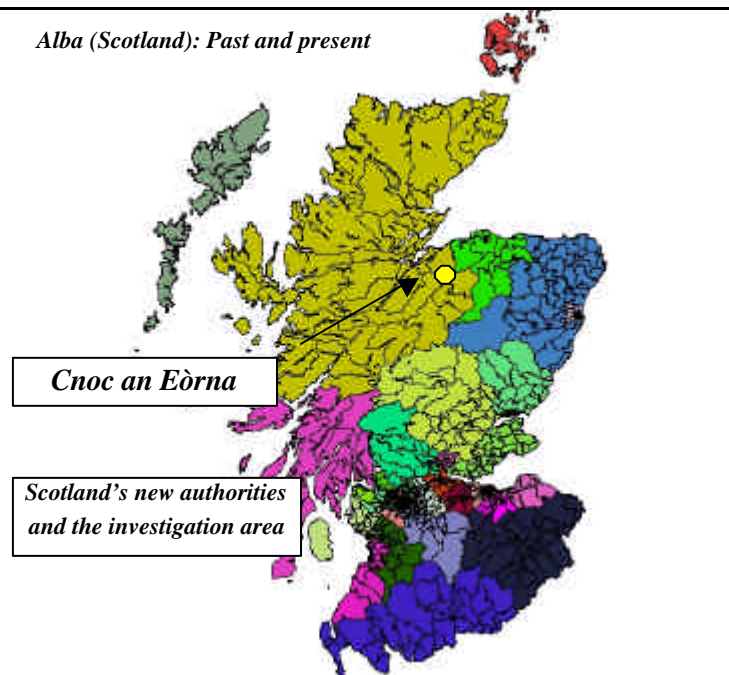
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: Dulzie Bridge, Banchor, Balmight, Refuil, Blackfold, Balmakiver, Boath, Tomloan, Patmussach, Lubleister, Fleenas, Logie Bridge, Keppernach, Leovrattich, Lynechork, Achagour & Knockaneorn)

**Number of households: 51      Population present at census night: 284**

**Share of resident population (aged three years or over) speaking Gàidhlig: 35.1 %**

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Nairn	Ardclach	Ardclach	3	1 - 7
			4	1 - 6

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



*Cnoc an Eòrna*

*Scotland's new authorities and the investigation area*

## State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

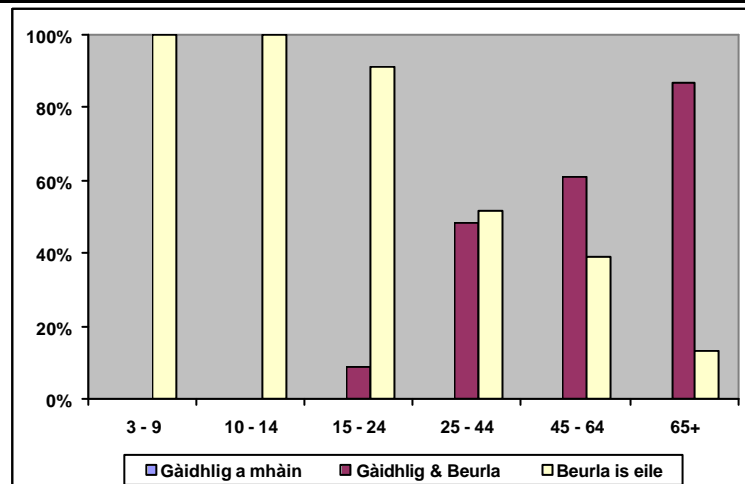
At this time intergenerational language transmission of the Gàidhlig language had almost come to a halt in the district. Whereas still a majority of residents beyond the age of 25 spoke the language almost none of the younger folk spoke the tongue of their ancestors. On the other hand Gàidhlig was still overwhelmingly spoken among the elderly.

Geographically the strength of the language was rather diverse. The highest percentages were recorded in the tiny settlements around *Beannchar & Na Bothachan* (Banchor & Boath) and *Cnoc an Eòrna & Tom Lòin* (Knockaneorn & Tomloan) with a 40 % share of Gàidhlig speakers.

## Area description:

The district lies in the south-western corner of the old county of *Narann* (Nairn) in the small parish of *Àird Chlach* (Ardclach). The settlements enumerated in 1891 included the communities and farms on the high moorland of *Monadh Fhlionais* (Fleenas Moor).

Most inhabitants in dwellings like those at *Cnoc an Eòrna* (Knockaneorn) or *Flionais* (Fleenas) were concerned with farming activities.



**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>4</sup>	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<b>Age</b>								
<b>Total</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>35.1 %</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>5-9</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>10-14</b>	<b>35</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0 %</b>
<b>15-24</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>
<b>25-44</b>	<b>60</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>48.1 %</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>56</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>60.8 %</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>87.0 %</b>
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33.3 %</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37.1 %</b>
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>36.1 %</b>
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26.9 %</b>
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>84.6 %</b>
<b>Other places</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15.0 %</b>

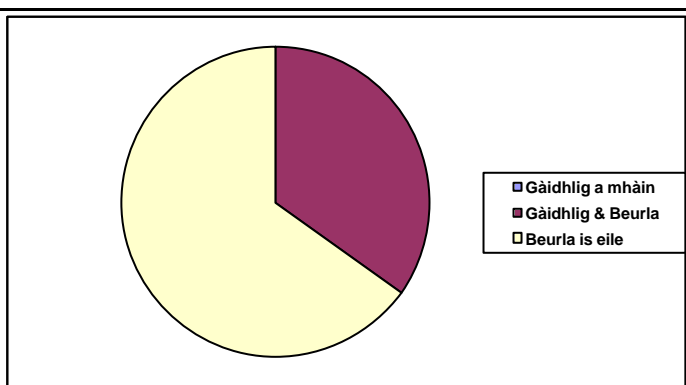
## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Parishes of Cawdor, Nairn, Auldearn (all Nairn), Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray) Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie Moy & Dalarossie (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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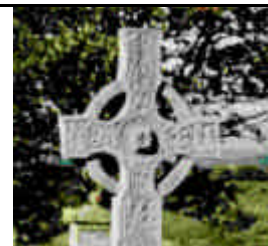
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	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Flionais &amp; Cnoc an Eòrna</i>	51	231	0	81	35.1 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Beannchar &amp; Na Bothachan</i> (Banchor & Boath)	11	61	0	26	42.6 %
<i>Cnoc an Eòrna &amp; Tom Lòin</i> (Knockaneorn & Tomloan)	16	70	0	28	40.0 %
<i>Drochaid Lagaidh &amp; Ceapanach</i> (Logie Bridge & Keppernach)	11	41	0	12	29.4 %
<i>Flionais</i> (Fleenas)	10	41	0	11	26.8 %
<i>Achadh Ghobhar &amp; Lainn a'Choirce</i> (Achagour & Lynechork)	3	18	0	4	22.2 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	9	54	0	22	40.7 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	7	24	0	13	54.2 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	2	14	0	2	14.3 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	5	35	0	1	2.9 %
Households with no children (0-14)	28	104	0	43	41.3 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	31	163	0	60	36.8 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	1	7	0	2	28.6 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	5	24	0	2	8.3 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	5	13	0	5	38.5 %
Living on private means	2	3	0	2	66.7 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	0	0	0	0	-
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	7	21	0	10	47.6 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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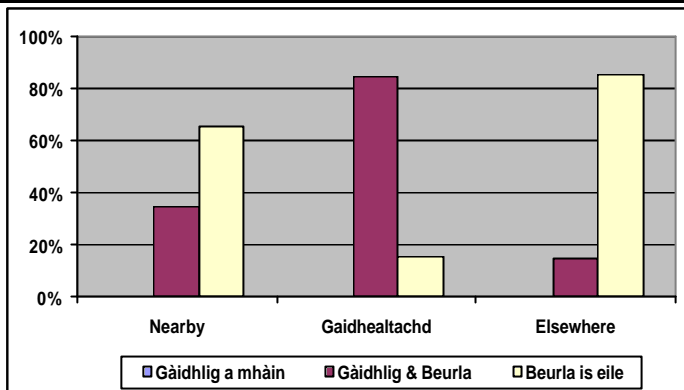
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

*Gàidhlig* was spoken by about 40% of the locally born population. Residents born outside the Gaidhealtachd were very unlikely to speak the traditional tongue in this district.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Ardelach (Nairn) or the adjacent parishes of Cawdor, Nairn, Auldearn (all Nairn), Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie (Moray) Abernethy & Kincardine, Alvie, Moy & Dalarossie (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. There were no monolingual *Gàidhlig* speakers registered in the area in 1891.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 284 persons of all ages. 106 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English” leading to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 37.3 %. This was only a very small over-estimate of 2.2 % compared with the realistic figures taking into account only the usually resident population. Reason for this peculiar result was the counting of a number of *Gàidhlig* speaking tinkers who happened to be present at *Cnoc an Eòrna* (Knockaneorn) at census night.