

# Alba 1891: Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) Local Profile

No. 103

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**Area:** *Toirbheartan (Torrison): Bràigh Àiliginn, Pairc, An Ruigh Chuilinn, An Camas Glas & Inbhir Àiliginn*

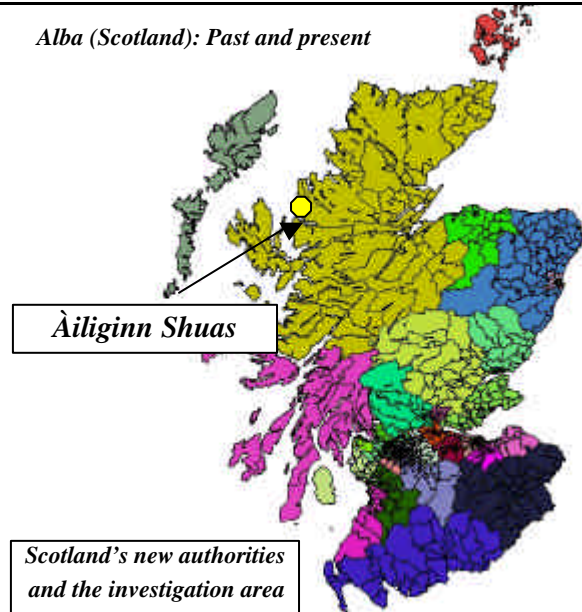
(Names of enumeration locations used on census forms: West Alligin, Upper Alligin, Park, Ruicullin, Camusglass, Inveralligin & West Inveralligin)

**Number of households:** 63      **Population present at census night:** 263

**Share of resident population (aged three years +) speaking Gàidhlig:** 100 %

County	Civil parish	Registration district	Enumeration district number	Census form pages
Ross & Cromarty	Applecross	Shieldaig	2	8 - 15
			3	13 - 20

*Alba (Scotland): Past and present*



### State of Gàidhlig in 1891:

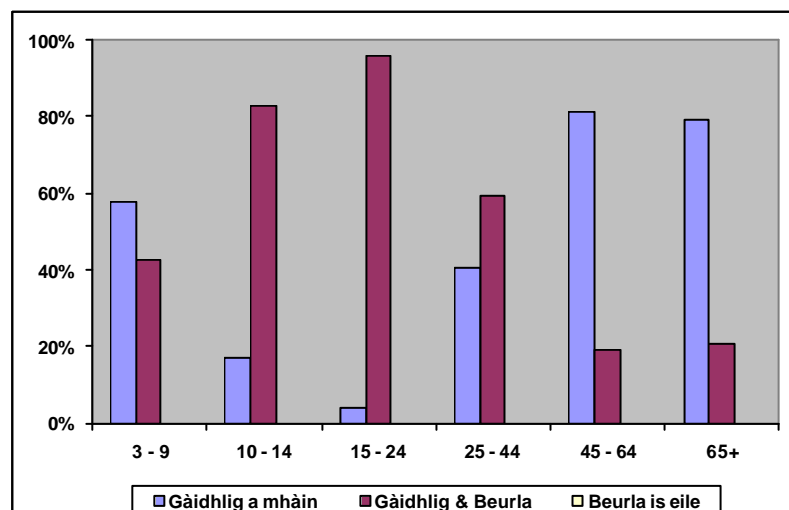
All persons living in this area spoke Gàidhlig. A very substantial part of the usually resident population did not speak English at all. Almost one half of the locally born population did speak nothing but Gàidhlig. Most prominent were monolingual persons in age groups below 9 and above 24 years of age.

In the remoter dwelling of *Inbhir Àiliginn* (Inveralligin) even Gàidhlig monolingual speakers still were in a majority in 1891. Bilingualism was more frequently found among male residents than among females.

### Area description:

The settlements covered are situated on the remote west coast of the county of *Ros is Cromba* (Ross & Cromarty) north of the impressive sea loch of *Loch Toirbheartan* (Loch Torrison). Main hamlets were the crofting townships of *Àiliginn Shuas* (Upper Alligin) and *Inbhir Àiliginn* (Inveralligin).

Major means of survival were crofting and as indicated a little bit of inshore fishing. Major avenue to the outside world was by sea.



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>	263	17	0	5	241	112	129	100 %
<b>3-4</b>	10		0	0	10	6	4	100 %
<b>5-9</b>	37		0	0	37	21	16	100 %
<b>10-14</b>	23		0	0	23	4	19	100 %
<b>15-24</b>	46		0	0	46	2	44	100 %
<b>25-44</b>	55		0	1	54	22	32	100 %
<b>45-64</b>	49		0	2	47	38	9	100 %
<b>65+</b>	26		0	2	24	19	5	100 %
<b>Gender</b>								
<b>Female</b>	136	8	0	2	126	66	60	100 %
<b>Male</b>	127	9	0	3	115	46	69	100 %
<b>Place of birth</b>								
<b>Born in parish</b>	1243	17	0	4	222	118	112	100 %
<b>In neighbouring parish<sup>1</sup></b>	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	100 %
<b>Gaidhealtachd elsewhere<sup>2</sup></b>	13	0	0	0	13	1	12	100 %
<b>Other places</b>	5	0	0	1	4	0	4	100 %

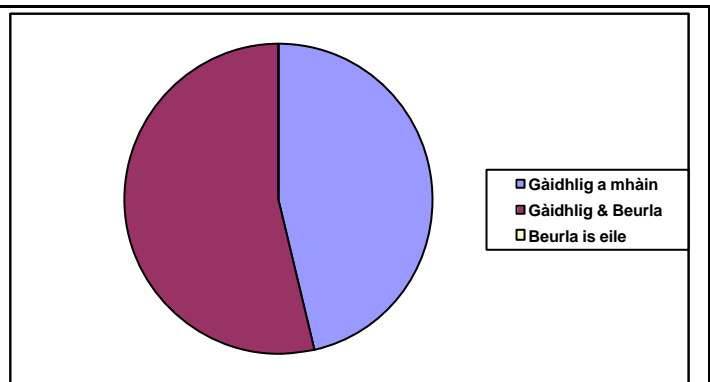
**Notes:**

<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).

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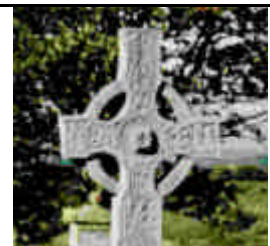
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Area: *Toirbheartan (Torridon): Bràigh Àiliginn, Pairc, An Ruigh Chuilinn, An Camas Glas & Inbhir Àiliginn*

	House-holds	Usually resident population (3+)			
		Total	Gàidhlig	Gàidhlig & English	Gàidhlig speakers (%)
<i>Àiliginn</i>	63	241	112	129	100 %
<b>Individual communities</b>					
<i>Àiliginn Shuas</i> (Upper Alligin)	34	121	53	68	100 %
<i>Pairc</i> (Park)	2	11	0	11	100 %
<i>An Ruigh Chuilinn</i> (Rhecullin)	2	7	0	7	100 %
<i>An Camas Glas</i> (Camusglass)	2	11	5	6	100 %
<i>Inbhir Àiliginn</i> (Inveralligin)	23	91	54	37	100 %
<b>Language of parents</b>					
Both parents Gàidhlig speaking	23	123	53	70	100 %
Single parent Gàidhlig speaking	10	41	22	19	100 %
One parent Gàidhlig speaking	0	0	0	0	100 %
No Gàidhlig speaking parent	0	0	0	0	100 %
Households with no children (0-14)	30	77	37	40	100 %
<b>Occupation of head of household</b>					
Crofter, farmer, fisherman, etc.	41	178	94	84	100 %
Shepherd, gamekeeper or similar	2	11	0	11	100 %
Clergyman, teacher, physician, etc.	1	7	0	7	100 %
Mason, carpenter, merchant, etc.	3	13	0	13	100 %
Living on private means	3	6	2	4	100 %
Manager, coachman, cook, etc.	1	4	2	2	100 %
Worker, farm/domestic servant, etc.	12	22	14	8	100 %
Remaining occupations	0	0	0	0	-

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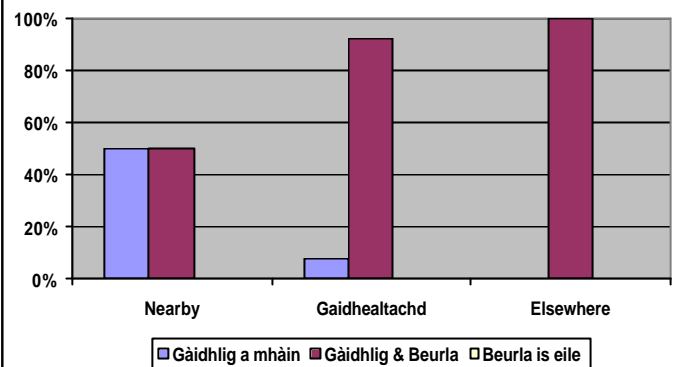
## Place of birth and Gàidhlig speaking:

*Gàidhlig* monolingual speakers made up almost 50 % of those residents born nearby. The few souls born outside this area mainly spoke both *Gàidhlig* and English.

### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Born either in Applecross or in the parishes of Gairloch and Lochcarron (both 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. Every person enumerated in the area spoke *Gàidhlig*.
2. In original census report terms the district had a population of 263 persons of all ages. 129 enumerated inhabitants spoke “Gaelic and English”; an additional number of 122 inhabitants spoke “Gaelic only”. This led to an “official” share of *Gàidhlig* speakers of 95.4 %. This figure was still an under-estimate of 4.6 % because children below the age of three were included in the official population base. The language ability of these young children was not registered on the census sheets.