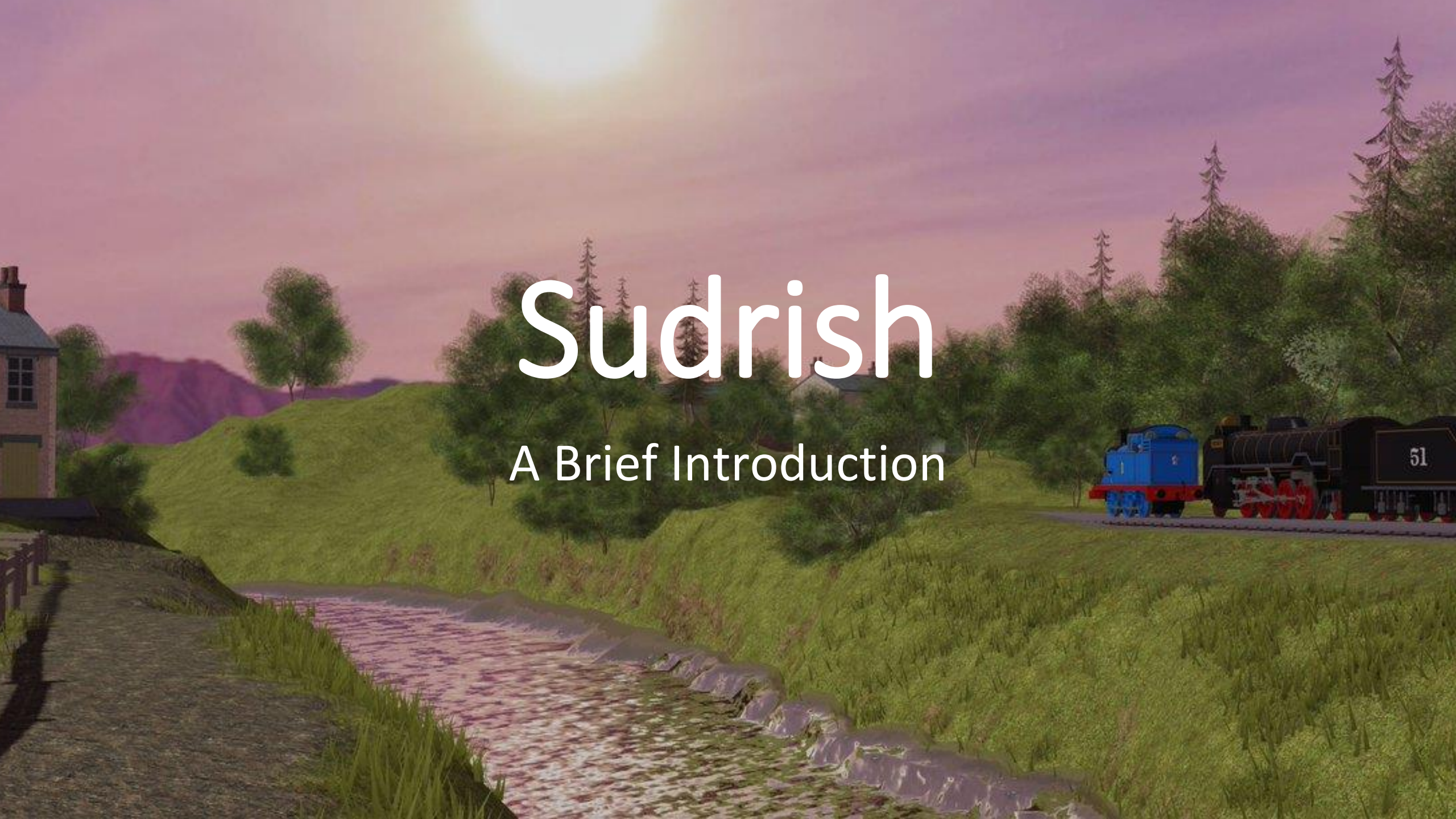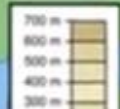# Sudrish

A Brief Introduction

Sudrish

- native language of the island of Sodor

- spoken by around 12 500 people (20%)

- approximately 3500 native speakers

- 10 000 second language learners

- official on Sodor since 2011

- not recognised in wider United Kingdom

Cumbria

Sudrian Sea

Irish Sea

Monecambe Bay

Wellsworth Bay

Brendam Bay

Douglas

Knapford

Tidmouth

Crosby

Elsbridge

Wellsworth

Maron

Crovan's Gate

Normanby

Ballahoo

Vicarstown

Barrow-in-Furness

Ulfstead

Peel Godred

Kirk Machan

Crovk

Abbey

Suddery

Brendam

Rolf's Castle

Kirk Ronan

Kellsthorpe

Harwick

Barrow-in-Furness

Blackpool

Names

- "Gîlg" (/gʲeːlʲəkʲ/) is cognate with English "Gaelic"

- often used with definite article "a Ghîlg" (/ə ɟeːlʲəkʲ/)

- often called "Gîlg Hudraygh" (/gʲeːlʲəkʲ hoɡ̊raəɟ/, Gaelic of Sodor) to distinguish it from the three other Gaelic languages

- often called "Sudric" in English, a shortening of "Sudric Gaelic"

- frequently spelt "Sudrisk" in historical sources, originating from Old Norse "Sudreysk"

History

- Earliest attested language on the island is a Brythonic (P-Celtic) language, with Cumbric attested there until the 12th century

- Sudrish is a Goidelic (Q-Celtic) language, descended from Primitive Irish, attesting in Ogham inscriptions from the 4th century throughout Ireland and the west coast of Great Britain

- By the 10th century, Middle Irish was spoken throughout Ireland, Scotland, Mann and Sodor

- Sodor was colonised by the Norse and there is evidence in loanwords, place names, and preaspieration, but Norse had little impact on Sudrish compared to Cumbric

History

- Sodor fell under the influence of England during the later Middle Ages and English became more important in language development

- Declining contact between Sudro-Manx-speakers and other Gaelic-speakers in Scotland and Ireland caused the language to diverge from its neighborus

- Manx and Sudrish began diverging from the 17th century, influenced by an English-based orthography for Manx

Decline

- J. G. Cumming (1848) on the islands of Mann and Sodor:

    "There are [...] few persons (perhaps none of the young) who speak no English."

- Estimated 30 years later that 40% habitually spoke Sudrish

- This was 20% by 1901 and 10% by 1921

- Decreasing speaker numbers compounded low prestige, resulting in parents not passing it on in favour of "more useful" English

- Unlike Manx, Sudrish has maintained a number of native speakers through to the present day, mostly in remote mountain areas
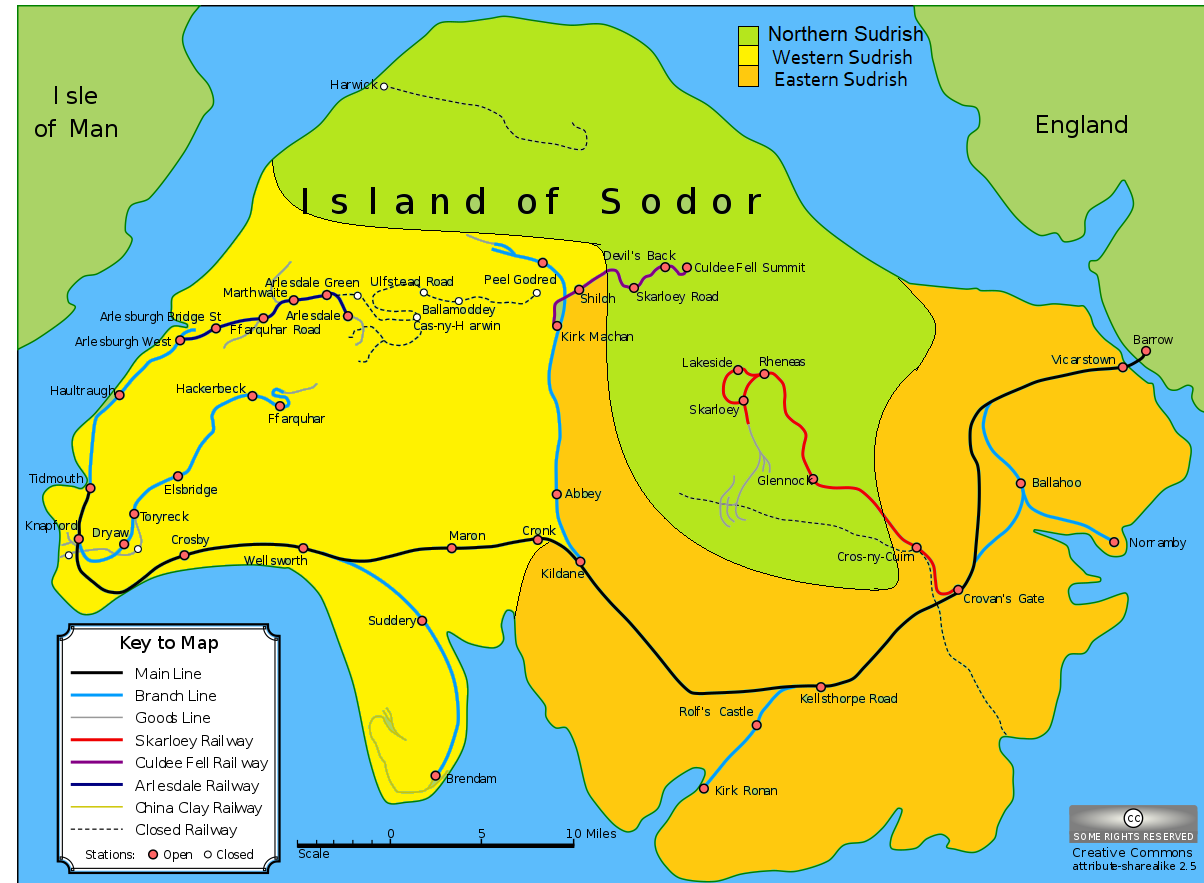
Number of speakers by year

Year	Total speakers	Total population	% of Sudrian population	Manx-speakers	%	Gaelic-speakers	%
1800	28 000	35 000	80%			297 825	18.5%
1875	22 000	55 000	40%	16 200	30%	231 500	6%
1901	11 500	57 500	20%	4420	8%	230 800	5%
1911	8700	58 000	15%	2380	4.5%	192 400	4.2%
1921	5700	57 000	10%	915	1.5%	158 800	3.5%
1931	4600	57 500	8%	530	1%	136 150	3%
1951	2900	58 500	5%	355	0.64%	95 500	1.9%
1961	2360	59 000	4%	165	0.34%	81 000	1.5%
1971	2380	59 500	4%	284	0.52%	88 900	1.7%
1981	3000	58 500	5%			82 620	1.6%
1991	4800	59 000	8%	643	0.9%	66 000	1.4%
2001	7200	60 000	12%	1500	1.95%	58 650	1.2%
2011	9700	60 500	16%	1650	1.97%	57 600	1.1%
2016	12 500	61 000	20%	1800	2%		

Classification and Dialects

- One of four descendants of Old Irish (via Middle Irish & Early Modern Gaelic)

- Often classified together with Manx as a single language
  - notable differences exist
  - very distinct spelling convention

- Three dialects; Northern is the strongest, Western is largely extinct

- As with Scottish usage, the term *dualchaynt,* often translated "dialect", refers simply to the local way of speaking

- Pronunciaton and occasionally vocabulary may differ between "dialects", but there is little to no grammatical variation

Education

- An Cuman Gîlgach (The Sudrish Language Society) was founded in 1898

- no speakers under age 18 reported by middle of 20th century, but some individuals were teaching it in schools

- first primary Sudrish Language Unit (SLU) opened in 1984

- first bilingual Sudrish-English primary school opened in 1988

Education

- all primary schools must offer Sudrish-medium education (SME) where requested by parents

- three secondary schools (Suddery, Peel Goddard, and Knapford) have a SMU

- all other secondary schools must offer Sudrish as a second language

- Knapdorf Secondary's SMU includes Manx-speaking pupils commuting form the Isle of Man
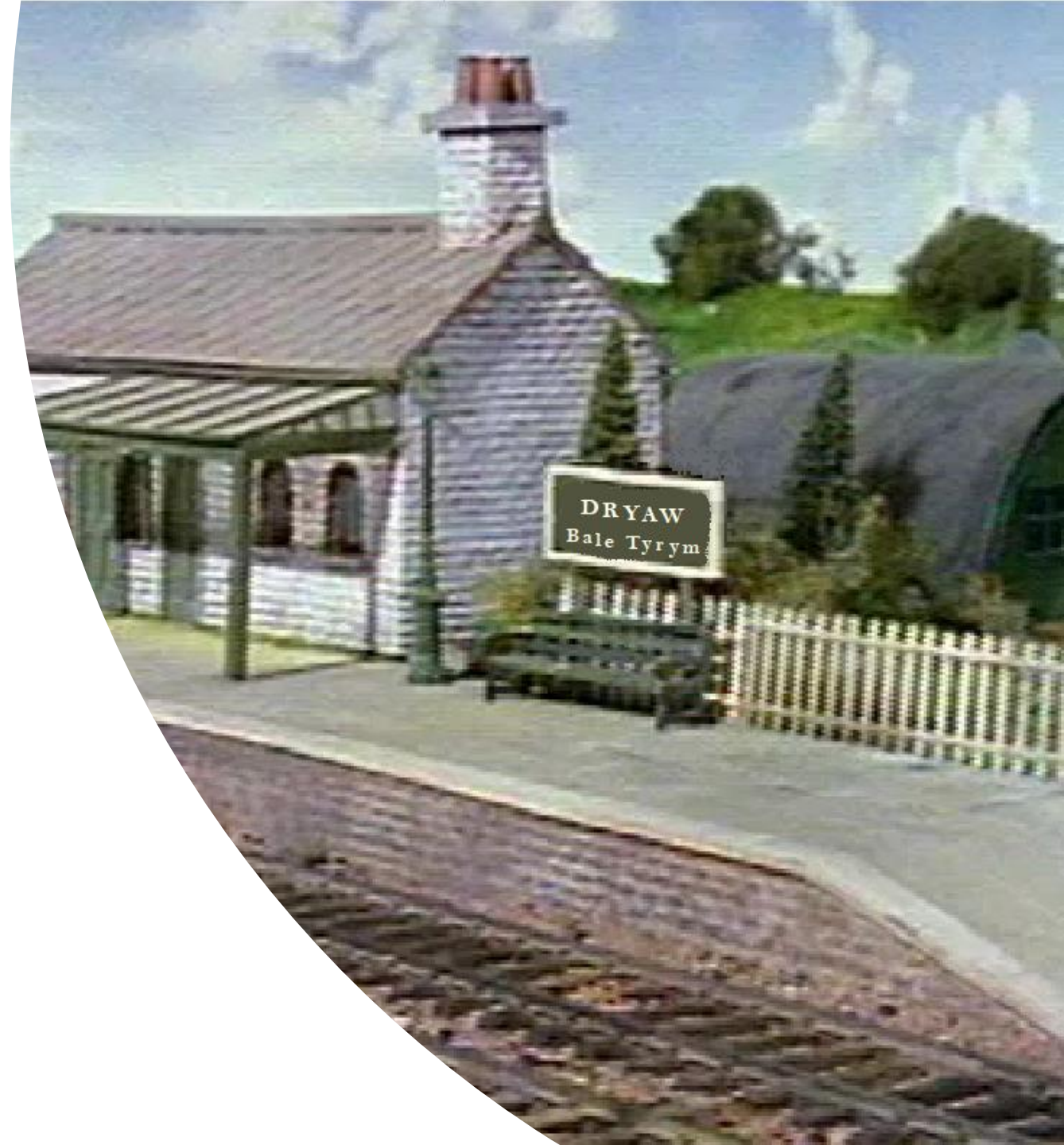
Education

- a year-long beginners' Sudrish course is offered at Sodor Polytechnic

- no tertiary courses are offered through Sudrish

- Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (on Skye) offers a summer intensive for Sudrish- and Manx-speaking students planning to study through the medium of Gaelic

- Bangor Univeristy of Gwynedd offers a six-month Welsh bridging course for Sudrish-speaking students

Signage

- signage in Sudrish became common in the mountainous regions in the late 20th century
- bilingual road, street, village, and town boundary signs are increasingly common throughout the island
- all signs are bilingual in the central mountainous region, but elsewhere are mostly English-only
- business signage in Sudrish is being introduced, but not yet mandated by law

Media

- a daily programme in Sudrish broadcasts at midday, Monday to Saturday, on Radio Sodor
- the news in Sudrish is available online from Radio Sodor
- a newspaper, *Sudragh*, is published monthly
- other newspapers offer Sudrish-only or bilingual columns
- several short films have been made since the 1980s

Media

- 1987 - BBC Sodor began broadcasting Sudrish-language content, one hour on weekdays and two hours on Saturdays
- 1995 – increased to two hours on weekdays and three on Saturdays
- 2008 – digital telivision adopted on the island and dedicated Sudrish-only channel, BBC Sudragh, was created
- it broadcasts locally-made Sudrish-language content as well as bought Irish- and Gaelic-language content

Consonant Phonemes of Sudrish

	Labial	Dental-Alveolar	Post-Alveolar	Palato-Velar	Velar	Glottal
Aspirated Stop	ʰpʰ~pʰ ʰpʲʰ~pʲʰ	ʰt̪ʰ~t̪ʰ	ʰtʲʰ~tʲ	ʰkʲʰ~kʲʰ	ʰkʰ~kʰ	
Unaspirated Stop	p~b pʲ~bʲ	t̪~d̪	dʲ~ð	kʲ~gʲ	k~g	
Fricative	ɸ β	s̪	ʃ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	h
Nasal	m	n̪	nʲ	ŋʲ	ŋ	
Tap		ɾ	ɾʲ			
Trill		r				
Approximant	w			j		
Lateral		l̪	ʎ			

Vowel Phonemes of Sudrish			
	Front	Central	Back
Close	i i:		u u:
Mid	e e:	ə ø~ɤ	o o:
Open	ɛ~æ ɛ:~ɛæ:	a a:	ɔ ɔ:

Mutations

- all modern Celtic language have initial consonant mutations
- Sudrish has two, lenition ("the soft mutation") and eclipsis ("the hard mutation")
- both mutations are found on nouns and verbs
- only lenition is found on adjectives
- Manx has largely lost its mutations since the 20th century, but it remains an integral part of Sudrish

Radical	IPA	Lenited	IPA	Eclipsed	IPA
B b	p~b (broad) pʲ~bʲ (slender)	V v	v~β (broad) vʲ (slender)	M m	m (broad) mʲ (slender)
C c	ʰkʰ~kʰ (broad) ʰkʲʰ~kʲʰ (slender)	CH ch	x (broad) ç (slender)	G g	k~g (broad) kʲ~gʲ (slender)
D d	t̪~d̪ (broad) dʲ~ðʲ (slender)	GH gh	ɣ (broad) j (slender)	N n	ŋ (broad) nʲ (slender)
F f	f (broad) fʲ (slender)	H h	h (broad) hʲ (slender)	V v	v~β (broad) vʲ (slender)
G g	k~g (broad) kʲ~gʲ (slender)	GH gh	ɣ (broad) j (slender)	NG, ng	ŋ (broad) ŋʲ (slender)
vowels		H h	h (broad) hʲ (slender)	N n	ŋ (broad) nʲ (slender)
L l	ʟ~ɫ (broad) lʲ (slender)	L l	ʟ~ɫ (broad) lʲ (slender)	L l	ʟ~ɫ (broad) lʲ (slender)
M m	m (broad) mʲ (slender)	V v	v~β (broad) vʲ (slender)	M m	m (broad) mʲ (slender)
N n	ŋ (broad) nʲ (slender)	N n	ŋ (broad) nʲ (slender)	N n	ŋ (broad) nʲ (slender)
P p	ʰpʰ~pʰ (broad) ʰpʲʰ~pʲʰ (slender)	F f	f (broad) fʲ (slender)	B b	p~b (broad) pʲ~bʲ (slender)
R r	r (broad) θ (slender)	R r	r (broad) θ (slender)	RR rr	r
S s	s̪ (broad) ʃ (slender)	H h	h (broad) hʲ (slender)	S s	s̪ (broad) ʃ (slender)
T t	ʰt̪ʰ~t̪ʰ (broad) ʰtʲʰ~tʲ (slender)	H h	h (broad) hʲ (slender)	D d	t̪~d̪ (broad) dʲ~ðʲ (slender)
V v	v~β (broad) vʲ (slender)	H h	h (broad) hʲ (slender)	V v	v~β (broad) vʲ (slender)

Nouns

- masculine or feminine
- singular, dual and plural
  - the dual is formed by lenition (masc) or lenition and slenderisation (fem)
  - the plural is most commonly formed by the addition of suffix –an /ən̪/
  - some nouns have radically irregular plurals
- three (3) cases
  - dative
  - Genitive
  - vocative
- some nouns with regular genitives have irregular historical genitives which may be encountered in compounds

Adjectives

- have singular and plural forms
- plural is formed by adding –e

- have comparative form
- comparatives:
  - present: nys +form (< na ys)
  - past: nab +form (<na ba)
- superlatives:
  - present: ays +form (<a ys)
  - past: ab +form (<a ba)

Positive	English	Form
âlyn	beautiful	âlny
aog	young	ôa
ârd	high	êrdy
beg	small	lŵa
brôdal	proud	brôdyly
bug	soft, moist	bwygy
foda	far, long	oydy
garŵ	rough	gyry
goram	blue-green	gwrmy
gyal	white, bright	gyly
gyryd	short	gyrry
lâdyr	strong	trosy
lyân	wide	lêa
maol	slow	mely
may	good	syârr
môar	big, large	môry
naof	holy	naoyvy
olc	evil, bad	misy
râwar	fat, broad	rwyry
saor	free	saoyry
syen	old	syny
tana	thin	teny
trôm	heavy	tremy
tye	hot	tyôa
tyrym	dry	tywrma

Pronouns

- regular, emphatic, and possessive personal pronouns
- emphatic pronouns may be used enemphatically in situations where regular ones may be phonetically ambiguous
- Possessive pronouns are used only for inalienable possession

Person	Regular	Emphatic	Possessive	Possessive notes
1st singular	mê	mys	mo	causes lenition
2nd singular	hŵ	ws	do	causes lenition
3rd singular masculine	ê	esyn	a	causes lenition
3rd singular feminine	sê	ys	a	no changes caused
1st plural	mwid (subject) sŷn (object)	synyn	âr(n)	causes eclipsis
2nd plural	sŷv	sywys	vŵr(n)	causes eclipsis
3rd plural	yad	adsan	an (am)	causes eclipsis

Conjugated prepositions

- Ta lyuar agham.
- Ta sŵylan goram aghat.
- Ta Gîlg agha.
- Ta agal oram ruympy.
- Ŷnsŷ m(ê) sgêal dwat.
- (Ys ê) trêna mai a ta anat, a Hâvys.
- Ys ân lyat-sa a t' ê.
- Ta ŷasg vuam.
- Ta mwid brôdal asat.
- Cwrŷ m(ê) lŷtar hwygy.
- Chay am bât fua.
- Cwr umat do chôta.
- Ta mê agh lûart ryŵ.

- I have a book.
- You have blue eyes.
- He speaks Sudrish.
- I'm scared of her.
- I'll tell you a story.
- You're a good train, Thomas.
- It belongs to you.
- I need a fish.
- We're proud of you.
- I'll send her a letter.
- The boat sank.
- Put your coat on.
- I'm talking to youse.

	ag ("to, at")	li ("with")	ar ("on")	do ("for, to")	ân ("in")	rû ("before")	vu ("from")
mê	agham	lyum	oram	dom	anam	ruam	vuam
hŵ	aghat	lyat	orat	dwat	anat	ruat	vuat
ê	agha	lyisa	ara	dâ	ana	ruysa	vuysa
sê	achy	lŷsy	orry	dŷ	any	ruympy	vuŷ
mwid	aghyn	lyên	oryn	dŵyn	andyn	rûyn	vûyn
sŷv	aghŵ	lyv	orŵ	dyŵ	andyŵ	rŵyv	vŵyv
yad	aghas	lyws	orrws	daos	andws	rŵas	vŵpas

	as ("out of, from")	hwg ("to, towards")	di ("of")	fu ("under, about")	trûy ("through")	muga ("around")	har ("over")
mê	asam	hwgham	dîam	fuam	truam	umam	haram
hŵ	asat	hwghat	dîat	fuat	truat	umat	harat
ê	asa	hwga	dia	fua	trua	uma	hara
sê	asy	hwygy	disy	fuŷ	truympy	uympy	harysy
mwid	asdwyn	hwghyn	dŷn	fuyn	truyn	umyn	haryn
sŷv	asdyŵ asyŵ	hwghŵ	diŵ	fuyv	trŵyv	umŵ	harŵ
yad	asdaws	hwcas	diws	fws fwpas	truas	umpas	harws

	edar ("between")	mara ("next to, along with, beside")	rŷ ("to, against, towards, with")	lur ("by, beside")
mê		maram	ryam	luram
hŵ		marat	ryat	lurat
ê		mara	rysa	lura
sê		marysy	rŷsy	lury
mwid	edaryn	maryn	rwyn	luryn
sŷv (northern)	edarŵ	maryv	rŷv	lurŵ
yad	edaras	marws	rŵas	lurws

Verbs

- most verbs are inflected through periphrases using "to be"

- only future, conditional, preterite, and imperative are formed through inflection

- except for the imperative and conditional, verbs inflect for positivity and interrogativity, but not for person

- there are approximately ten irregular verbs

- positivity and interrogativity are shown using particles

Particle	Use	Effect
na	negative, only with imperative	-
cha(n)	negative	causes lenition
an	interrogative	causes eclipsis
nach	negative interrogative	causes lenition
gum	conjunctive	causes eclipsis

Tense	Form	Literal translation	Gloss
Imperative	tylyg! (singular) tylgyv! (plural)	Throw!	Throw!
Present	ta mê agh tylgy	I am at throwing.	I'm throwing. I throw.
Imperfect	va mê agh tylgy	I was at throwing.	I was throwing.
Perfect	ta mê ar hylgy	I am after throwing.	I have thrown.
Pluperfect	va mê ar hylgy	I was after throwing.	I had thrown.
Future	tylgŷ m(ê)	I throw.	I will throw.
Preterite	hylyg mê	I threw	I threw.
Conditional	hylgyn hylgaw hylgad ê/sê/ syŵ yad hylgamyd	I would throw. You would throw. He/she/they would throw. They would throw	I would throw.
Participle/ Adjective	tylyg-ta	Thrown.	Thrown.
Subjunctive	gu tylgar mê	---	That I might throw.

The verb "to be"

- Ta mê agh dênw an wybar.
  I'm doing the work.

- Chan yil mê agh twygsyn.
  I don't understand.

- Nach yil an dyoch ar a vôrd?
  Isn't the drink on the table?

- An wil an trêna agh tŷtan?
  Is the train coming?

Bârla (English)	Gîlg (Sudrish)	IPA
I am	ta mê	/tʰa mɛː/
You are	ta hŵ	/tʰa huː/
He is	t' ê	/tʰə ɛː/
She is	ta sê	/tʰa ʃɛː/
We are	ta mwid	/tʰa mweð/
You are	ta sŷv	/tʰa ʃiːv/
They are	t' yad	/tʰə jat/
I am not	chan yil mê	/xan jelʲ mɛː/
Aren't I?	nach yil mê?	/ɲax jelʲ mɛː/
Am I?	an wil mê?	/aŋ welʲ mɛː/

Adverbs

- adverbs are formed by *dy* +adjective
  - may ("good") > dy may ("well)
- *dy* may be omitted when preceded by *rô* ("too") or *fŷr* ("very")
  - both of these trigger lenition

	In	Out
Stationary	astay	amay
Movement	astyach	amach

Up and down		
	Above the speaker	Below the speaker
Stationary	hŵas	hŷas
Towards the speaker from	nŵas	nŷas
Away from the speaker to	sŵas	sŷas

A few other things

- VSO word order
- vocabulary is predominantly Goidelic origin
- loan-words come from Norse and English, with some Norman French
- Norse loan words:
  - garra ("garden") from *garðr* ("enclosure")
  - skêra ("sea rock") from *skjaer*
- Other borrowings:
  - mŵyntyar ("people") from Latin *monasterium*
  - aglys ("church) from Greek *ekklésia*
- the last two generations have seen a reaction against English loanwords, and technical vocabulary is now coined or calqued

Bârla (English)	Gîlg (Sudrish)	IPA
Good morning	Mudra may	/ˈmʊdɾə mai/
Good afternoon/evening	Fyascar may	/ˈfʲjaʂkʰər mai/
Good night	Oyche vay	/ˈɔiçə βai/
How are you? (informal/singular)	Cunas ta hŵ?	/kʰonəʂ tʰa huː/
How are you? (formal/plural)	Cunas ta sŷv?	/kʰonəʂ tʰa ʃiːv/
I'm very well.	Ta mê fŷr vay.	/tʰa mɛː fʲiːθ βai/
Thank-you. (informal/singular)	Gura may aghat.	/goɾə mai aɣəhtʰ/
Thank-you. (formal/plural)	Gura may aghŵ.	/goɾə mai aɣuː/
And yourself? (informal/singular)	As hŵ hên?	/əs huː hɛːnʲ/
And yourself? (formal/plural)	As sŷv hên?	/əs ʃiːv hɛːnʲ/
Good-bye. (informal/singular)	Slân lyat.	/slaːn lʲjahtʰ/
Good-bye. (formal/plural)	Slân lyv.	/slaːn lʲiv/

Tang ar êstyagh!

An wil cêyst aghat?