

Welsh Language

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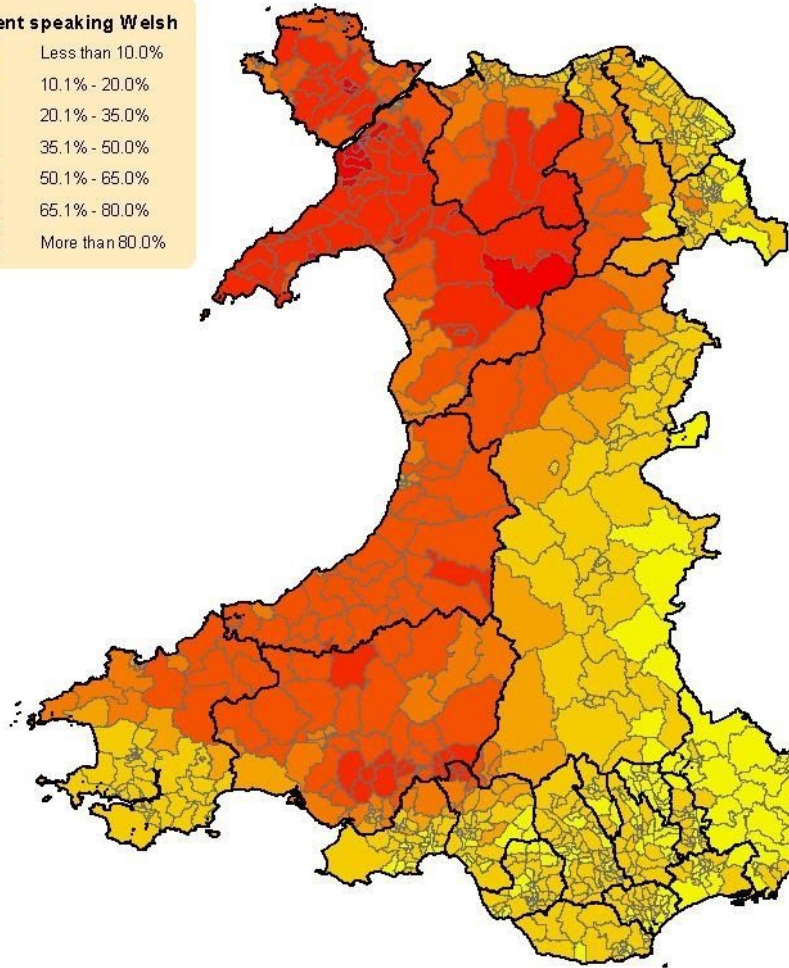


W. N.

- Potentially up to 4,000 years old, **Welsh** is one of the oldest living languages in Europe. **Welsh** originates from the Celtic **language** spoken by the ancient Britons. ... Celtic **language** came to Britain around 600BC, with one version evolving into Brythonic which formed the basis of **Welsh**, Cornish and Breton.

Estimated percentage of people aged 3 and over
who said they could speak Welsh 2001
Electoral Divisions (2003) - Wales

Percent speaking Welsh



Percentage for Wales as a whole = 21%

Source: 2001 Census of Population
Office for National Statistics - Crown Copyright

Members' Research Service
National Assembly for Wales





The Welsh Not

The "Welsh not" was represented as a piece of wood or plaque with the letters 'WN' hung around a child's neck who spoke Welsh during the 'school day'.

The 'Welsh not' was used as a ritual humiliation system or a 'Punishment system' to 'dissuade' Welsh children from speaking their aboriginal language.

At the end of a 'school day' the child wearing the Welsh not would be ritually caned for speaking their own language.

The practice was not ended until the 1940's.