

Archibald Ahearn

Archibald Ahearn is the **8th Earl of Suddal** and the current head of the **Horse Lords**. Born in 738, he is recognised as the strongest supporter of **King Alasdair V** outside of the royal family. He is a seasoned political actor who served as a senior member of the nobility during the King's minority and played a role in the selection of the final regent.

Gender ¹⁾	Hero	Allegiance	Role	Age ²⁾
Male	Yes	Dael/Ranald	Supporting	36

Stories

They are in the story

- **Function:** He provides the Crown with a reliable power base in the south and serves as a vital counterweight to the more independent “Sea Kings” of the islands.

Description

Archibald is a strategic leader whose house derives its power from the fertile farmlands of **Suddal**. His name translates in Daelian tradition to “**Master of Boldness**”. He is a veteran of the **Queen's War** (754), where he remained loyal to **Queen Caoimhe** even in adversity [1, 6]. While he initially believed he could manipulate the regent **Bhaltair Gilranald**, he successfully navigated the regency period to ensure House Ahearn “came out of the arrangement ahead”.

Marriage and Scandal

Archibald's marriage to **Lady Eorwen Giluilleam**—the sister of the current **Earl of Dalry**—is a point of significant court gossip and political tension due to its origins:

- **The Affair:** The marriage began as an **illicit affair** while Archibald was at court in **Dalreoch** as a member of the **Regency Council**.
- **Discovery:** The secret was only revealed to the previous Earl of Dalry when Eorwen **fell pregnant**.
- **Spite and Feuds:** Despite the long-standing **Giluilleam-Ahearn feud**, Archibald chose to formalise the union in 760. It is widely reputed that he saw the marriage not just as a romantic pursuit, but as a way of “**getting one over**” on his political rivals.

Relationships

People

Notable people

- **King Alasdair V:** His sovereign and close ally.

- **Lady Eorwen Giluilleam:** His wife.
- **Bhaltair Gilranald:** His son's future father-in-law and the former regent.
- **Iain Fergus Ahearn:** His eldest son and heir (born 763), currently **betrothed to Ealasaid Gilranald.**
- **Sean Alpin:** The Earl of Ardmor, against whom Archibald holds a **one-way grievance** following an unpopular regency decision.

Places

- **castle_ahearn:** His birthplace and ancestral seat in Suddal.
- **Dalreoch:** Where he served on the Regency Council and met his future wife.
- **suddal:** The fertile heartland of the "Horse Lords".

Skyss - Story Background	Characters	Skyss - Places	Pantheon of Skyss	Other Background
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fantasy, world-building, Skyss, Archibald, Ahearn, Earl, Suddal, 2026, Player: James

1)

how they present most of the time

2)

apparent, not actual

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