The Northwest Highlands

Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)

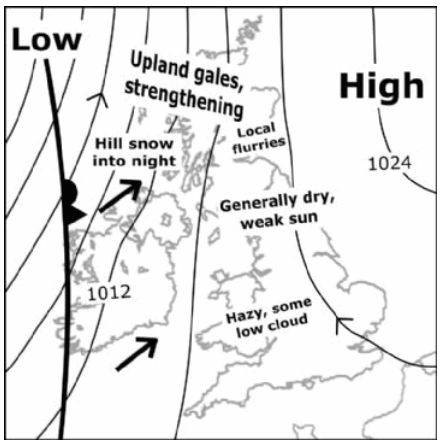
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General Summary for Thursday, 26 November, 2026



British Mountain Summary:
Based on forecast chart for noon 26 November, 2026

Much mountain terrain frozen, snow cover most substantial southern Highlands, but beware icy surfaces widely on hills. Staying sub-zero on tops all day, significant wind chill in strong to increasingly gale-force southerly winds. Largely dry daytime, then snow moves onto western hills into the night.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales, becoming severe on tops; dry day, most hills clear.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 26 November, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	South-southeasterly 35 to 50mph, strengthening during day, gusts 60mph into middle of day high tops, soonest Skye, widely more sustained during afternoon; 70-80mph toward or soon after dark.
Effect of wind on you?	**Challenging walking conditions, becoming difficult on high terrain, increasingly severe; powerful downslope gusts. Significant becoming severe wind chill.**
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	**Dry until evening; snow/rain into night** Toward or beyond dusk, patchy rain and upland snow flurries moving onto Skye and west coast. Precipitation setting in onward into evening, hill snow fairly widely into night, turning to rain lower areas, or higher up Skye and coast.
Cloud on the hills?	**Mostly little** Patchy cloud banks drifting over some high summits, but many west coastal mountains from Torridon northwards often clearing. Banks most frequent over south Cuillin.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	**70%**
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Weak sun at best through a thickening veil of high cloud from the west. Visibility very good, though some haze develops in west.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C, slightly higher Skye and nearby coast. Feeling like -15C to later nearer -20C directly in the wind on high tops.
Freezing Level	Much terrain frozen, thawing on sunlit slopes up to 600m, or slightly higher near west coast.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 27 November	Saturday 28 November
How windy? (On the Munros) **Effect of wind on you?**	Southerly 25 to 35mph, perhaps lower speed for part of the day; much stronger speeds overnight easing up to dawn. **Some blustery areas more likely coastal mountains in west, often fairly small inland; prepare for marked chill.**	Southerly, speeds varying, 30 to 45mph, likely strongest Skye and near west coast, very gusty in places not just on tops. **Expect significant wind chill, in places challenging walking conditions on exposed terrain; buffeting gusts even lower down.**
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	**Early snow and rain, then showers west** A period of snow across the hills from overnight into morning, turning more rain higher up near west coast, breaking up into rain showers mostly affecting Skye.	**Little if any precipitation** Possible brief snow flurries, or light rain occasionally around Skye - risk rain becoming more persistent later in west.
Cloud on the hills? **Chance of cloud free Munros?**	**Fairly extensive, lifting with breaks** Shrouding hills widely early in the day, the cloud base rising with some breaks forming for inland and northern areas, but often covering higher slopes near Skye. **30%**	**Covering some slopes, mostly Skye** Varying banks of cloud mostly on south-facing slopes, may often cloak the southern Cuillin. Northern mainland tops more often seeing breaks. **60%**
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Some glimpses of sun breaking through with time. Visibility very poor, risk appalling in early snow, then improving to very good.	A little weak sun mostly northern areas; a veil of high cloud likely. Visibility very good.
How Cold? (at 900m) **Freezing Level**	-2C inland, to just above 0C coastal tops; gradually rising. Feeling near -10C if directly in wind. Inland near Great Glen 600m or partly frozen lower down, but near coasts 800-1000m. May tend to rise further	0 or 1C inland and small variation with height above around 800m; 3C Skye. Feeling like -10 to -15C in the wind. West coastal areas likely above freezing to higher slopes. Inland varied and poorly defined, but most high terrain frozen.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 27 November, 2026

Snowfall most substantial over southern mountains in the Highlands during the days ahead. Then by Saturday, a risk of heavy rain for England & Wales as temperatures rise here, and even in Scotland a rise of the freezing level, though likely lowering slightly again by Sunday. Gale-force southerly winds will be common over many mountains through the weekend and into early next week, but intermittent lulls will occur. By Monday to Wednesday, potentially milder air and risk of a period of sustained heavy rain, but some uncertainty about local details - early December may then vary markedly, signs of a drier window for a time, whilst colder conditions could also soon return.

Forecast issued at 16:10 on Wednesday, 25 November, 2026

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