

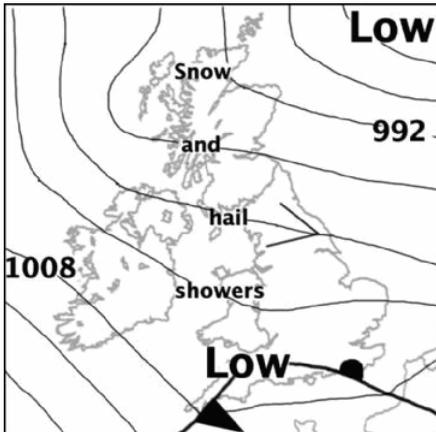
The Northwest Highlands

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, 12 January, 2017



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 12 January, 2017

Upland gales ease temporarily, although in Wales a marked lull before winds abruptly strengthen in afternoon. Widespread snow and hail showers will penetrate to valleys, although across Wales, an area of rain affecting mainly the south will turn to snow before easing.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Risk upland gales; frequent snow and hail.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 12 January, 2017

How windy? (On the Munros)	West veering northwesterly. Wind speeds will vary; perhaps temporarily middle of day or afternoon no more than 25mph. But after dawn 30 to 45mph, and after dark 60 to 90mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Anticipate very difficult conditions and severe wind chill on higher areas, most widely post dawn and particularly from north toward or after dark.
How wet?	Snow; sometimes frequent. Whiteout; risk lightning. Snow and hail showers, sometimes frequent; occurring in clusters, giving precipitation and whiteout almost constantly over a couple of hours. Snow will penetrate into the glens except some coastal areas. Risk thunder. However, there may be 2 to 4 hours when relatively few showers.
Cloud on the hills?	Overall fairly extensive Cloud base quickly changing: Fragments of cloud at around 500m near precipitation, but most often the base between 800 and 1050m. Breaks to higher tops, most widely near Great Glen.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Bursts of sunshine. Varied visibility: slight haze at best to appalling visibility where in snow and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4C
Freezing Level	300m although up to 500m coastal slopes.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 13 January	Saturday 14 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	North or northwesterly 35-50mph, strongest Ben Wyvis and Sutherland. A brief lull middle of day toward 25mph. Considerable buffeting and wind chill on higher areas. A temporary easing in the conditions may occur afternoon.	Northwest backing toward westerly tending to drop from west from 35mph to 25mph, perhaps 20mph. Walking arduous on higher areas, although conditions will improve.
How wet?	Snow and hail showers Expect hail and snow frequently all day as showers come through in clusters. Periods of whiteout in snow and blowing of previous snow. However, a break to few showers could occur temporarily middle of day or into the afternoon.	Occasional snow Snow showers morning. These will tend to turn to rain up to 600 to 800m, highest coastal hills, and the precipitation may become constant for an hour or two in afternoon.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Intermittently covering higher tops Expect cloud base to change quickly, bringing cloud below 500m near showers. Nevertheless, periods when little cloud below 1000m and higher summits intermittently clearing. 50%	Tending to become extensive from W Cloud base will vary in morning, often coming in below 800m, and occasionally 500m morning. However, on easternmost summits, most cloud above 1000m. In afternoon, particularly coastal hills, cloud may well fill in across the hills down to 500-700m. 50%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Sunshine, perhaps extensively for a couple of hours. The air very clear indeed, but anticipate appalling visibility in snow and cloud.	Occasional sunshine, mainly morning. Frequently excellent visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-6C; a little less cold coastal slopes. 350m coastal slopes. Inland close to freezing point glens up: nearly all terrain frozen.	-3C; rising to -1 or -2C, warmest coastal hills. On coastal slopes rising from 500 to 800m during daylight. Otherwise, near freezing point with terrain frozen from glens up.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 13 January, 2017**

Widespread snow across the mountains through to the weekend and most terrain will be frozen, except for lower slopes in Wales.

Temperatures will tend to rise from the west over the weekend.

Substantially dry next week; summits may for periods be above freezing point, but latest evidence suggests under high pressure thaw will be slow. Highest risk of rain will be on the NW Highlands.

Forecast issued at 12:40 on Wednesday, 11 January, 2017

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through the Mountaineering Council of Scotland with the support of sportscotland. Forecasts are issued daily by 16:30 and are kept under review and amended as necessary. However, expected conditions can still change after issue. © Copyright Geoff Monk & Associates, 2017.