

The Northwest Highlands

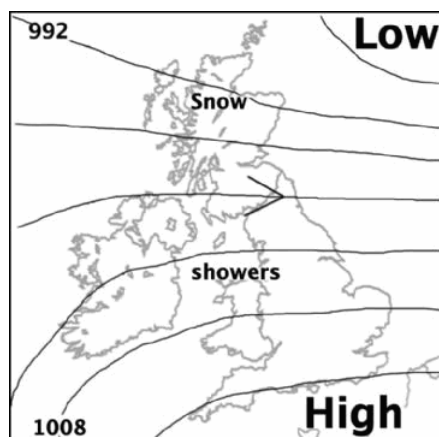
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Tuesday, 21 March, 2017



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 March, 2017

Very cold showery westerly winds will by dawn have brought fresh snow to lower slopes or valleys, the precipitation heaviest western mountains. Widespread upland gales although through the day will ease. In Wales, winds less strong, but threat gales and snow by dusk.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Snow intermittently. Upland winds often gale or near gale.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 21 March, 2017

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly, likely to vary through day. For a few hours up to 45mph, although in afternoon mostly below 40mph, perhaps 30mph by dusk south of Torridon.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking often difficult on higher areas. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Frequent snow and hail. Hail and snow showers, sometimes heavy and temporarily almost constant precipitation for a couple of hours. Snow will lie from glens or lower slopes up.
Cloud on the hills?	Often covering higher areas; although base will vary quickly Cloud base changing quickly: Patches below 500m near showers, and often shrouding hills above 700-900m. Nevertheless, particularly afternoon well inland, breaks to some tops, perhaps extensively Sutherland.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Brief bursts of sun. Visibility very varied: the air very clear but suddenly appalling in cloud and snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1 to -3C, coldest south from Wester Ross. Will feel as cold as minus 17 Celsius directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	400 to 600m: will vary between showers. Generally highest Sutherland. Frost some glens post-dawn.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 22 March	Thursday 23 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Low confidence of detail: North or northeasterly, ranging between 25 and perhaps 35mph south from Kintail. Likely to impede ease of walking on higher areas.	Northeasterly; dropping from 30-40mph after dawn to 15-30mph by sunset. Least wind Sutherland. Widespread buffeting on higher areas in morning, but from north conditions will improve.
How wet?	Showers; snow, hail & thunder Clusters of snow and hail showers, locally very frequent and heavy, particularly coastal hills and across Sutherland. Risk of thunder & lightning. Snow will lie from lower slopes up.	Little if any precipitation Risk of a few brief snow and hail showers or flurries or on lower slopes light rain or hail.
Cloud on the hills?	Occasional breaks inland Varied: often covering hills above 800-1000m, at times below 600m near showers, but some breaks to high tops, most likely inland toward Kintail.	Clearing many summits South of Torridon, by late morning only fragments of cloud on higher tops. Further north, cloud base will rise, but probably extensive above 750m morning and 900m afternoon.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%	60%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Patches of sunshine, most widely away from coastal hills. The air very clear away from showers, but visibility appalling in snow & cloud.	Patches of sun, most extensive south of Torridon. Excellent or superb visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-4C 500m; terrain widely frozen, although lower slopes thawing during day.	-4C morning; will rise slowly through day, particularly south of Torridon. 500m, rising to 700 to 900m, highest south of Torridon. Frost some valleys at dawn.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 22 March, 2017

Cold conditions with snow on many mountains mid-week. A major change to dry and by the weekend much warmer weather will occur as a large area of high pressure then builds across Scotlan. Temporarily around Friday there may be a little rain on the northern NW Highlands. Overall though, dry for several days on all mountain areas. Temperatures will become very warm for March, particularly across the Scottish Highlands, although with frequently cloudless skies, night frost will occur in valleys.

Forecast issued at 13:28 on Monday, 20 March, 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.