

The Northwest Highlands

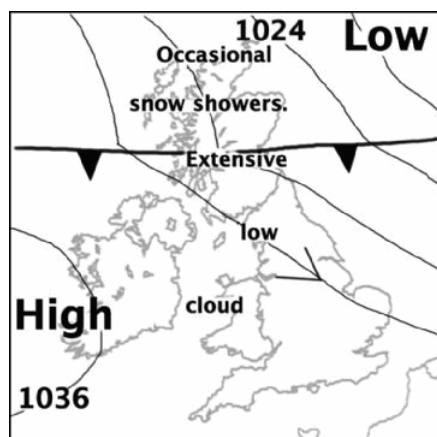
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Friday, 21 April, 2017



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 April, 2017

Upland gales or near gales as a southward moving front approaches. Fog extensive many western mountains, and some rain (snow higher tops), mainly near the front. Total rainfall small. South Wales dry with light wind. Turning cold Scottish Highlands with snow showers.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Upland winds near gale morning. Temperature dropping: snow showers.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 21 April, 2017

How windy? (On the Munros)	West to northwesterly 35 to 40mph (perhaps 45mph for a few hours after dawn). Will drop to mostly 30mph or on and near Skye 25mph in the afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Considerable buffeting and wind chill, particularly near showers.
How wet?	Snow showers. Rain on and off for a few hours: of snow on higher tops before finishing as snow above 700m. Will clear southwards mid to late morning. Then well scattered snow and hail showers.
Cloud on the hills?	Frequently clearing most summits Cloud base will vary. Extensive cloud across particularly coastal hills after dawn will break up from north during morning. Then shafts below 600m near showers, but frequently ranging from 900 to 1100m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	60% by late morning
Sunshine and air clarity?	Bright sun intermittently. Frequently excellent visibility, but temporarily very poor in cloud and precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 dropping to -1 or north from Torridon -2C
Freezing Level	950m, dropping to around 750m.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 22 April	Sunday 23 April
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northwest backing westerly between 10 and 20mph, least wind on and near Skye afternoon and evening. Small	Westerly in the range 40 to 55mph. Considerable buffeting and wind chill where exposed across the hills, and on higher areas general mobility may be difficult.
How wet?	Hail and snow showers Occasional snow and hail showers, mainly Sutherland and in afternoon away from coastal summits elsewhere. Mostly rain below 500m.	Rain, constant for much of day Rain, concentrated western mountains, will rarely cease for much of the day. Intermittently snow higher tops. May change to showers later afternoon or evening; snow then penetrating to 500m.
Cloud on the hills?	Often clearing the summits Cloud will lower to about 600m briefly near showers, but otherwise, cloud base 900 to 1100m. Most or all summits will clear intermittently. In the evening risk cloud lowering onto coastal summits.	Rarely if ever clearing higher areas Cloud will shroud the mountains all or nearly all day, from lower slopes up coastal areas, but mostly above 500 or 600m well inland. There may be intermittently improvements, with cloud breaking to higher slopes later in day, as it turns showery.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70%	10%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Bursts of bright sunshine. Superb visibility.	Sunshine rare (if any). Fog across the mountains all or almost all day. Frequently hazy or misty below cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-1C 800m. Frost some valleys at dawn.	-1 to 2C, generally warmest middle of day and into afternoon ahead of a sudden drop. 800m to 1200m, lowest post dawn and again dropping abruptly later in day.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 22 April, 2017**

Over the weekend, a few snow and hail showers on Saturday before cloud shrouds western mountains on Sunday, when winds strengthen and rain (snow higher tops) spreads south across Scotland.

An abrupt change from Monday: Winds persistently northerly and intermittently near gale force will bring markedly low freezing levels. Snow and hail showers (sometimes very frequent or almost constant snow for a few hours particularly N Scotland) - even on some lower slopes as summit temperatures drop lower than at any time this winter.

Forecast issued at 7:19 on Friday, 21 April, 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.