

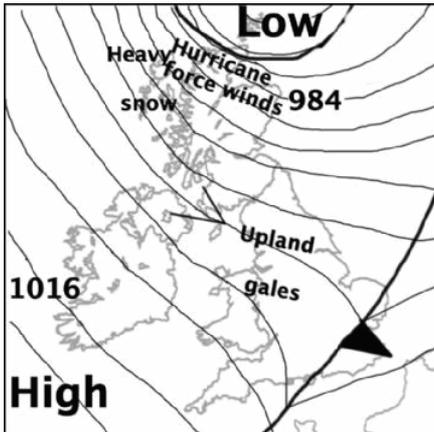
The Northwest Highlands

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, 7 December, 2017



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 7 December, 2017

Exceptionally severe Scottish Highlands: storm or hurricane force upland winds (strongest N/E), considerable snow (centred western hills) giving sustained whiteout. Upland gales elsewhere and progressively dropping temperature will result in showers being increasingly of snow.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Very severe: Hurricane force winds; heavy snow; almost incessant whiteout.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 7 December, 2017

How windy? (On the Munros)	West, or soon after dawn northwesterly. Slight lull mainly Sutherland at dawn, but soon abruptly 70 to perhaps in gusts 110mph. Ferocious gusts to 85mph lower slopes near showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Soon difficult walking even on lower slopes. Any mobility tortuous on higher area. Sudden ferocious gusts even on lower slopes. Extreme wind chill.
How wet?	Frequent heavy snow. Extensive whiteout: almost zero visibility. Lightning. Very wet underfoot after overnight heavy rain, focussed south from Torridon. By dawn suddenly snow to a few hundred metres as heavy hail and snow showers come in one after another; sometimes the snow constant. Thunder in some areas. By afternoon snow lying lowest slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	Frequently covering higher areas, temporarily forming lower slopes. Rapid changes in cloud base in and out of showers. Dense fog suddenly from lower slopes up near and during precipitation, but (albeit briefly or fleetingly) will lift above summits between showers.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Only rare glimpses of sun between the snow showers. Visibility often appalling.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Dropping progressively through day; down to -5 or -6C by dusk. Will feel as cold as minus 26 Celsius directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Very wet mountain terrain increasingly freezing over as freezing level drops progressively toward 250m.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 8 December	Saturday 9 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 45 to 55mph, sudden gusts toward 70mph near precipitation.	Northwesterly 30 to 40mph, generally strongest Sutherland. Marginal decrease in speed during daylight.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking widely difficult or very difficult, especially during squally snow showers, with significant buffeting and extreme wind chill.	Considerable buffeting on higher areas, particularly near showers. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Considerable snowfall; risk lightning Very frequent, heavy and squally snow showers will merge to give near constant snow and whiteout with considerable amounts accumulating through the day from glens upward. Considerable risk of lightning.	Frequent snow showers Snow showers will continue throughout the day - resulting in periods of whiteout, most extensively coastal mountains.
Cloud on the hills?	Varying rapidly, to lower slopes in snow Rapid changes in cloud base; from fleeting glimpses toward higher tops between showers to frequently cloud to a few hundred metres in snow.	Intermittently shrouding higher areas Continually changing cloud base: near showers, shafts of cloud from a few hundred metres up, but between showers breaks to higher summits.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Glimpses of sun between the snow showers. Visibility often appalling due to snow and cloud.	Bursts of bright sunshine. The air very clear - but sudden appalling visibility in snow and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-7C	-6C
Freezing Level	Almost all terrain frozen from valleys or just above valleys up.	Almost all terrain frozen. Only slight thawing lowest sunlit slopes and northwest facing coastal slopes.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 8 December, 2017**

Cold throughout the next 10 days, although across mainly Wales, incursions of warmer air will bring freeze thaw cycles to higher areas. Elsewhere, upland areas substantially frozen. Centres of low pressure will track southeast across Britain bringing bouts of sustained snowfall (although not areas will get these). Between areas of fine clear air with light winds, but locally windy with clusters of snow showers near some coasts.

Forecast issued at 7:14 on Thursday, 7 December, 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.