

The Northwest Highlands

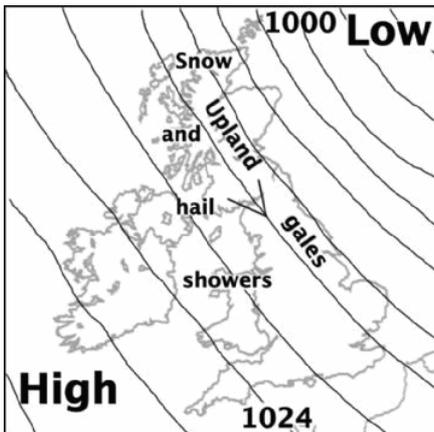
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Friday, 8 December, 2017



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 8 December, 2017

Widespread upland northwesterly gales will bring bitterly cold air to all mountain areas. Snow will be frequent many western mountains and in northern Scotland. Elsewhere, only a few flurries.

Nearly all terrain will be frozen, although not lower slopes in Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Upland severe gales. Frequent snow and hail. Terrain frozen.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 8 December, 2017

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 45 to 55mph, strongest near precipitation, when sudden gusts toward 65mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking widely difficult across the hills. Sudden gusts on lower slopes near precipitation. Severe wind chill.
How wet?	Intermittent snow; risk lightning Frequent or very frequent often heavy and squally snow and hail showers. Continual accumulation of snow (both by day and night), concentrated coastal mountains. Whiteout frequent. Thunder in places.
Cloud on the hills?	Varying rapidly, to lower slopes in snow Rapid changes in cloud base; from glimpses to higher tops between showers to frequently cloud to a few hundred metres in snow.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Glimpses of sun between snow showers. Visibility often appalling due to snow and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-7C
Freezing Level	Almost all terrain frozen from valleys or just above valleys up.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 9 December	Sunday 10 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northwesterly 30-40mph, strongest Sutherland. Marginal decrease during day, perhaps 20mph by dusk on & near Skye. Considerable buffeting on higher areas, particularly near showers. Significant wind chill.	Northerly 15mph or less, possibly 20mph Sutherland. Small
How wet?	Frequent snow showers Snow showers will continue throughout the day - resulting in periods of whiteout, most extensively coastal mountains.	Snow showers Snow showers over the sea will drift onto coastal hills, mainly Sutherland, but possible along west coast as far south as Skye. Otherwise, isolated if any flurries.
Cloud on the hills?	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.	Many summits free of cloud Patches, mainly coastal slopes near showers above 450m, but most cloud will be near the coast above 900 to 1100m. Well inland, apart from fragments persisting here and there, mainly corries, many summits will be free of cloud.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	60%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Bursts of bright sunshine. The air very clear - but sudden appalling visibility in snow and cloud.	Areas of bright sunshine, although some coastal areas often cloudy. Excellent or superb visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-6C Almost all terrain frozen. Only slight thawing lowest sunlit slopes and northwest facing coastal slopes.	-6C Terrain almost all frozen from valleys up. Slight thawing lower coastal slopes, mainly N Sutherland.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 9 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 across Britain bringing bouts of sustained upland snowfall (although not all areas will get these). Between, often fine with clear air and light winds.

Forecast issued at 12:14 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.