

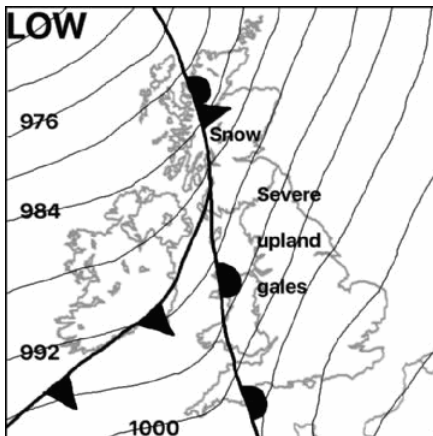
The Northwest Highlands

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 Wednesday, 14 February, 2018



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 14 February, 2018

A very windy day across all mountains with severe upland southerly gales, storm force over the Munros, giving severe wind chill. A frontal system will spread east across the country bringing snow to all areas; although will turn to rain at all levels in England and Wales. Sustained whiteout likely across the southern and western Highlands.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Storm force winds/severe wind chill. Snow setting in, heaviest in west.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 14 February, 2018

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly 55 to 80mph. During the afternoon, winds will veer southwesterly and become 35 to 50mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Very difficult walking conditions across the hills, in some areas any mobility difficult. Some sudden ferocious gusts will reach lower slopes. Severe wind chill.
How wet?	Snow; turning to rain lower slopes. After a dry start, snow will spread northeast. Becoming widespread across western hills, particularly on and near Skye. Whiteout likely, particularly hills south from Wester Ross. Rain initially confined below 400m, but temporarily up to 800m middle of day.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive in west; more broken further east Soon extensive in the west with bases 500-800m, highest north of Ullapool, and patches dropping to 250m for periods near western coastline, particularly south from Wester Ross. Further east; cloud more broken and generally confined above 900m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10% in west, 60% in east.
Sunshine and air clarity?	Rare if any glimpses of sunshine. Hazy at best, and widely appalling visibility higher slopes.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C, but temporarily 0C for a few hours middle of day and into the afternoon (colder again overnight). Wind chill making it feel like -20C.
Freezing Level	300m rising temporarily toward 900m from west. 700m by dusk. Much terrain remaining frozen and icy.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 15 February	Friday 16 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 30-40mph, perhaps 50mph at times across higher tops. Sudden squalls/strong gusts; at times into glens Walking arduous or at times difficult across higher areas with severe wind chill.	Low confidence: Southwesterly in the range 25-35mph; strongest through the morning. May ease markedly towards dusk. Will likely impede walking at times across higher areas with significant wind chill.
How wet?	Frequent snow and hail. Squally snow and hail showers; frequent western hills where snow may become constant a few hours. Near constant whiteout due to falling and blowing snow. Snow penetrating into the glens; away from west coast. Risk thunder.	Snow showers, most frequent in west A scattering of snow showers through the day; these most frequent across western hills where they may merge to give constant snow over an hour or two in the morning.
Cloud on the hills?	Often shrouding higher western areas Rapid fluctuations in cloud bases through the day. Shafts of cloud suddenly from lower slopes up in snow, but often cloud above 700 to 1000m, highest bases inland. Nevertheless, there will be some fleeting clearances now and again to highest tops.	Extensive in west Fairly extensive western hills from Torridon southwards with bases generally around 600-800m, lowest Skye, with transient shafts of cloud down to lower slopes in snow. Further east, cloud more broken and confined above 900-1000m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	30% west, 60% east.
Sunshine and air clarity?	Bursts of sun between the showers. Despite the air being very clear; visibility on the hills will often be very poor due to falling and blowing snow.	Occasional sunshine; most widely across eastern hills. Visibility generally very good; but falling very poor in snow and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-4C 300-400m. Much terrain remaining frozen and icy.	Around -3C Around 500-600m

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 15 February, 2018**

Cold westerly winds will bring further snow showers to the mountains on Thursday; these heaviest and most frequent across western Scotland. Remaining cold into Friday with further snow showers in the northwest, but drier across England and Wales. Into the weekend; becoming substantially dry as high pressure builds over, or near by, the British Isles. However, weak fronts may bring a little rain across the west and northwest Highlands.

Forecast issued at 15:29 on Tuesday, 13 February, 2018

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, 2018.