

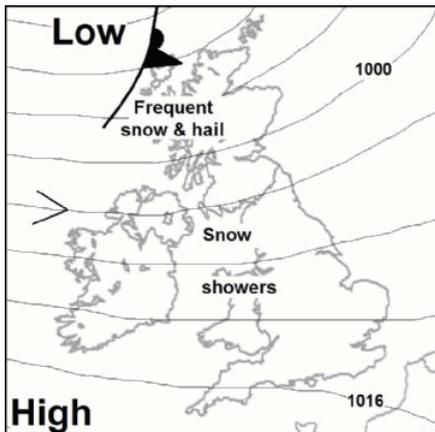
The Northwest Highlands

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, 15 February, 2018



British Mountain Summary:
Based on forecast chart for noon 15 February, 2018

A cold westerly pattern returns, with snow and hail showers, most frequent across western Scotland, where precipitation at times constant. Windy for all; gale or near-gale force on higher areas throughout the day. Icy underfoot in some areas where Wednesday's snowmelt has refrozen.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Snow and hail, almost constant west. Squally winds, upland gales.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 15 February, 2018

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 35 to 50mph, likely strongest morning, risk over 60mph post-dawn. Sudden squalls/strong gusts throughout the day, at times into glens during showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking arduous or at times difficult across higher areas with severe wind chill.
How wet?	Frequent snow and hail; isolated lightning Squally snow and hail showers; frequent western hills where becoming increasingly persistent, likely merging into constant snow for several hours. Near constant whiteout due to falling and blowing snow. Snow penetrating into the glens away from west coast. Risk isolated thunder.
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.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Brief bursts of sun away from showers. Despite the air being very clear, visibility on the hills will often be very poor due to falling and blowing snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4C, perhaps a degree or so higher coastal areas in west. Where exposed to wind, feeling close to -20C.
Freezing Level	300 to 400m, may lift to 600m coastal hills. Much terrain remaining frozen and icy.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 16 February	Saturday 17 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly, 20 to 30mph, but risk up to 40mph for a few hours. May tend to ease through afternoon. Will likely impede walking at times across higher areas with significant wind chill.	Southwesterly, risk 35-40mph for a few hours, and may well strengthen from west later. But a possible lull to 20mph. Timing uncertain: expect periods of buffeting on the hills, but conditions may ease for a few hours.
How wet?	Snow showers, most frequent in west Detail uncertain: Snow showers through the day; these most frequent across western hills where they may merge to give constant snow over an hour or two. Rain lowest slopes.	Occasional snow Snow mostly light and often confined to western hills, but here may be frequent for a few hours. Rain lower slopes, later up to 500-600m near coast.
Cloud on the hills?	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.	Extensive higher western areas Shrouding hills on Skye and in Wester Ross much of the day above 600 to 800m, lowest bases near coast, may lower later. Breaks to higher tops toward the Moray Firth and far north.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% west, 60% east.	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Occasional sun, mostly across eastern hills. Visibility generally very good; but falling very poor in snow and cloud.	Sunshine weak at best due to extensive high cloud; breaking through mainly in Sutherland. Visibility good, but general slight haze; reduced in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-3C, may lift a degree or so on coastal hills. 500 to 600m; rising a little through the day.	-2C 500 to 800m, tending to rise; highest on western hills later. Terrain frozen; partial thawing lower slopes.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 16 February, 2018**

A southwesterly pattern will continue through to the weekend. Precipitation frequent on western mountains, particularly in Scotland. Generally cold, with further accumulations of snow. Rain on lower slopes, and by Sunday, rain may fall to higher levels as temperatures lift from the west. Then into next week, a change as high pressure builds across the country. Becoming substantially dry with light winds for several days. The air temperature lifting above freezing, and an inversion may form on the mountains. However, there will be little snow loss on higher areas, with slight thawing by day and refreezing overnight helping to consolidate the snow-pack. Most lower slopes will thaw, but overnight frost will occur in many valleys.

Forecast issued at 14:54 on Wednesday, 14 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.