

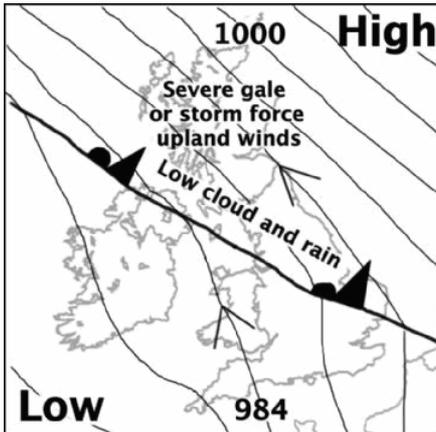
The Northwest Highlands

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 March, 2018



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 15 March, 2018

Scottish Highlands: storm force winds, in places briefly reaching lower slopes; persistent low cloud and snow increasingly eastern mountains. Elsewhere: a band of rain (now higher areas) will edge north across N England/S Scotland, whilst showers and a temporary drop in wind follow.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Storm force upland winds. Light snow eastern areas.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 15 March, 2018

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 50 to 75mph. Local sudden sometimes ferocious gusts reaching lower slopes through cols and NW of major ridges and summits.
Effect of wind on you?	Widely very difficult walking and severe wind chill on higher areas. In places, including some lower slopes northwest of major ridges and summits, any mobility at least temporarily difficult.
How wet?	Little or no precipitation Isolated light rain, or on higher tops snow flurries above 800m. Precipitation very unlikely near the coast.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive east; breaking up toward coast - very little reaching western summits Blanket of fog over North Sea will envelop eastern areas north from about Ben Wyvis; the cloud more or less constantly from lower slopes up. Progressively westwards, the cloud base will lift; toward the coast, higher summits may only occasionally be capped in cloud.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70% near west coast to almost nil eastern summits Ben Wyvis northwards
Sunshine and air clarity?	Patches of sun, mainly close to west coast. Hazy at best.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Ranging from 3C some summits near west coast south from Wester Ross to -1C eastern summits. Will feel as cold as minus 18 Celsius directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Above the summits near the coast south from Wester Ross to in afternoon 700-850m easternmost summits (coldest far north).

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 16 March	Saturday 17 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Easterly in the range 45 to 70mph. Sudden ferocious gusts reaching some lower slopes west of major ridges. Very difficult walking and severe wind chill where exposed on the hills. Sudden buffeting even on some lower slopes.	Southeasterly 30 to 40mph after dawn; will ease slowly through daylight. Sudden gusts some lower slopes. Walking arduous where exposed on higher areas. Sudden considerable buffeting lower slopes NW of major summits & ridges. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Precipitation rare if any. Isolated snow flurries on easternmost hills north from Ben Wyvis.	Precipitation very unlikely Isolated snow or hail flurries more eastern mountains afternoon.
Cloud on the hills?	Very little, particularly near coast Banks of fog may shroud higher tops easternmost slopes above about 700m. Progressively west toward the coast, fog less likely to cap even highest summits.	Little if any
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	80%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Sunshine intermittently toward coast; little sun eastern mountains. Hazy - least haze near the coast.	Intermittent bright sunshine. Visibility becoming excellent.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0 to 2C westernmost areas; otherwise -2 or -3C. Up to highest summits near west coast. Otherwise 600 or 700m.	2C toward coast for perhaps a few hours after dawn; otherwise -4C. Initially above summits toward coast; but sudden transition to 400m. Elsewhere 300 or 400m.

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

Turning progressively colder toward and through the weekend. Snow, often fairly light (though combined with previous snow will blow extensively E Scotland, giving appalling visibility) eastern mountains.

Widespread upland gales will ease, initially over the Scottish Highlands, to give a period of cold dry weather early next week. Turning warmer mid-week, initially across Scotland where rain will begin to come in from the west.

Forecast issued at 13:07 on Wednesday, 14 March, 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.