

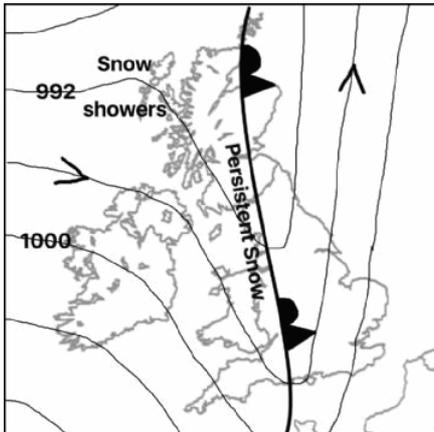
West Highlands

Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area include Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, includes Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Includes Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Tuesday, 13 February, 2018



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 13 February, 2018

An active slow-moving occlusion will edge east and bring persistent snow to all areas. Upland gales ahead of, and directly behind, the front with severe wind chill; but easing later from west. The snow will tend to clear eastern mountains during the afternoon. Clearer conditions will follow from the west; but with a few snow showers in the northwest.

Headline for West Highlands

Persistent snow clearing by afternoon. Then a few snow showers in west.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 13 February, 2018

How windy? (On the Munros)	Generally westerly 25 to 30mph, but across Loch Lomond NP and into Arran risk of 40-45mph over a few hours in morning.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking will be arduous, or across Arran/Loch Lomond difficult, across higher areas in the morning. Whilst conditions will ease by afternoon the wind chill will remain significant.
How wet?	Heavy snow clearing east by midday. Persistent, often heavy, snow at dawn will gradually edge east to clear all areas by midday. Snow will lie into the glens (except possibly on coast). Brighter conditions will follow, but with scattered snow/hail showers moving in across western hills.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive in morning; improving from west. Cloud extensive to lower slopes in morning snow, but will improve from west. By afternoon, cloud base varying. Near snow showers, shafts of cloud below 550m, but cloud mostly confined above 800 to 1000m. At times, clearing higher tops; most widely eastern hills.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	<10% morning, lifting to 40% in afternoon.
Sunshine and air clarity?	Bursts of sunshine breaking through into the afternoon. Visibility appalling in morning with constant whiteout; becoming very good as snow clears to east.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-6C, but feeling closer to -18C in direct exposure to the wind.
Freezing Level	Most terrain frozen or at least partially frozen from lower slopes up. Some thawing lower sunlit slopes in afternoon.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 14 February	Thursday 15 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southerly 50 to 70mph. In afternoon, veering southwesterly and easing 35 to 45mph. Very difficult walking conditions across the hills, in some areas any mobility difficult. Severe wind chill.	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.
How wet?	Heavy snow; then rain lower slopes. Snow will fall most of daylight, often heavy except toward and north of Glen Spean. Extensive whiteout. Rain below 250 to for a while 750 and later 500m.	Frequent snow and hail. Squally snow and hail showers; most frequent western hills where snow and be constant for an hour or two. Near constant whiteout due to falling and blowing snow. Snow penetrating into the glens; away from west coast. Risk isolated lightning.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, widely very low base Extensive above about 600m - highest near and north of Glen Spean. Base will soon drop to 250m near western coastline and much of Loch Lomond NP. Bases rising again a little in afternoon.	Often shrouding higher 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?	Less than 10%	30%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Rare if any glimpses of sunshine. near and east of Glen Spean. Extensively misty at best; widely appalling visibility higher slopes.	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.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2C, but temporarily 0C for a few hours middle of day and into the afternoon. 300m rising temporarily toward 900m from west. 700m by dusk. Much terrain remaining frozen and icy.	-4C 300-400m. Much terrain remaining frozen and icy.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 14 February, 2018**

Low freezing level and mainly on western mountains, further snowfall throughout this week. However, one or two pulses of warmer air will bring brief periods of thaw to higher areas of England and particularly Wales. Into the weekend and beyond; becoming substantially dry as high pressure builds over, or near by, the British Isles.

Forecast issued at 22:14 on Monday, 12 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.