

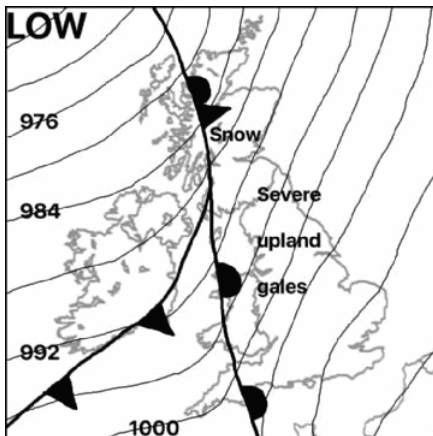
West Highlands

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 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 West Highlands

Storm force winds/severe wind chill. Persistent snow and whiteout.

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 45mph.
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?	Heavy snow; turning to rain lower slopes. Snow will soon spread to all areas after dawn, and will then fall most of daylight, often heavy except toward and north of Glen Spean. Extensive whiteout. Rain initially confined below 250m, but temporarily up to 750m, before falling again later to 500m.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, widely very low base Cloud becoming extensive as snow arrives, above about 500-800m - highest bases will be found near and north of Glen Spean. Banks of cloud down to 250-400m near western coastline and much of Loch Lomond NP.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Less than 10%
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.
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.

West 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 when perhaps 40mph for a few hours. Will likely impede walking at times across higher areas, perhaps locally arduous in morning, with significant wind chill.
How wet?	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 thunder.	Frequent snow showers Snow showers will come in one after another; especially morning when precipitation may hardly cease across western hills with near constant whiteout. Across Loch Lomond and Arran; persistent snow may set in for several hours.
Cloud on the hills?	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.	Extensive Extensive across the hills through the day with bases generally around 600-800m, lowest in the west, with transient shafts of cloud down to lower slopes in snow. However, near and north of Glen Spean, cloud rarely below 900m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	20%
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.	Glimpses of sunshine; most likely across central highlands. Visibility very good outside of precipitation; but often very poor or appalling due to
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, fronts are likely to bring some rain, initially snow higher areas, across the west and northwest Highlands during the weekend.

Forecast issued at 18:37 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.