

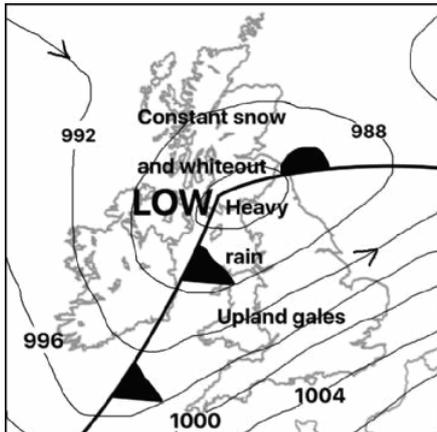
West Highlands

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.



The mountains are calling - Braemar Mountain Festival, 28th February to 3rd March 2019
www.braemarmountainfestival.com

General Summary for Saturday, 16 March, 2019



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 16 March, 2019

Scotland: Widespread snow spreading north with sustained whiteout developing and significant accumulations. Snow turning to rain to high tops in far south for a time.

England/Wales: Severe gales, heavy rain and low cloud. Snow for a time across N Pennines/Lakes at first and again by evening.

Headline for West Highlands

Widespread snow/hill fog setting in. Sustained periods of whiteout.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 16 March, 2019

How windy? (On the Munros)	Variable winds at first 10-15mph or less. Becoming easterly 15-30mph later in morning; strongest in south. Becoming northerly 20-30mph in the afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Will impede walking at times across higher areas with significant wind chill developing.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow soon setting in; sustained whiteout. Persistent and widespread snowfall will soon spread across all parts. Will then persist through much of the day with sustained periods of whiteout. Heaviest snowfall across Ben Alder, Rannoch Moor down to Loch Lomond NP and Arran. Snow will increasingly fall and lie into the glens.
Cloud on the hills?	Very extensive in snow May be very little at first in the north, bar patches over higher tops, but as snow sets in, cloud will quickly become very extensive on the hills and widely down to lowest slopes. Hills will then remain foggy throughout the day. Best of any temporary breaks will be on hills west of Loch Linnhe.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sun. Visibility good at first, but becoming widely appalling in snow with periods of sustained whiteout.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4C, but feeling closer to -17C in direct exposure to the strongest winds.
Freezing Level	200-400m.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 17 March	Monday 18 March
How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwest later northerly in the range 30-40mph.	Northwest backing westerly 15-25mph, but risk 30mph around dawn.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking arduous at times across higher areas with significant wind chill and buffeting.	May impede walking occasionally across higher areas with marked wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Clusters of snow showers Clusters of snow and hail showers through the day, perhaps merging at times to give more prolonged snow over an hour or so; most likely across western mountains.	Largely dry, risk of a little rain/snow later Dry for much of the day, or across eastern hills all of the day. However, increasing risk through the afternoon of patchy rain, and above 800-1000m snow, spreading in across western hills, mainly along and near the coast.
Cloud on the hills?	Breaks to tops, lowering in snow. Cloud bases varying through the day: shafts below 500-600m near precipitation, but generally scattered cloud with bases more typically around 800 to 1100m with occasional breaks to, or above, the tops.	Little at first, but lowering from west later. Other than a few patches coming and going across the tops, hills will be largely clear for many hours. However, increasing during the afternoon, cloud will lower onto the hills from the west and become extensive; to lower slopes near coast.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional bursts of bright sun between the showers. Visibility very good, but becoming very poor in snow showers with risk of temporary whiteout.	Patches of sunshine in the morning will give way to cloudy skies in the afternoon. Visibility very good, but lowering markedly in patchy rain/snow later.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2 to -4C, highest around middle of the day.	-3C lifting to 0C, perhaps 2C coastal areas by dusk.
Freezing Level	400-600m, highest around middle of the day.	500m lifting to 900m, but perhaps up to 1200m west coast by dusk.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 17 March, 2019**

On Sunday, north to northwesterly winds will bring hail and snow showers across many hills, increasingly rain to lower slopes through day, with risk of local thunder. Largely fine on Monday, but low cloud and patchy rain/summit snow will reach western Scotland late on. This will then herald a change to milder, cloudier and at times damp conditions across Scotland with a period of sustained thaw. Higher pressure across England and Wales into the middle of the week will result in largely dry conditions here with lighter winds, although low cloud will affect western hills at times.

Forecast issued at 16:37 on Friday, 15 March, 2019

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, 2019.