

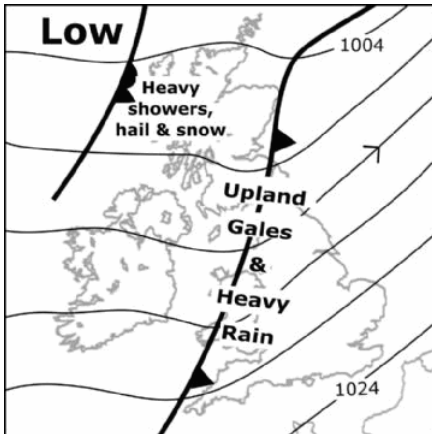
The Northwest Highlands

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.)



[Skye Basecamp - a brand new climber's hostel run by Skye Guides mountain guiding](#)
 Visit www.skyebasecamp.co.uk to book your stay

General Summary for Tuesday, 4 February, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 4 February, 2025

A cold front moving southeastwards brings heavy rain to southern Scotland, England & Wales, accompanied by severe gales on higher mountains. The wind moderates for periods across Scotland, but squally showers will develop increasingly, becoming heavier, with hail and snow to lowering elevations as the temperature falls.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Variable winds, clusters of showers, hail and increasingly snow.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 4 February, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 40 to 50mph, gusts over 60mph early morning toward north. Speed soon becomes variable 25-30mph or occasionally less near Kintail, but squally gusts in showers to 40-50mph, later turning westerly. More widely 40-50mph into the night.
Effect of wind on you?	Frequent buffeting from dawn, locally difficult on northwestern mountains. Becoming fairly small for periods, but suddenly arduous conditions returning around showers into afternoon. Deteriorating again into night.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Increasingly heavy showers, hail and snow; risk lightning later. Heavy overnight rain, then intermittent sleet then snow on the Munros by dawn. Precipitation most frequent Skye to Wester Ross all day. Showery bursts, setting in again for periods in western regions during afternoon, with hail, later snow falling toward 500m. Risk isolated lightning late in day.
Cloud on the hills?	Lifting to upper slopes, local breaks Extensive across the mountains in the morning, to lower elevations in western areas. Bases rising, but staying persistent across hills around Skye, varied in showers. Some breaks may form to 800m or higher inland.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun mainly Sutherland. Visibility at times very good where dry, but poor where precipitation persists, risk periods of whiteout developing later.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Soon lowering from +2C before dawn to 0 or -1C; by afternoon -2C. Wind chill varied, at times -10 to -15C in stronger speeds.
Freezing Level	Soon dropping to 800-900m, or by afternoon to 600-700m. Icy surfaces forming on tops.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 5 February	Thursday 6 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West to southwesterly 35 to 50mph; strongest northern areas, sudden gusts not just on highest terrain. Arduous walking across most hills, buffeting affecting balance on ridges and to east of summits. Significant wind chill.	Southerly 25-40mph, some powerful gusts downslope; strongest wind on mountains near west coast, risk gusty 50mph. Affecting comfortable walking and balance over exposed terrain, risk locally more difficult in west; considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow and hail mostly morning Showers of snow and hail frequent over western mountains in the morning; chance isolated lightning at first. Intensity of showers easing, but snow flurries may continue in west, turning drizzly with time. Often dry eastern hills.	Precipitation unlikely Chance of fine drizzle some coastal slopes near Skye if within local cloud banks.
Cloud on the hills?	Most frequent on western tops Varying cloud bases will come and go over higher slopes in the morning, most frequently capping west coastal hills above 800m. Breaks more frequent with time.	Mostly very little Some cloud banks may drift onto southern Cuillin and nearby coastal slopes on the mainland, but most mountains likely clear.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	80%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional sun. Slight haze, but visibility becoming increasingly good as showers fade.	Generally sunny, some thin high cloud. Visibility very good, but a haze some lower slopes, particularly toward west coast.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2C rising to 0C. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -15C. 600-700m, plus frost in some glens from dawn, rising slowly just above freezing point to 900m or locally higher.	1C, but some slopes rising near 5C, particularly areas toward north/east. Wind chill feeling like -7 to -10C. Partly frozen terrain, including frost sheltered glens early morning. Gradual thawing at most elevations in the sun.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 5 February, 2025**

High pressure builds from the south during Wednesday bringing often dry conditions in the extended outlook. On many higher areas, the terrain largely frozen, although air temperature on some upper slopes will rise above freezing at times, some thawing in sunlight then overnight refreezing likely. Frost common into the valleys. Gusty south to southeasterly winds toward west coast of Scotland late this week, periods of lighter winds elsewhere. Chilly east to southeasterlies prevail into mid-February, bringing some snow flurries at times to hills, mainly Pennines & Wales. West and especially northwest Scotland largely dry, often sunny.

Forecast issued at 15:40 on Monday, 3 February, 2025

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through Mountaineering 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 Mountain Weather Information Service, 2025.