

The Northwest Highlands

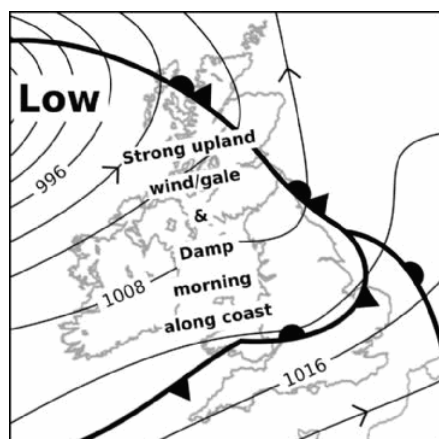
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Wednesday, 17 September, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 17 September, 2025

Strong upland wind, gale force at times. Persistently damp morning across all west-coastal regions, fading to various extents into the afternoon. Extensive cloud in most areas. Very wet underfoot in England and Wales with streams in spate after heavy overnight rain.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Upland gale developing; generally damp

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 17 September, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	South or southeasterly 25mph becoming southwesterly 30-45mph. Increasing further to 50mph or even 55mph by late afternoon or early evening.
Effect of wind on you?	Soon arduous, blustery conditions, affecting ease of walking and balance on ridges. Further deterioration into evening. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain on and off Light rain on and off throughout the day, potentially becoming more persistent, and perhaps heavier, for a few hours in places and in particular on Skye. Northernmost regions: largely dry until late morning and then patchy rain after.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive near west coast Cloud extensive on high ground, especially where rain is frequent. Struggling to lift above 600m on and near Skye. Northernmost regions may only have patchy cloud.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10% Skye to Ullapool; 50% far north
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun through high cloud. Visibility very good if dry, reduced to poor in and near showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	7C. Feeling sub-zero in the wind, -5C or below as speeds increase.
Freezing Level	Above the summits

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 18 September	Friday 19 September
How windy? (On the Munros)	Forecast details still uncertain. Southwesterly 45 to 55mph, risk sustained 65mph. Very gusty.	Forecast details uncertain. West to southwesterly 30-45mph. Chance of a lull to 20-25mph in afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult walking conditions will make progress challenging. Very powerful gusts may easily blow you over. Significant wind chill.	Feeling blustery with balance affected at times, especially morning. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Likely wet near west coast Heavy, on-and-off showers likely near the west coast. These may merge to feel become persistent rain. Chance of regions north of Ullapool reaming dry.	Showery Showers on and off through the day, particularly near the west coast. There is a chance these may fade in the afternoon. Only a few 'spots in the wind' reaching Ben Wyvis.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive where raining Extensive cloud down to lower west-coastal slopes where in rain. Regions that remain dry will have a much higher cloud base and north of Ullapool may have little or no cloud.	Widespread Cloud shrouding most higher ground, especially near the coast. Base will lower and cloud thicken during and after any showers. Highest cloud base will be near Ben Wyvis, but summits are unlikely to clear.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sun in many places, but patchy or widespread sunshine if out of rain. Poor visibility near the west coast.	Glimpses of weak sunshine at times. Poor or very poor visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	7C. Feeling around -5C in the wind.	6C. Feeling below -5C in the wind.
Freezing Level	Well above the summits.	Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 18 September, 2025

Extensive rain and gales into midweek, likely wettest on west-coastal regions. Areas of rain and showers frequently in the forecast later in the week. Temperatures near-average, but feeling cool when exposed to wind. A chillier northwesterly may emerge by next weekend, briefly dropping near freezing on the highest Scottish tops. Indications then favour higher pressure at least briefly expanding northwards early next week for some drier days, but unlikely to settle down for long.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Tuesday, 16 September, 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.