

The Northwest Highlands

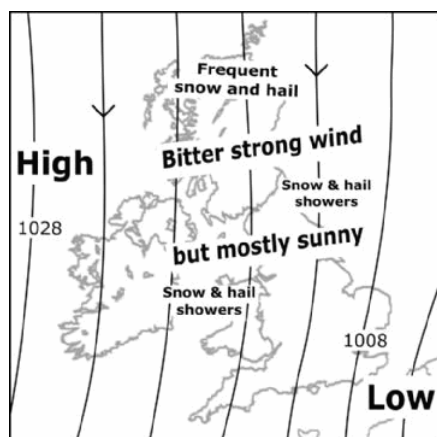
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Wednesday, 19 November, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 19 November, 2025

Strong to gale-force northerly winds; severe chill factor on the mountains. Terrain widely frozen with fresh snow cover. Snow and hail showers frequent in the northern Highlands. Showers also north/west Wales. From the central Highlands into northern England, generally dry with sunshine and very clear air.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Bitterly cold; gale-force wind, heavy snow, hail, risk lightning.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 19 November, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northerly 35 to 45mph, squally gusts in showers, over 50mph particularly more northern areas.
Effect of wind on you?	Challenging walking conditions on exposed terrain, widely difficult at times; severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent heavy snow, hail; isolated lightning Succession of heavy snow and hail showers coming in from north, giving near-constant snow northern mountains and frequent down west coast to Skye; risk isolated lightning. Drier near Great Glen. Snow lying to lower slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive higher areas Cloud base constantly changing, but often shrouding north-facing mountains above 600-800m, some lower shafts of cloud in showers. Brief breaks higher up mostly Kintail to Great Glen.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief bursts of sun, mostly inland. Visibility at times appalling when in cloud and snow, but intermittently very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4 or -5C (to -7C on higher summits). Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C.
Freezing Level	Most terrain frozen from glens upward, occasionally freezing level lifting up to 400m near coast and on islands.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 20 November	Friday 21 November
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northerly 25 to 35mph, squally gusts in showers, over 40mph at first; speeds tending to ease during afternoon. Comfortable walking and balance affected on higher exposed terrain, significant wind chill; improving a little during day.	West then southwesterly, strengthening possibly rapidly - some uncertainty of timing - to 40-50mph. Expect conditions to deteriorate perhaps quickly in the morning, to give difficult walking and significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Heavy snow, hail, easing with time Ongoing succession of heavy snow and hail showers coming in from north; chance isolated lightning. Intensity and frequency of showers tending to ease during day. Snow lying to many lower slopes.	Snow becoming rain from west Snow likely to push inland across western mountains, becoming persistent. Increasingly rain to higher elevations in west coastal areas, may set in heavy. Turning to rain higher up inland later.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, some breaks form Cloud base continues to vary, but often shrouding north-facing mountains above 600-800m, some lower shafts of cloud in showers. Cloud tending to become more broken. Staying clearest toward Kintail.	Patchy, then more extensive Prior to snow/rain, just patchy cloud on various slopes, some clearer areas. With time, cloud lowering and filling in across the hills, soonest toward Skye.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%, to 50% Kintail/Great Glen.	60% dropping to 20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief bursts of sun, mostly inland. Visibility at times appalling when in cloud and snow, but intermittently very good, more often excellent afternoon.	Any weak early sun soon obscured by thickening high cloud, becoming overcast. Visibility may start excellent, but reducing to poor in rain, very poor in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-4 or -5C. Wind chill feeling like -15C. Terrain frozen from glens upward, partial thawing only lowest sunlit slopes, up to 500m coastal slopes.	-2C, rising from west to +1C, or slightly higher near coast later. In stronger wind feeling like -15C. Terrain frozen inland to lower slopes, but a gradual rise of freezing level toward 800m, or higher later; most rapid west coast.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 20 November, 2025

Prepare for winter conditions - snow covering many mountains to lower slopes in Scotland, snow and ice cover varied for England & Wales, but much terrain frozen; hard frosts into inland valleys and glens the next couple of nights. Continuing strong northerlies into Thursday, showery snow and hail gradually fading from northwest Scotland. A front moving into Scotland from the west on Friday brings gales and snow, turning to rain lower down - in England & Wales more likely develops Friday evening-night. Less cold into the weekend, but higher mountains stay near or just below freezing, particularly Scotland; showers or locally more frequent upland snow over several days forward.

Forecast issued at 16:00 on Tuesday, 18 November, 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.