

The Northwest Highlands

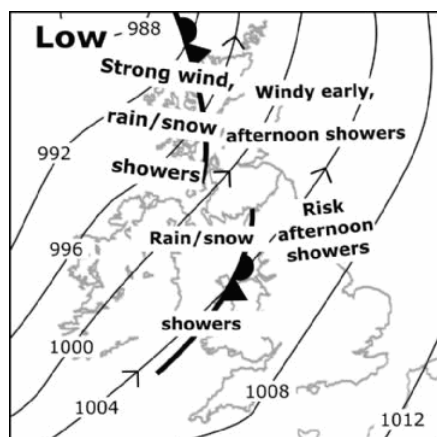
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Wednesday, 3 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 3 December, 2025

Widely breezy, strongest northern England and Scotland, early gales over high Munros; easing but staying blustery northwest Scotland. Showery rain onto west coast slopes down to Wales (snow on high terrain) most of the day, some reaching further east afternoon. Greatest chance of dry weather south Pennines.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Blustery; west coast gales and snow showers

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 3 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southerly 30-35mph inland, 40-50mph near the coast, strongest over Skye. Trending southwesterly and easing, largely 25-30mph inland, remaining up to 40mph over Skye and nearby high tops. Blustery in exposure; balance and stability affected all day along the west coast, particularly Skye where bracing may be required for stability. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	West coastal rain/snow showers, few inland Frequent showery rain most of the day onto Skye. Patches increasingly drift northward along the coast; snow above 800m, 700m inland. Some patches inland as well, mostly south, a few drift north.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Mostly shrouded south, then high terrain north Fairly extensive over high terrain of the Skye and inland southern areas with lower banks in rain, locally down to 600m or lower. Well-broken in the north at first though banks increasingly drifting above 1000m afternoon, most frequent near the west coast. 30%; 60% early in the north
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sunny bursts in the north and east in the morning, cloud gradually builds for only glimpses afternoon. Visibility excellent away from showers but very poor where in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	1C; locally nearer 0C inland south, 2C coastal northwest. Feeling like -13C in direct strongest wind. 900-1000m, slightly higher in the far north.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 4 December	Friday 5 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Detail uncertain: southeasterly 25-40mph; a risk of shifting southwesterly with stronger winds Skye later. Beware of quickly changing conditions - winds often uncomfortable in exposure, though may become arduous.	Southeasterly 25-35mph, strongest Skye. Rising to 40mph afternoon, and further into night towards 50mph+. Comfortable walking affected from dawn, deteriorating to difficult conditions into and overnight. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy rain/snow south, sometimes north Patchy rain on southern slopes most of the day, falling as snow above 800m. Some odd patches push further north at times, though many inland northern areas often dry.	Early patchy snow, late rain; most south Patchy morning sleet/snow on Skye and nearby, some patches drifting north but trending dry for several hours. Rain (snow on high terrain) then arrives from the south late afternoon with patches more widely overnight.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Variable, mostly high terrain; breaks north High tops south of Ullapool often in cloud with bases to 900-1000m, lower banks forming in precipitation; variable and a chance of breaks. Cloud banks at various heights near the east coast as well. Clearest northwest. Clearest tops in Sutherland. 20% south to 50% northwest	Mostly south and eastern hills, variable Fairly extensive on south and eastern hills from 700m up, lower in the south early in patchy snow. A brief lifting and breaking trend, notably near the west coast where breaks may reach some summits, but lowering again afternoon into night. 30%, 50% west coast for a few hours
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly overcast, brighter north with some sunny glimpses around Ben Hope. Excellent visibility.	Some morning sun in the north, becoming widely overcast. Very good visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0 to 2C, warmest in the northwest. Mostly just highest tops, though may lower towards 1000m over Kintail for at time.	Around 0C, little change with height. Will rise in the late overnight hours. Feeling like -15C in strong wind. Poorly defined, 600-800m though frosts at lower elevations, including in glens. Rising overnight.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 4 December, 2025

Low pressure circulating to the west and north will dominate the weather for the next 7 to 10 days, bringing generally unsettled weather. A brief period of slack pressure on Thursday into Friday will ease winds for a time though patchy rain will linger in several areas. Strong southwesterly winds return over the weekend bringing cloud and rain to many mountains, most persistent on southwestern slopes. Temperatures and freezing level will vary, but staying chilly with highest terrain likely near or below 0C. Several low pressure systems with then pass through next week, bringing frequent periods of cloud, rain, and strong wind, likely gale force on high terrain at times. Occasional windows of dry, brighter weather will occur, best chance east.

Forecast issued at 16:10 on Tuesday, 2 December, 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.