

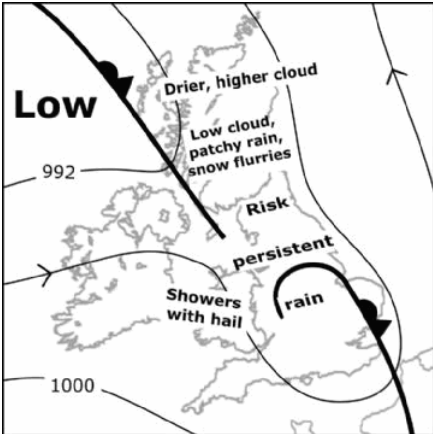
The Northwest Highlands

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 Thursday, 4 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 4 December, 2025

A complex weather situation with areas of frequent or persistent rain and hill snow, focused from the southern Highlands to northern England; often strong SE'ly winds. Further north in the Highlands, generally drier with higher cloud breaks. In Wales, becoming showery westerlies with risk of hail.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands
Windy, gusty. A little rain Skye; brighter north.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 4 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeast, becoming southerly in west; 25 to 40mph, gusty in places around higher mountains and locally downslope to north/northwest of tops; around Skye to Torridon starting to ease a little afternoon. May then increase into night. Strenuous walking in exposure, frequent buffeting gusts on some slopes toward north/west, affecting balance in places. Considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy rain Skye, rare north Risk rain on and off southern slopes around Skye most of the day , possible snow flurries just higher Cuillin above 900m. Some odd patches push further north at times, though many inland northern areas often dry.
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 on tops in Sutherland. 20% south to 50% northwest
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly overcast, layers of high cloud; brighter north with some sunny glimpses around Ben Hope. Excellent visibility out of cloud, locally poorer where rain occurs Skye.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0 to 2C, warmest in the northwest. Feeling like -10C in strongest wind. Close to freezing around 900-1000m particularly inland around Kintail, but above freezing to higher slopes mainly north and northwestern areas.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 5 December	Saturday 6 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	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.	Southeasterly 20 to 30mph, gusty in places around some tops and high passes; risk 40mph northernmost areas. Varied, risk generally blustery on exposed terrain, sudden gusty spots, marked wind chill, but on some slopes often small.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	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.	Small amounts of rain Much of the region often dry, risk a little patchy rain occasionally, may be more frequent northern areas mainly morning.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	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	Best breaks near west coast Varying banks of cloud, may linger on some slopes, particularly east-facing hills, most extensive Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope. Coastal Wester Ross may see good breaks, possibly often clear. 40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Some morning sun in the north, becoming widely overcast. Very good visibility.	A little weak sun through high cloud, mainly western areas. Visibility very good away from cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	Around 0C, little change with height. Will rise in the late overnight hours. Feeling like -15C in strong wind. Poorly defined, 600-800m though frost at lower elevations, including in glens. Rising overnight.	3C. Risk wind chill feeling near -10C if exposed to stronger speeds in north. Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 5 December, 2025

Generally unsettled through the weekend and into next week with areas of low pressure circulating near to the British Isles. Temperatures often near to freezing point on higher Scottish mountains, at times on tops elsewhere, though some thawing will occur periodically even to high tops in the Highlands. A complex series of frontal systems bringing spells of rain and some upland snow, mixed with showers with hail mostly near western coasts. Wind speeds will also vary, often south to southwesterlies, at times reaching gale force on tops, but intermittent lulls.

Forecast issued at 7:15 on Thursday, 4 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.