

The Northwest Highlands

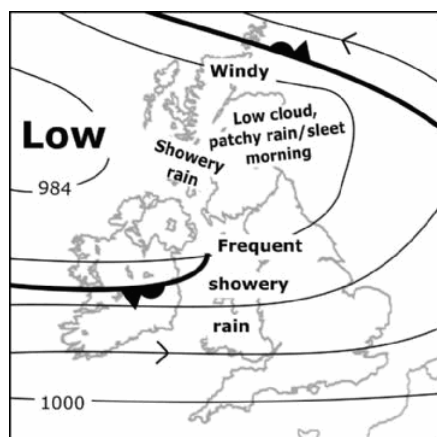
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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 Saturday, 6 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 6 December, 2025

Wind dropping light across much of the inland Highlands, but gusty near west coasts and staying strong for longer in the far north. Low cloud fairly widespread with patchy rain, clearer toward northwest. Southwesterly winds England, gale-force in Wales, driving in frequent heavy showery rain.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Often dry, some cloud breaks west. Gusty in places, windy north.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 6 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 20 to 30mph, gusty in places around some tops and high passes; up to 40mph northernmost areas in morning. Local lulls may develop Kintail area in afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	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)	Small amounts of rain Much of the region often dry, a little patchy rain occasionally, locally more frequent toward Caithness mainly morning. Beware possibly icy surfaces some highest terrain.
Cloud on the hills?	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 generally seeing best breaks, some slopes often clear.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A little weak sun through high cloud, mainly western areas. Visibility very good away from cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	2 or 3C. Risk wind chill feeling near -10C if exposed to stronger speeds in north.
Freezing Level	Close to highest northern summits at first, otherwise just above freezing to the tops.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 7 December	Monday 8 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Some uncertainty: South to southeasterly 15 to 25mph, may reach 30mph mainly around Skye, risk more widely later. Likely fairly small, but may become more blustery, greater risk west coastal mountains.	West-southwest later southerly, 20 to 35mph, speed likely to fluctuate, may drop briefly, then increase again during daytime. Uncertain timing and intensity of conditions, a better window possible, but be aware of changes; marked wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain mostly west Patchy rain most frequent around Skye. By later in the day, greater risk more persistent rain moving in from the southwest.	Rain most frequent west Showery rain most common Skye, occasional showers elsewhere near west coast, some heavy with possible hail. Few showers toward Ben Wyvis area. Risk rain develops heavy into night.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, breaks north Covering many higher areas all day, but some breaks toward tops, these best in areas north of Ullapool.	Most persistent western tops Frequently capping the Cuillin and many west coastal tops on the mainland, bases varying 600 to 900m. Cloud more broken north/east, at times clearing tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy. Visibility good where dry, reducing in rain, risk poor on Skye.	Glimpses of sun mostly east and far north. Visibility very good where dry, but reduced in rain at times west, briefly poor.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	3 or 4C, small variation with height inland. Feeling below freezing in wind, risk -5C if speeds increase. Above freezing to highest tops.	3C. If exposed to stronger winds, risk feeling close to -10C on high tops. Just above highest summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 7 December, 2025

Generally unsettled onward into next week with areas of low pressure moving in from the Atlantic on prevailing southwesterly winds. Temperatures often relatively mild, typically only higher tops in the Highlands intermittently just below freezing point, expect periods of thawing even up to these tops. Day-to-day weather detail will be uncertain even in short-range as complex systems develop - a series of frontal systems bringing spells of rain - any snowfall mostly confined to highest tops in Scotland; also showers at times with hail mostly near western coasts. Wind speeds will also vary, for periods reaching gale force on tops, but intermittent lulls.

Forecast issued at 16:02 on Friday, 5 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.