

The Northwest Highlands

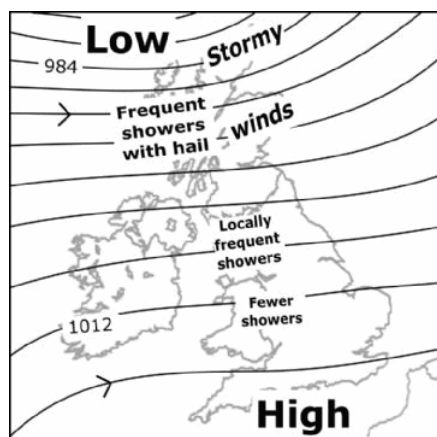
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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 Wednesday, 10 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 10 December, 2025

Storm-force winds continue over Scottish mountains, beware of storm damage and blocked routes. Gales remain severe over high terrain in northern England and tops in north Wales. Showery rain, hail and on higher tops snow in the Highlands, near-constant in the west. Bands of showers northern England, fewer for Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Storm-force upland winds. Rain frequent west, some heavy.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 10 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 60 to 80mph, gusts over higher mountains approaching 100mph; peak speeds from overnight moderating a little, but risk re-strengthening middle of day into afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult walking conditions from modest elevations upward, general mobility very challenging in exposure; severe over higher mountains; significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Showery with hail Frequent showery precipitation, merging to be near-constant at times in the west, falling as sleet on the Munros, possible snow highest tops in morning, also hail. Wet underfoot, streams in spate.
Cloud on the hills?	Often covering high tops Cloud base constantly changing, but often shrouding higher slopes, at times down to 600m in west, brief breaks to tops inland.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A little sun mainly eastern areas. Hazy particularly in west, visibility poorer in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	2 or 3C, rising slightly into evening. Wind chill feeling near to -15C.
Freezing Level	Near or just above highest summits (1100m+), lifting above higher summits mid-afternoon onward.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 11 December	Friday 12 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	South-southwesterly 40 to 60mph, risk 70mph+ west coastal mountains in morning, tending to lessen afternoon. Widely arduous, but likely more difficult or severe conditions ongoing, particularly western areas in the morning hours.	Southwesterly 25-30mph, rising to 40-50mph, risk stronger over high tops of west coast. Uncomfortable winds from dawn strengthen to widely arduous walking conditions. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain on and off, then persistent Pulses of rain may run in from the southwest, greatest risk more persistent on Skye, sometimes passing northward, but much of Sutherland drier in morning. With time, rain more widely persistent.	South showers spread up the west coast Showers onto Skye from dawn, falling as sleet/snow on the high tops. Showers increasingly frequent and spreading up the west coast afternoon, more widely overnight.
Cloud on the hills?	Most persistent on and near Skye Covering the Cuillin and nearby coastal hills on mainland most of day, lowest in rain to mid-slopes. Further inland, capping tops for periods, some local breaks north. Lowering further if rain sets in.	Mostly high ground south and west Inland, some ragged patches from dawn soon clearing for many cloud-free hills through morning. More frequently capping the tops of Skye and nearby Munros, lower bases in showers but also breaks. Will increasingly shroud high terrain.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	70% inland early, 40% south; lowering to 30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun mainly north and east, often cloudy west. Hazy, visibility poor in rain.	Some early high cloud passes for frequent sunshine, though increasingly patchy. Very clear air at first but becoming hazy from the west.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	4C, may start to drop into evening. Feeling near -10C in the wind. Above the summits	1 or 2C from dawn, lowering to around 0C. Feeling as cold as -15C in strongest wind. 1100m, lowering to 900-1000m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 11 December, 2025

Staying unsettled as southwesterly winds prevail and low pressure systems pass to the northwest of Scotland; sustained gales over the mountains, severe or stormy for periods. Temperatures only just below freezing intermittently on higher Scottish tops, even here will experience spells above freezing with thawing, any lying snow patchy, but beware some icy surfaces on the very highest tops where some refreezing occurs. Driest in eastern areas on Thursday, otherwise rainfall will be frequent and heavy, sometimes showery with hail. Expect wet ground conditions and further flooding of streams and some rivers.

Forecast issued at 16:05 on Tuesday, 9 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.