

The Northwest Highlands

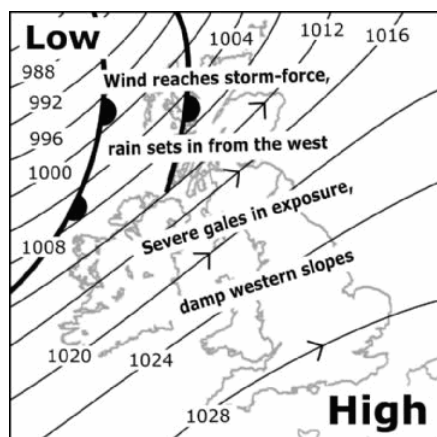
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Saturday, 13 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 13 December, 2025

Increasingly severe conditions Scottish Highlands: gusty storm-force winds on high terrain and becoming wet from the west. Gales in England and Wales, severe from Snowdonia towards Lakeland/north Pennines; drizzly rain on western slopes, patches drifting east. Driest south Pennines.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Deteriorating to severe conditions; increasingly wet

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 13 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly, strengthening during morning from 45-55mph to 70-85mph afternoon, stronger for a periods with strongest gusts reaching up to 95mph on coastal/northern tops. Conditions soon challenging from mid-elevations upward, increasingly any mobility difficult and turning severe afternoon with violent gusts. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Persistent rain developing, locally heavy Showery rain at and before dawn, initially sleet on higher tops. Rain eases briefly after sunrise, but soon returning to Skye, setting in as persistent rain and spreading widely afternoon, incessant heavy falls with time on southern Munros.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Becoming extensive, lowering Varied banks of cloud mostly on southern high terrain early in day, but increasingly spreading north, filling in, and lowering, becoming blanket fog from lower slopes upward in west. Some higher breaks here and there east. 40% soon lowering to 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Some weak sun through high cloud early, turning overcast and increasingly dull west. Hazy, visibility turning poor as rain sets in.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	1C from dawn rising steadily to later reach 6C, little change with added height. Rising another degree into night and varying. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -15C later in the day. Around 1100m up to dawn, gradually rising, above the summits afternoon.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 14 December	Monday 15 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	A gusty southwesterly, sustained winds between 40-50mph, may strengthen further, risk 60mph gusts. Strong gusty winds will challenge balance and stability all day, including less exposed slopes. Significant wind chill.	Very uncertain detail: generally west-southwesterly 25-35mph, highly variable with higher and lower speeds. Winds uncomfortable or strenuous walking in exposure with a chilly feel, but may also be fairly small for periods.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Most often south, drifting north Frequent rain Skye and nearby with bursts drifting inland and northward. At times falling heavier, risk of merging into a more widespread area of rain. Best chance of dry periods Ben Wyvis to east of Loch Broom.	Some west coast showers Frequent showers near the west coast at and before dawn, showers more scattered after dawn, though may remain frequent Skye. May again increasing in frequency and intensity later.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Covering most high tops, lowest coastal south Shrouding high tops along the coast from Skye towards Ullapool, southern inland hills as well. Variable bases, 600-900m, lowest on Skye. Higher bases Ben Wyvis to Loch Broom, perhaps local breaks to tops. 20%	Mostly high terrain west, clear periods Variable banks on west coast slopes, 600-900m, most frequent Skye/Kintail with few higher breaks; well-broken inland with higher bases, many Munros often clear. Increasingly frequent south, more widely along the west coast later. 50%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sun, often dull on southern coastal hills but local visibility improvements, particularly inland north.	Patchy sunshine for most, except south, more extensive northward. Very good visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	5 to 7C; variable, increasingly so after nightfall with lower temperatures. Feeling like -8C in direct wind. Above the summits	0 or 1C. May be several degrees warmer just before dawn. Feelings as cold as -10C in direct wind. Above the summits from overnight, rapidly lowering to 900-1000m at or before dawn.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 14 December, 2025

A brief spell of drier-brighter weather on Tuesday, but otherwise staying unsettled into next week as southwesterly winds prevail and low pressure systems pass to the northwest of Scotland; sustained gales over the mountains, severe or stormy for periods. Bands of rain will regularly pass eastward across most areas, showery in the west between wetter spells with hail at times. Expect very wet ground conditions and further flooding of streams and some rivers. Mild for the time of year, 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. Detail becomes very uncertain after next weekend though temperatures likely to drop.

Forecast issued at 16:13 on Friday, 12 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.