

# The Northwest Highlands

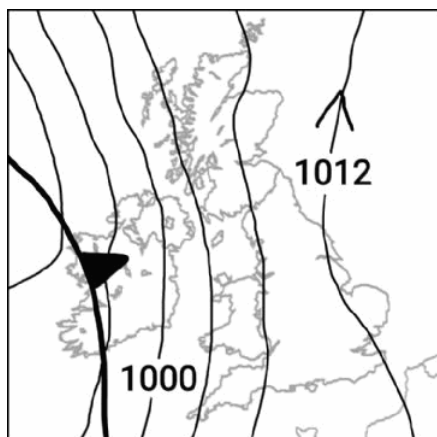
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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## General Summary for Saturday, 20 December, 2025



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 20 December, 2025**

South to south-easterly winds, reaching gale force for western hills, local drizzly showers southwestern Scotland as well as Wales, with rain into Pembrokeshire later. Elsewhere, areas of weak sun and low cloud. Low cloud focused on eastern side of Pennines and also southern and eastern Highlands.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Windy, gales up west coast. Mostly dry, with hills often clear.

## Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 20 December, 2025

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	South to south-easterly 25 to 40mph, but on and near Skye 45 to 60mph.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Walking arduous, or near west coast and Isles difficult, with a very turbulent airflow. Significant wind chill and buffeting.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Mostly dry</b> Most or all areas dry. Scope for isolated showers in the south and across Skye.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Mostly hills in the south. Otherwise clear.</b> Occasional patches on upper slopes, mainly on southern hills and also over towards Ben Wyvis. Otherwise hills mostly clear.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>80%, but 60% in the south.</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	A little sun possible as cloud layers thin at times. Visibility good or very good. General haze west coast.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	2 to 4C, highest northern hills, small rate of change in temperature with height. Directly in the wind feeling like -10 to -15C.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Confined to highest tops or above. Some icy snow coverage over higher tops.

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 21 December	Monday 22 December
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	South-easterly backing easterly 20 to 30mph, perhaps lifting to 40mph at times.	Southeasterly 35 to 45mph, easing to 20 to 30mph in afternoon.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Blustery, turbulent airflow with significant wind chill. Sudden gusts running downslope and reversals in direction.</b>	<b>Arduous conditions for several hours, sudden and strong wind gusts running downslope. Significant wind chill.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Many areas may well be dry</b> The legacy of a front may give patchy rain and snow tops, on and near Skye. Whilst a few showers may well feed in to Easter Ross and Caithness. Dry otherwise.	<b>Early rain, then patches here and there.</b> A warm front will bring widespread rain and drizzle for a time in the morning before clearing west. Then drier, but still with patches of rain here and there.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Fairly extensive, best breaks west coast</b>  Be prepared for fairly extensive cloud on the hills, most widespread Ben Wyvis up to Ben Hope, and perhaps Skye too. Higher bases and best breaks west coast.	<b>Fairly extensive, but breaks west coast.</b>  Fairly extensive banks at varying heights in rain. As rain clears, very disorganised cloud banks, some hills in fog, whilst others clear, with best breaks west coast.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>30%, but 60% toward west coast.</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	A little weak sun perhaps toward west coast. Otherwise cloudy. Visibility good, but poor in any rain or snow.	Mainly overcast.  Poor visibility in the rain morning, but improving.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>  <b>Freezing Level</b>	Around 1C, small change in temperature with height. Feeling closer to -10C in the wind.  Around 1000m	3C, but feeling closer to -10C where exposed to the strongest winds.  Above the summits

## Planning Outlook

## All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 21 December, 2025

A much drier and chiller theme develops into the Christmas period and perhaps into the New Year, as high pressure builds to the north and northeast and maybe later in the period overhead over Scotland when inversion conditions would be in place. An extensive cloud sheet will likely come in from the North Sea over many days with light snow showers or flurries likely, rain to lower slopes, but many areas dry. Best breaks in the west.

## Forecast issued at 19:02 on Friday, 19 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.