

The Northwest Highlands

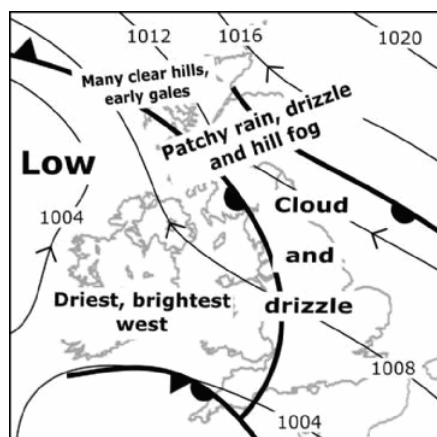
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Sunday, 21 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 December, 2025

A blustery, gusty morning in northern England and Scotland, gales for a time in northwest Scotland, tending to ease. Patchy rain from central Scotland down the spine of the Pennines eases into drizzle over the high tops, drizzle in east Wales too with extensive hill fog in these areas. Best of breaks west Wales and NW Highlands.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Windy, risk gales early, easing; patchy rain Skye/east, clearer west

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 21 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 35-40mph from dawn; strong gusts over tops and downslope, may reach 50mph. Easing as the day goes, 20-30mph by dusk.
Effect of wind on you?	Blustery, turbulent airflow with sudden strong gusts running downslope and reversals in direction; expect considerable buffeting and stability challenges. Conditions slowly improve somewhat.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy rain Skye and northeast, dry elsewhere Patchy rain arrives on and around Skye, falling as snow above 900-1000m, the snow line tending to rise. Some showery rain may feed in to Easter Ross and Caithness as well. Most other mountains dry.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly over tops of Skye and eastern hills Cloud often capping the tops from Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope, at times lowering where rain occurs. Patchy cloud drifting onto Skye as well, mostly 900m or above. Many northwest coast hills/summits will be largely clear.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%, 60% northwest coast
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchy sunshine, best to the northwest but weakened by high cloud. Mostly good visibility, but locally deteriorating where in rain/snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or +1C from dawn, gradually rising to 2C, locally 3C Skye and nearby. Feeling closer to -10C in the wind.
Freezing Level	900-1000m from dawn, local frosts on sheltered slopes at lower elevations. Lifting to the high tops by dusk, further lifting overnight.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Monday 22 December	Tuesday 23 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeasterly 30 to 40mph; gusty over the tops and downslope, strongest may reach 50mph in the north. Arduous conditions for several hours, sudden strong gusts will challenge balance. Significant wind chill.	West-southwesterly 15-25mph, may shift northerly afternoon. Fairly small, though some uncomfortable gusty wind in exposure.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Morning rain, then drizzle east Widespread rain and drizzle arrives for a time in the morning before clearing to the northwest. Drier afternoon but staying drizzly on high tops from Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope, some patches further west.	Rain on and off Periods of patchy rain for most mountains, likely more frequent on hills nearest the west coast.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, but breaks west coast Fairly extensive banks at varying heights, lowest in the rain and eastern slopes. As rain clears, very disorganised cloud banks, ragged patches clinging to forest canopies for a time; clearest hills northwest coast.	Mostly tops, lower bases in rain Cloud often capping tops, some higher breaks, best inland north areas. During rain, bases lower to 800-900m, lower Skye and nearby mountains; some lower banks too including patchy fog in the glens.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%, rising to 40% toward west coast.	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mainly overcast. Early rain and an increasing haze will limit visibility through the day.	Some glimpses of weak sun possible inland and north. Good visibility but variable as rain comes and goes, some haze east.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	3 or 4C, warmest in the northwest. Feeling closer to -10C where exposed to the strongest winds. Above the summits	2 or 3C Above the summits, lowering to 1100m afternoon.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 22 December, 2025

Cloud and patchy rain lingers for a few more days early next week, then a slow change to drier and chiller weather into the Christmas period as high pressure builds to the north. Easterly winds will be dominant, the strongest winds in England and Wales. Cloud may be fairly sheet-like in the east sometimes, though variably more extensive or broken.

The coldest air will reach England and Wales on the easterly wind with freezing levels reaching as low as 400-600m in Wales, staying slightly warmer in northern Scotland with freezing levels nearer the high summits for a time under the core of high pressure.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Saturday, 20 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.