

The Northwest Highlands

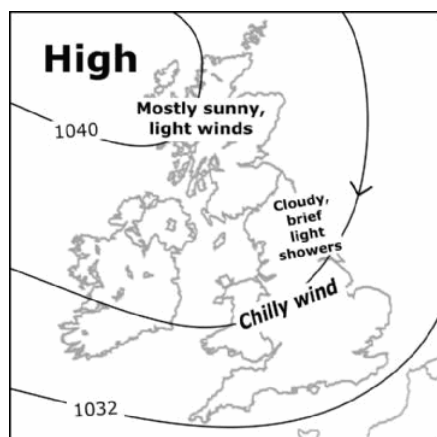
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Tuesday, 30 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 30 December, 2025

Quiet but chilly conditions, light winds and plenty of sunshine for much of the Highlands, much terrain frozen, sub-zero all day over hills and in some glens. A cold east-northeasterly breeze England and Wales, strongest toward south; fairly cloudy, locally an odd snow flurry over the Pennines.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Cold, but wind mostly light. Largely dry, patchy cloud.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 30 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Skye to Torridon and Kintail: Northerly or variable 5-10mph, tending to increase a little afternoon to 15mph, 20mph by dusk. Northern areas: Northwesterly 15 to 25mph, strongest around Ben Hope afternoon, risk 30mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Mostly small, but becoming locally blustery at times with considerable wind chill in far north.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rare if any precipitation Largely dry all day. Brief snow flurries possible in the north.
Cloud on the hills?	Patches or banks, mainly in the north Patches or banks of low cloud increasingly on upper slopes from 700m upwards across northern areas and perhaps also on Skye. Little elsewhere.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40% north, 80% south.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Broken cloud and sun, best sun in the south. Visibility very good, away from any snow flurries.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -13C.
Freezing Level	Terrain frozen from lower slopes upwards, with frost into the glens in morning.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 31 December	Thursday 1 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly 25 to 35mph, increasing to 35 to 45mph, risk 50mph late in day toward Ben Hope.	Northwesterly 35 to 50mph, squally gusts in showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Be prepared for increasingly arduous conditions through the day with significant buffeting and wind chill.	Frequent buffeting, walking often arduous on higher terrain. Significant wind chill, severe higher up.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy rain or upper slopes snow Patches of rain and snow increasingly developing. Level to which snow falls tending to vary between 700 and 900m.	Frequent snow and hail A succession of showers moving inland from coasts in west and north, merging to feel near-constant for periods, falling as snow and hail to lower slopes, chance isolated thunder mainly in north.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive Soon after dawn, if not before, low cloud becoming extensive and increasingly to lower slopes toward west coast.	Often covering upper slopes Cloud base constantly changing, but often capping higher slopes, bases 600-900m, lowest most often near coast. Brief breaks higher up mainly toward Great Glen.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Increasingly overcast. Becoming increasingly misty and murky, with poor visibility in precipitation.	Largely cloudy, brief bursts of sun. Visibility varying, very poor in snow and cloud, intermittently very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C, lifting to 0C or just above. Feeling like -10 to -15C in the strongest winds.	-3C, falling to -5C evening into night. Wind chill feeling like -15C, later -20C higher tops.
Freezing Level	300-600m, lifting to 800-1000m.	400 to 600m, highest near to coast. Some inland glens near freezing all day, then into night dropping to all lower slopes.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 31 December, 2025

Significantly cold wintry conditions into the start of January. Air temperature well below freezing on high terrain, plus low minima into many glens and valleys with sustained hard frost. Strong northerly winds later this week giving severe wind chill. Frequent and heavy snow showers moving into northern areas and running down coastal extremities with significant accumulations. Elsewhere, lots of dry and sunny weather, although occasional organised bands of snow will feed south at times in the Arctic airflow. Staying cold into next week with scope for snowfalls more widely.

Forecast issued at 16:21 on Monday, 29 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.