

# The Northwest Highlands

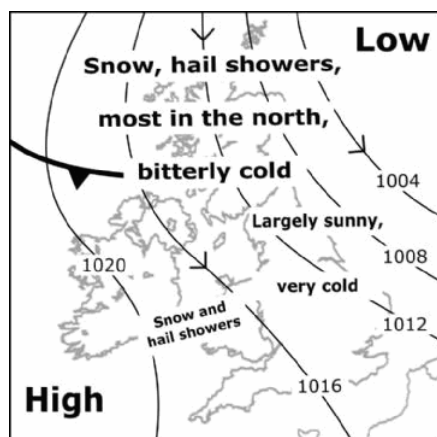
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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## General Summary for Sunday, 4 January, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

#### Based on forecast chart for noon 4 January, 2026

Snow, hail, and wind continues driving into northern Scotland with showers passing into central and western areas; snow coverage fairly widespread in the Highlands. Southern Scotland and England mostly sunny, blustery in exposure. More snow and hail showers for Wales, pushing further east afternoon. Widely very cold.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Frequent snow and hail; bitterly cold in the wind

## Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 4 January, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	North to northwesterly 30 to 40mph, squally gusts in showers. Speeds trending towards the lower end of the range with time, though stronger gusts will still occur.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Severe wind chill over the mountains. Arduous walking on snow cover with frequent buffeting in exposure much of the day, though slightly easing with time.</b>
<b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b>	<b>Near-constant snow and hail</b> An ongoing stream of heavy snow showers coming in from the north, falling and accumulating to sea level. Some hail near coasts with risk isolated thunder. Frequent whiteout on the tops.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Most tops shrouded, variably lowering, most persistently north</b> Cloud base constantly changing, often capping hills near coasts above 800-900m, shafts of cloud to 600m in showers. Brief breaks to upper slopes mostly toward Great Glen/Ben Wyvis.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief bursts of sun, most likely from Kintail to Ben Wyvis. Most other areas remain mostly cloudy. Visibility often appalling due to snow falling or blowing and where also in cloud; but intermittently very good.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-7C (to -9C on the high summits). Generally staying a degree higher on Skye/slopes nearest to the coast. Wind chill feeling as cold as -22C in exposure on tops.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Terrain widely frozen, staying sub-zero from glens upward. Nearest the coast, partial thawing in sunlight, up to 200m Skye.

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Northerly 25-30mph, shifting northwesterly afternoon, risk a brief periods of stronger wind in exposure.	Changeable: west-southwesterly 20-35mph, trending northerly afternoon and rising, up to 40mph on high exposed tops.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Significant wind chill, severe on high exposed tops where walking conditions will be strenuous with buffeting.</b>	<b>Variable conditions, walking often strenuous with significant wind chill, though some periods of lighter wind possible.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Very frequent snow showers</b> An ongoing stream of snow showers coming in from the north, snow to sea level; extensive snow cover on the ground with frequent whiteout conditions on high ground. Risk some hail into Sutherland.	<b>Snow</b> Showery snow in the west becomes widespread for most of daylight. Increasingly falling as sleet to middle slopes of Skye and the west coast. Breaking back into showers late in the day.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Most tops shrouded, variably lowering</b>  Variable cloud base, often capping hills above 800-900m, shafts of cloud to 600m in showers. Some brief breaks to upper slopes though these fleeting. Becoming more extensive from the north after nightfall.	<b>Extensive</b>  Cloud shrouds the hills to middle or lower slopes for most or all of daylight. Some breaks forming in the north around and after dusk as snow turns showery.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Often cloudy with frequently appalling visibility due to snow falling or blowing. Only brief bursts of sun with very good visibility.	Sunshine unlikely. Appalling visibility, whiteout conditions soon widespread and persistent.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-5C (-8C at dawn in the glens and high tops). Wind chill feeling like -20C in exposure on tops.	-2 to -4C, some variability; trending colder into nighttime. Feeling as cold as -18C in the wind.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Terrain widely frozen. Nearest the coast, partial thawing in sunlight to 200-300m, rising slightly near Skye overnight.	Terrain widely frozen from overnight, lifting but variable; up to 700 near Skye, unlikely above 300-400m inland.

## Planning Outlook

**All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 5 January, 2026**

Monday stays cold with terrain widely frozen; sunshine inland with continued snow showers along coasts. The weather then turns more variable: fronts begin to approach the country on Tuesday, with cloud gradually becoming widespread on high terrain from the north, an area of snow arriving widely into Scotland and tracking south into England and Wales overnight into Wednesday. Most terrain will stay frozen but a brief local lifting of freezing levels in western areas. Some sunny breaks and snow showers will follow this system. Beyond Wednesday, confidence in forecast detail is significantly lower, but another weather system is indicated for Thursday into Friday, this possibly bringing a swathe of snow, rain, and strong winds to the south and perhaps more widely.

**Forecast issued at 15:29 on Saturday, 3 January, 2026**

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, 2026.