

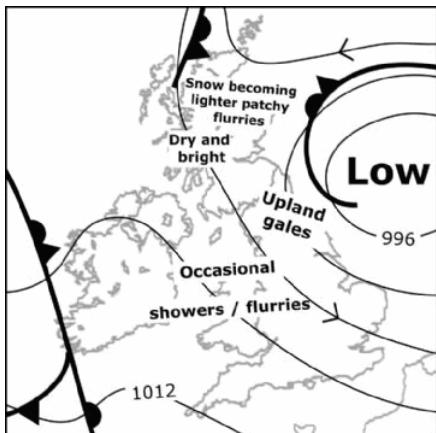
The Northwest Highlands

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 Wednesday, 7 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 7 January, 2026

Gale-force NW'ly winds England, Wales and S Scotland, slowly lessen from west. Areas of snow falling over N & E Scotland tends to ease and become patchy. A few showers or flurries elsewhere, but largely dry SW Highlands. Much terrain remains frozen, substantial snow depths much of Highlands.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Blustery in places. Further snowfalls, fading to flurries.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 7 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Very variable direction and speed, mostly northerly toward western coasts, easterly in far north; in range 15 to 30mph, most persistently strong on Skye, whilst inland some lulls. Turning southwesterly into night.
Effect of wind on you?	In places fairly small inland, but prepare for marked wind chill in exposure over many tops; near west coast and particularly Skye more frequently blustery on tops.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Some persistent snow mostly north Snow falling fairly widely from dawn, sleet or rain coastal slopes; less toward Skye. Flurries tending to become lighter and patchier during day, but some light snow likely to persist, particularly northern areas.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, locally varied Cloud banks covering the hills fairly widely, from mid-slopes upward, locally persistently lower where snow lingers. Some local breaks may form onto some upper slopes during day.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy. Whiteout with difficult navigation on high tops in fog over snow; visibility poor generally where snow falls, local improvements possible.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C, up to -1C near west coast. Feeling like -10 to -13C if exposed to stronger winds.
Freezing Level	Near/below freezing glens upward inland; up to 400-500m nearest west coast and on Skye.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	South or southwesterly, speed may vary, 15 to 30mph, strongest toward Ben Hope.	Variable direction, mostly below 15-20mph, in places often little wind.
Effect of wind on you?	Fairly small some areas, but feeling blustery with marked wind chill on exposed tops and ridges northern hills.	Likely small.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy light snow Occasional snow flurries, mostly western areas, sleet or rain lower coastal slopes.	Coastal showers, snow tops Showers mostly near to the coasts, falling as snow on tops, possibly hail at times; mostly rain on low-mid slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied cloud mostly higher areas Patchy cloud around upper slopes and corries, most common toward west coast. Some mist lower down inland.	Varied patches Patchy cloud clinging to some upper slopes and corries, but expect clearer spells over many mountains. Larger cloud banks near coast if showers occur.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	60%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly cloudy, some glimpses of sun. Visibility very good where dry, reducing in showers. Beware difficult navigation if in fog over snow cover on tops.	Any sun weak due to a veil of high cloud. Visibility very good over many hills, some haze or mist inland glens.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C, up to -1C Skye and nearest coast.	-1 to -3C.
Freezing Level	Most terrain frozen and snow covered, some glens stay sub-zero. In places just above freezing to 400m, or 600m coasts.	Terrain frozen into the glens, some slopes around 300-500m inland just above freezing point, or up to 700m coasts.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 8 January, 2026

Terrain remaining widely frozen into the weekend, extensive deep snow cover for Highlands, less nearer the central belt. An additional substantial snowfall for Wales & Peak District on Thursday night, accompanied by gales. A fairly benign end to the week for Scotland, showers near some west coasts. By late Saturday into Sunday, southerly winds strengthen to gales - as a frontal system approaches, snow then freezing rain is likely, before at least a temporary rise of freezing level - some thawing develops on lower terrain, most pronounced in Wales toward higher slopes. Chilly patterns next week with some further hill snow, many mountains often sub-zero, but overall less cold.

Forecast issued at 16:20 on Tuesday, 6 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.