

# The Northwest Highlands

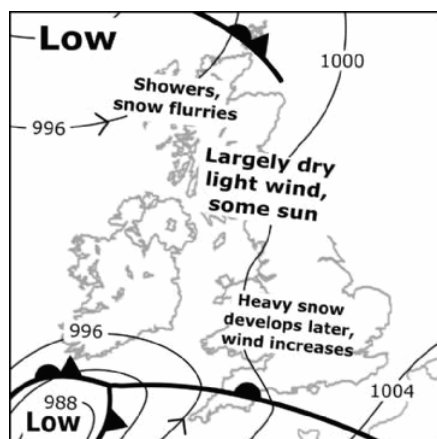
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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## General Summary for Thursday, 8 January, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

#### Based on forecast chart for noon 8 January, 2026

Fairly benign conditions, breezier in northern Scotland. Local snow flurries, patchy cloud and some sun. A developing system to the southwest moves into Wales with heavy snow setting in increasingly widely later, extending into the Peak District by evening, accompanied by gales.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Blustery, all day in north. Coastal showers, local flurries.

## Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 8 January, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	South or southwesterly, 20 to 30mph, strongest sustained wind toward Ben Hope.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	Fairly small some slopes at times, but feeling blustery with marked wind chill on exposed tops and ridges.
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Patchy light snow, showers mostly west</b> Occasional snow flurries, mostly western areas, frequent in places next to the coast, sleet or rain lower coastal slopes.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Varied cloud mostly higher areas</b> Patchy cloud around upper slopes and corries, most common toward west coast. Some mist lower down inland.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> 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.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-3C, up to -1C Skye and nearest coast. Where exposed to wind, feeling like -10 to -13C.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Most terrain frozen and snow covered, some glens stay sub-zero. In places just above freezing to 400m, or 600m coasts.

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 9 January	Saturday 10 January
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Variable direction, mostly below 15-20mph, in places often little wind.	Southwesterly or variable 20 to 30mph, gusty in places on some downslopes to the north of higher mountains.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Likely small.</b>	<b>Blustery, starting to affect balance on some exposed ridges, locally buffeting gusts not just on tops; considerable wind chill.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Coastal showers, snow tops</b> Showers mostly near to the coasts, falling as snow on tops, possibly hail at times; mostly rain on low-mid slopes.	<b>Showers, snow and hail</b> Showers most frequent near to west coasts, snow flurries pushing eastwards at times, to lower slopes inland, but near coast mostly rain below 500m, some hail.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Varied patches</b>  Patchy cloud clinging to some upper slopes and corries, but expect clearer spells over many mountains. Larger cloud banks near coast if showers occur.	<b>Varied patches</b>  Patchy cloud around some slopes and tops, mostly in west and where showers occur, may often cover some hills. Some mist possible lower slopes inland.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Any sun weak due to a veil of high cloud. Visibility very good over many hills, some haze or mist inland glens.	Glimpses of weak sun. Visibility good away from showers; difficult navigation if in fog over snow cover.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-1 to -3C.	-2C, nearer 0C coastal tops. Feeling like -10 to -13C if in gusty wind.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Terrain frozen into the glens, some slopes around 300-500m inland just above freezing point, or up to 700m coasts.	Terrain widely frozen inland; just above freezing around 300-500m, up to 600-700m near west coast and on Skye.

## Planning Outlook

**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 9 January, 2026**

Terrain remaining widely frozen into the weekend, extensive deep snow cover for Highlands, less nearer the central belt. A fresh good covering for Wales and south Pennines from Thursday night too. Quiet weather for Saturday daytime. Then into Sunday, southerly winds strengthen to gales - as a frontal system approaches, snow then freezing rain is likely. A rise of freezing level from the southwest - some thawing develops, rising just above freezing toward higher slopes; more pronounced thawing in England and Wales to the tops. Uncertain patterns next week, colder air may return across Scotland, whilst further south often generally milder. Some further hill snow mainly in Scotland.

**Forecast issued at 16:15 on Wednesday, 7 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.