

The Northwest Highlands

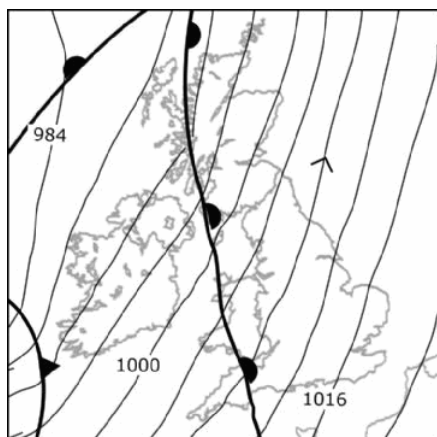
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Sunday, 11 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 11 January, 2026

Widely very difficult mountain conditions in severe or storm force upland winds. From west, rapid snow melt commencing and extensive fog - giving whiteout in some areas. Underfoot areas of ice, in some areas on lower slopes.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Storm force wind; rain. Snow pack increasingly melting.

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 11 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly, in range 60mph with powerful gusts. Marginal temporary easing afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult conditions over the mountains; mobility widely challenging. Sometimes difficult to stand, in places sudden ferocious gusts reaching lower slopes, Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow soon turning to rain Snow and freezing rain starts overnight. Through morning from west all turning to rain. Heavy or torrential rain near Skye. Increasingly wet underfoot - augmented by snow melt.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive Incessant fog from lowest slopes on and near Skye, and from a few hundred metres up Torridon area. Elsewhere, cloud base in range 600 to in places 900m (mainly Sutherland and Ben Wyvis).
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%; almost nil south of Torridon
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Rare if any glimpses of sun. Hazy but visibility appalling or near zero at times western mountains south of Torridon.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C but soon +1 to 3C, small variation of temperature with height. Will feel as cold as minus 15C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Soon above summits, but much terrain frozen and widely icy despite increasing snow melt.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Monday 12 January	Tuesday 13 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	South to southwesterly 50 to 70mph, strongest morning. Mobility challenging, sometimes difficult to stand. Severe wind chill.	Low confidence in forecast: Most likely southwest or westerly 20 to 30mph, although there could be a lull. Mostly fairly small, although risk arduous walking conditions.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain much of day west, snow high tops Frequent to constant precipitation most western mountains, often heavy Skye to Torridon; smaller amounts toward Ben Wyvis. Falling as snow above around 900-1000m. Very wet underfoot where snow melts.	Intermittent rain; snow higher areas Unlikely to be dry, particularly near the coast where showery rain, or above 650m snow, may well be on and off. Fewer showers, with increasing chance of dry during daylight progressively eastwards.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, lowest west Covering the hills most or all day above 800m, often 500-600m south Cuillin and nearby coastal hills up to Torridon.	Generally extensive Higher areas probably cloud covered, but in rain, particularly near the coast, cloud base may drop below 400m for periods.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sun. A general haze, particularly west; visibility very poor in precipitation.	Little or no sunshine. Visibility sometimes very good although in rain poor or in snow appalling.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	1C. Wind chill feeling around -15C where directly exposed on tops. 1100m, chance of lowering further after dark.	0 or -1C 700 to perhaps 900m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 12 January, 2026

High rainfall and intermittently windy across most mountains areas next week as a series of Atlantic lows cross Britain .

From Tuesday day to day confidence very low due to uncertainty in timing and tracking of lows .

Over England and Wales, temperatures on higher summits will intermittently be below freezing point: snow may accumulate on highest summits. Freeze thaw cycles will occur on the Scottish Highlands, although above 900m periods of thaw may well be brief, with progressive enhancement of the snowpack likely.

Forecast issued at 7:40 on Sunday, 11 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.