

The Northwest Highlands

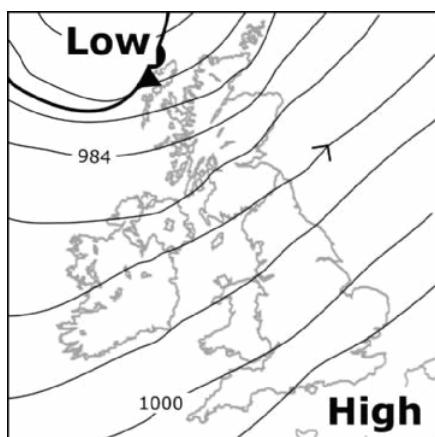
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Monday, 12 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 12 January, 2026

Extensive upland gales, although storm force at first N Scotland. Bands of showers, of hail, and snow higher areas, will merge to give periods of almost constant precipitation on many western mountains. Small risk thunder. Driest conditions will be on easternmost mountains and S Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Severe gale or storm force upland wind. Snow and fog.

Detailed Forecast for Monday, 12 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	South to southwesterly 50mph, but 60 to 70mph at first - will ease from south.
Effect of wind on you?	Mobility challenging, sometimes difficult to stand. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent snow & hail, risk lightning, western mountains near Skye Heavy showers, or sometimes constant precipitation with small risk lightning western mountains south from Torridon. Expect hail and above 750m snow - giving intermittent whiteout. Far fewer showers elsewhere.
Cloud on the hills?	Almost all higher areas persistently foggy Cloud intermittently below 400m western mountains south from Torridon where rare if any breaks to 750m. Higher cloud base elsewhere, often 800, rarely 1050m - but patches below 600m near showers.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Almost nil but 20% Sutherland and Ben Wyvis
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Rare or no sun. A general haze; visibility very poor in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	1C. Will feel as cold as -17C where exposed to the wind.
Freezing Level	1050m. Some terrain lower down still frozen and icy.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Tuesday 13 January	Wednesday 14 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Forecast confidence remains low: Most likely southwest or westerly 20 to 30mph, although there could be a lull. Mostly fairly small, although risk arduous walking conditions.	West backing southerly around 25mph before later in day strengthening to 40-50mph. May well be fairly small for several hours before walking becomes increasingly difficult and wind chill significant.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	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.	Risk of snow and hail showers Showers may come in off the sea giving hail and snow, although rain lower coastal slopes. Increasing threat precipitation setting in late in day.
Cloud on the hills?	Generally extensive Higher areas probably cloud covered, but in rain, particularly near the coast, cloud base may drop below 400m for periods.	Probably remaining extensive on most or all higher areas Cloud sometimes forming below 450m near the coast, particularly near Skye, but cloud base generally rising to 600 to 750m, highest well inland where there may be breaks to higher tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sunshine. Visibility sometimes very good although in rain poor or in snow appalling.	Occasional sunshine, mainly well inland. Visibility often very good, but very poor in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0 or -1C 700 to perhaps 900m.	-2C 600m coastal hills, 400m elsewhere.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 13 January, 2026**

High rainfall and intermittently windy across most mountains over the next week or more as a series of Atlantic lows cross Britain. With uncertainty in the tracks of some lows, Tuesday's forecast remains very uncertain - but by Wednesday a transient weak ridge of high pressure will bring a brief improvement. Higher summits sometimes below freezing point S Scotland southwards: snow may accumulate on highest summits. Mostly below freezing Scottish Highlands enabling snow to accumulate widely.

Forecast issued at 7:42 on Monday, 12 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.