

The Northwest Highlands

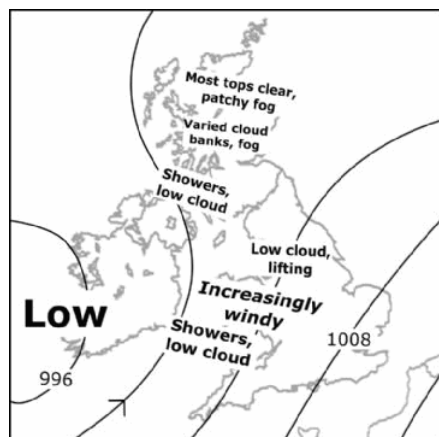
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



Skye Basecamp - a brand new climber's hostel run by Skye Guides mountain guiding

Visit www.skyebasecamp.co.uk to book your stay

General Summary for Friday, 16 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 16 January, 2026

Dry for much of the Highlands, many northern mountains clear, in places above patchy valley fog, some weak sun through high-level cloud above the mountains. Breezy toward the west, some showers southwest coasts of Scotland, also S/W Wales. Areas of low cloud over Pennines and S Lakes may linger.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Breeziest near Skye. Many hills clear, patchy cloud.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 16 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Variable or southeasterly, 10-15mph or less, particularly in north. Often 20mph on and nearest to Skye, local stronger gusts may occur.
Effect of wind on you?	Mostly small, but feeling chilly in exposure over higher Cuillin.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Mostly dry, bar coastal showers later. Largely dry. Later afternoon, possible showers moving in from south around Skye, snow flurries above 500-600m.
Cloud on the hills?	Hills above patchy valley fog; some cloud may move onto Cuillin. Ribbons of fog through some of the glens, may last much of day. Many hills free of cloud, though some patches may drift around, greater risk through afternoon Skye to Kintail.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70% dropping to 40% Skye.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchwork of sunshine, best in the north and east. Visibility very good, away from any fog or showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C. Feeling like -8C if exposed to breeze on Skye.
Freezing Level	700-800m, but frost into the glens at first light.

	Saturday 17 January	Sunday 18 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 10 to 20mph, in places 25mph through some cols, passes and summits.	South to southeasterly, 25 to 35mph, suddenly gusty on some downslopes to the north of higher mountains.
Effect of wind on you?	Mostly small, but wind chill still significant where exposed to the strongest breeze.	Affecting ease of walking and balance on tops. Varied lower down, but in places very blustery. Considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	No precipitation expected Banks or patches of cloud at varying heights from mid to upper slopes, with ribbons of fog some glens. Clearest conditions west coast and far north.	Little if any precipitation Chance of local snow grains or brief flurries mainly around Skye.
Cloud on the hills?	Varying banks, fog patches some glens Banks or patches of cloud at varying heights from mid to upper slopes, with ribbons of fog some glens. Clearest conditions west coast and far north.	Varied, but some tops clear Some fog banks glens and lower slopes, fragments of cloud around some upper slopes, but many western tops may be often clear. Greater risk of low cloud banks up to higher slopes on Skye, lowest south.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%, but 70% far north and west coast.	70%, but 30% Skye.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun toward west coast and far north. Otherwise dull. Visibility good or very good.	Sunshine best in north coastal areas where visibility very good. Hazy or misty toward south Cuillin.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-1C to +2C; highest Ben Hope to west coast. Feeling closer to -8C in the strongest breeze. Varied across the area, 600-1100m, highest toward west coast/Ben Hope. Patchy frost into some glens at dawn.	0 or -1C inland, up to +1C some west and northwest coastal areas. Feeling like -10 to -13C in the wind. Inland near or just below freezing from many glens upward, but near W/NW coast typically above freezing up to 900-1000m.

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 17 January, 2026

Often dry and chilly conditions into the weekend with a south to south-easterly airflow developing, gusty wind in places. General patterns into the second half of January favour a colder continental influence. The snow pack across the Scottish Highlands will be enhanced by further spells of snowfall where where fronts edge in from the west, whilst for England and Wales snow accumulating on the hills at times, perhaps in the form of showers from the east.

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.