

# The Northwest Highlands

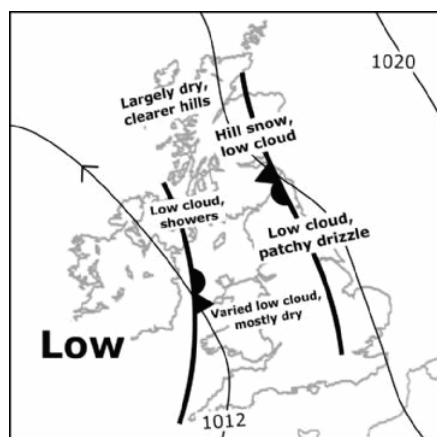
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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## General Summary for Saturday, 17 January, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

#### Based on forecast chart for noon 17 January, 2026

A slow-moving area of snowfall in central-eastern Highlands, may be often patchy and light, but risk locally more persistent, low cloud extensive. Clearer northwest coasts of Scotland. Low cloud much of northern England, some early rain and hill snow. Drier for Wales with varied low cloud. Light-moderate SE'ly winds.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Largely dry, cloud breaks west. Light-moderate breeze.

## Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 17 January, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Southeasterly 10 to 20mph, in places 25mph through some cols, passes and summits.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Mostly small, but marked wind chill in exposure on higher terrain.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Rare flurries</b> Local snow flurries, amounting to little, many areas largely dry.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Varying banks, clearer west coast</b> Banks or patches of cloud at varying heights from mid to upper slopes, greatest risk over eastern hills, filling in here afternoon. Clearest conditions west coast and far north.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>30%, to 70% nearer west coast.</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun toward west coast and far north. Otherwise dull. Visibility good or very good.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-1C to +2C; highest Ben Hope to west coast. Feeling closer to -8C in the strongest breeze.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Varied across the area, 600-1100m, highest toward west coast/Ben Hope. Patchy frost into some glens at dawn.

	Sunday 18 January	Monday 19 January
How windy? (On the Munros)  Effect of wind on you?	South to southeasterly, 25 to 35mph, strongest Skye, suddenly gusty on some downslopes to the north of high tops.  <b>Affecting ease of walking and balance on tops. Varied lower down, but in places very blustery. Considerable wind chill.</b>	South to southeasterly 25 to 30mph, risk locally gusty 35-40mph, greatest risk Cuillin, particularly downslopes to north.  <b>Blustery, starting to affect comfortable walking, on exposed ridges balance may be challenging. Considerable wind chill.</b>
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Little if any precipitation</b>  Chance of local snow grains or brief flurries mainly around Skye.	<b>A little rain or snow</b>  Patchy areas of rain, or snow flurries mostly on higher terrain, most likely near coast around Skye. Small amounts inland, largely dry toward the far north.
Cloud on the hills?	<b>Varied, but some tops clear</b>  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.	<b>Varied, but often clear northwest</b>  Banks of low cloud most persistent around Skye, lowest on southern Cuillin. Patches likely to drift over hills elsewhere, but more often clearer near/north of Ullapool.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	<b>70%, but 30% Skye.</b>	<b>20% Skye, to 60% near NW coast.</b>
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sunshine best in north coastal areas where visibility very good. Hazy or misty toward south Cuillin.	A little weak sun mostly in far north. Visibility good away from cloud, poorer on Skye if damp.
How Cold? (at 900m)  Freezing Level	0 or -1C inland, up to +1C some west and northwest coastal areas. Feeling like -10C directly 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.	0C, small change with height inland. Feeling like -10C where exposed to wind.  800 to 1000m. Also slight frost inland glens early morning.

**All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 18 January, 2026**

A slow-moving weather pattern onward into early next week with chilly air in place across the British Isles, mountains staying near to freezing point in Scotland, typically just above freezing to high tops in England and Wales for a few days. Some weak fronts try to push in from the west bringing occasional rain and hill snow, amounts generally small. High pressure around Scandinavia is likely to dominate the patterns into the later stages of January, with colder air trying to push in from the east, much mountain terrain will be frozen. Occasional snow likely, generally driest in the northwest.

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.