

The Northwest Highlands

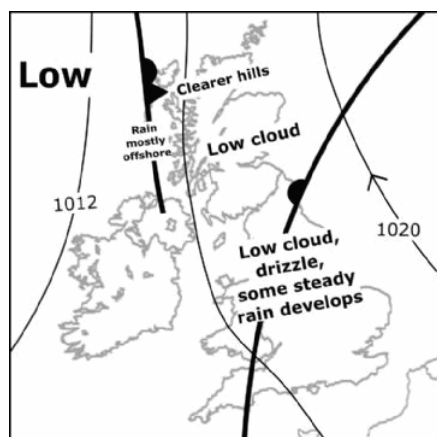
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Sunday, 18 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 18 January, 2026

Cloudy and damp air over many hills, more persistent rain and drizzle develops over northern England and east Wales. Clearer toward north-northwest Scotland. Near or below freezing on Scottish mountains. South to southeasterly winds, gusty in places; strongest toward Skye.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Strongest wind west. Patchy cloud, clearer northwest coasts.

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 18 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly, 25 to 35mph, strongest west, at times 40mph Skye, suddenly gusty on some downslopes to the north of high tops.
Effect of wind on you?	Affecting ease of walking and balance on tops, more challenging in places on Cuillin. Varied lower down, but in places very blustery. Considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Largely dry, possible showers Skye Most places dry all day. Occasional light rain spots around Skye, possibly some showery rain coming in from south afternoon, snow falling mainly over highest tops.
Cloud on the hills?	Patchy cloud, clearer northwestern hills Some fog banks glens and lower slopes, fragments of cloud around some upper slopes, but many western tops north of Torridon often clear. Cloud banks more common on higher slopes on Skye, lowest southern Cuillin.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70%, but 30% Cuillin.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sunshine best in north/northwest coastal areas where visibility very good. Hazy or misty toward south Cuillin. Some fog in eastern glens.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or -1C inland, up to +1C some west and northwest coastal areas. Feeling like -10C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Inland near or just below freezing from many glens upward, but near W/NW coast typically above freezing up to 900-1000m.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Monday 19 January	Tuesday 20 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	South to southeasterly 30mph, up to 40mph Cuillin and nearby mainland, particularly gusty downslopes to north. Affecting comfortable walking, on exposed ridges balance more challenging in west. Significant wind chill.	Southeasterly 25 to 35mph, tending to strengthen around Skye, very gusty in places including downslope to north. Affecting comfortable walking and making balance challenging on exposed ridges, particularly Skye; marked wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	A little rain or snow Patchy areas of rain, or snow flurries mostly on higher terrain, most frequent near coast around Skye. Small amounts inland, largely dry toward the far north.	A little rain, snow on tops Patchy areas of rain moving northwards, snow falling mostly above 800-900m. Small amounts most western areas north of Torridon.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied, but often clear northwest 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.	Varied, better northwest Banks of cloud persistent over some hills, best breaks near to coasts Ullapool north.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% Skye, to 60% near NW coast.	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A little weak sun mostly in far north. Visibility good away from cloud, poorer on Skye if damp.	Glimpses of weak sun mostly northwest coastal areas. Visibility good toward north/northwest, hazier around Skye.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0 or 1C, small change with height inland. Feeling like -12C where exposed to wind. 900 to 1000m. Also slight frost inland glens early morning.	0 or 1C. Wind chill feeling near -10C. 900 to 1000m. Patchy slight frost some lower slopes.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 19 January, 2026

South to southeasterly winds prevail into the new week, trending more easterly in Scotland, widely strengthening to become persistently windy, gales over mountains with powerful gusts. Mountains staying near to freezing point in Scotland, typically just above freezing to high tops in England and Wales for a few days. Initially weak fronts try to push in from the west bringing occasional rain and high-level snow, then some more persistent falls later in the week; generally driest in northwest Scotland. Colder air trying to move in from the east into later January, leaving most mountain terrain frozen in the longer range.

Forecast issued at 15:30 on Saturday, 17 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.