

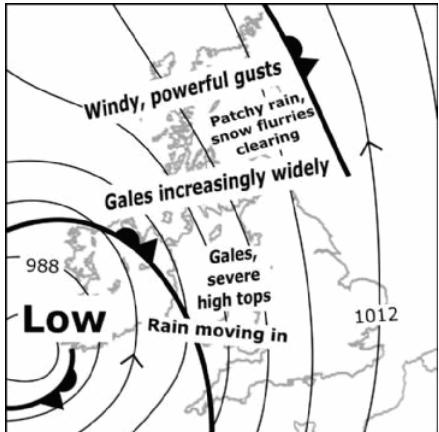
The Northwest Highlands

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 Tuesday, 20 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 20 January, 2026

Strong southeasterlies, gusting gale-force Scottish mountains, strengthening widely. Gales all day for Wales, severe on high tops, increasingly northern England also. Some light rain and hill snow flurries, mostly eastern Scotland, fading with rising cloud base. Heavier rain develops in south Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Windy, strengthening. Largely dry, patchy cloud.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 20 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 25 to 35mph, tending to strengthen around Skye, often 40mph high tops, very gusty in places including downslope to north. By dusk onward widely reaching 50mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Affecting comfortable walking and making balance challenging on exposed ridges, particularly Skye; marked wind chill. Deteriorating further up to and beyond dusk.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Often dry, rare light rain, snow on tops Small amounts of patchy rain moving northwards, snow flurries mostly above 800-900m. Small amounts most western areas north of Torridon, often dry all day.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied, better northwest Banks of cloud persistent over hills inland, toward east and the Great Glen, often above 800m, some patchy lower banks. Best breaks near to coasts Ullapool north, many hills often clearing.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%, to 70% northwest
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of weak sun mostly northwest coastal areas. Visibility good toward north/northwest, hazier around Skye.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 to 2C. Wind chill feeling near -10C, later in day nearer -15C.
Freezing Level	900 to 1000m, higher northwards. Patchy slight frost some lower slopes.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 21 January	Thursday 22 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 40 to 50mph, in places 60mph, powerful gusts downslope to some lower terrain in the west.	East to southeasterly 50 to 60mph, in places 70mph around high mountains; powerful gusts downslope toward west.
Effect of wind on you?	Challenging conditions widely, walking difficult in exposure on high terrain. Significant wind chill.	Difficult conditions, mobility challenging and gusts may knock you over not just on highest terrain. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain most frequent eastern hills Rain mostly over eastern areas, snow falling above 800-900m. Intermittent rain extending westwards, but small amounts much of the west coast.	Snow mostly northeast In eastern areas, snow to increasingly lower elevations, frequent or may be persistent Easter Ross up to Ben Hope. Further west, odd spots or flurries in the wind, but often dry toward Skye.
Cloud on the hills?	Most persistent east, breaks west coast Often covering eastern hills from Ben Hope to Ben Wyvis, from some mid-slopes up; patchier cloud westwards, but capping tops on and off at least; clearer near Torridon.	Fairly extensive, more broken west Low cloud banks likely to cover many eastern hills, some drifting over higher slopes further westwards, best breaks toward Skye and coastal Wester Ross.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of weak sun mostly near west coast, where visibility very good, reduced around rain further east.	A little weak sun west coast, good visibility toward Skye, cloudier north and east and rather hazy, poor visibility if in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 to 2C, highest near west coast. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C where exposed on higher areas.	-2C in east and north, but some upper slopes near west coast up to +2C. Wind chill feels as cold as -15 to -20C.
Freezing Level	900 to 1000m, but likely just above freezing to higher tops near west coast.	Variable in west, just above freezing to tops near coast, but 600-800m inland and east, may drop widely below 600m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 21 January, 2026

Strong east to southeasterlies continue beyond midweek, sustained gales over most mountains with powerful gusts downslope toward west. Near or just below freezing on higher tops - colder air is likely to move into Scotland at least late in the week, much mountain terrain then frozen with severe chill factor. Scope for substantial snowfalls over eastern Scottish hills later this week. Sleet or snow mostly higher tops in England and Wales, may fall lower over the weekend. Low cloud often covering many hills across Britain, clearer and drier toward western coasts. Circulating low pressure and cold air likely into next week, with further snowfalls likely.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Monday, 19 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.