

# The Northwest Highlands

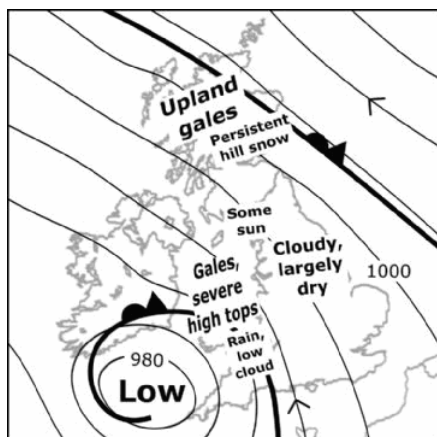
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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## General Summary for Saturday, 24 January, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

#### Based on forecast chart for noon 24 January, 2026

Gales widely across high terrain, strongest sustained speeds over Wales. Snowfall continues over east and southeast Scottish Highlands mountains, whiteout on higher terrain; rain lower down. Largely dry and clearer further northwest. Clearer also for the Lake District. Rain frequent in south Wales.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales, very gusty. Patchy snow east/north, clearer west.

## Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 24 January, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	East to southeasterly 35 to 50mph, powerful gusts downslope to the west.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Challenging conditions; walking and balance difficult in exposed areas, buffeting gusts lower down; severe wind chill.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Snow mostly northeast hills</b> Snow flurries mostly eastern hills, sleet or rain lower slopes toward east coast; more frequent or persistent near/north of Dornoch Firth. Very little across most west coast mountains.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Most persistent northeast, breaks west</b> Covering eastern hills from Ben Hope to Ben Wyvis most or all day, to mid-slopes or lower near to North Sea. Higher and more broken cloud west and southwest toward Skye and Torridon, at times clearing tops.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>20% east/north, to 50% near Skye.</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of weak sun west coast, where visibility good below cloud, though some haze. Otherwise cloudy, poor visibility where in snow locally in east.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-1 or -2C inland, north and east, up to +1C coastal tops around Skye. Directly in the wind feeling like -15 to -18C.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	500-600m in east & northern areas, higher toward Wester Ross and Skye, 800m or above freezing to upper slopes on some coastal mountains.

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 25 January	Monday 26 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	East to southeasterly, speed tending to lessen during day, in range 30 to 50mph, very gusty in west.	Southeasterly 30-35mph, soon strengthening, reaching a sustained 50-55mph with powerful gusts overnight.
Effect of wind on you?	Challenging walking conditions may persist over much higher terrain, buffeting gusts lower down. Significant wind chill	Walking soon becomes challenging with buffeting making balance difficult in exposure. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Intermittent hill snow northeast Snow flurries mostly east and northernmost areas, sleet or rain lower elevations. Small amounts or often dry Wester Ross to Skye.	Local light snow Patchy light snow will drift into Caithness with some spots in the wind drifting further west. Some patches may reach Kintail as well. The west coast likely remains dry.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, breaks west  Often covering many high tops, lowest cloud base eastern areas from Ben Hope to Ben Wyvis. Some breaks higher up near to western coasts, Skye to Torridon.	Higher bases and broken west coast  Cloud often shrouding the high terrain of Kintail, Easter Ross, and Caithness, bases reaching middle slopes during snow. More broken on the west coast, typically on high terrain. Cloud confined to high terrain on Skye, some breaks to summits may occur.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun mostly west coastal areas where visibility good. Hazier north/east, poorer in snow/rain.	Often bright or sunny along the west coast, high cloud arriving to the south with time. Very good visibility here too, poorer east where in cloud/snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1 or -2C, but locally up to +1C some west coast higher terrain, including Skye. Feeling like -10 to -15C in the wind.	-3C. Feeling like -15 to -20C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	600m or slightly lower in some northeastern areas, but nearer 800m further west, locally higher west coast.	400-500m. Frost in inland glens in the morning as well.

## Planning Outlook

**All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 25 January, 2026**

East to southeasterlies continue onward into next week, frequently strong to gale-force over the mountains, giving severe chill factor. Below freezing across high terrain in Scotland, and into early next week a lowering freezing level over hills in England and Wales. Frequent or persistent snowfall over east and southern Scottish mountains. Patchier and small amounts reaching coastal regions in west-northwest Scotland. Areas of rain and increasingly hill snow push across England and Wales as low pressure remains dominant. Low cloud often covering many hills.

**Forecast issued at 15:35 on Friday, 23 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.