

The Northwest Highlands

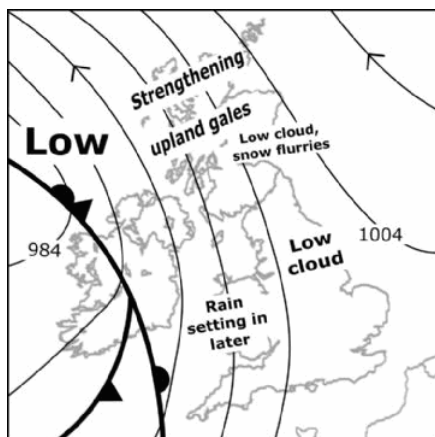
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Monday, 26 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 26 January, 2026

Gale-force and very gusty southeasterly winds Scottish mountains, tending to strengthen. Patchy snow and low cloud affects the eastern Highlands; largely dry and clearer toward west/northwest. Some cloud breaks for the Lakes. Rain and upland gales moves into Wales from the west in the afternoon.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Upland gales, gusty. Largely dry, cloud breaks west coast.

Detailed Forecast for Monday, 26 January, 2026

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|--|---|
| How windy? (On the Munros) | East-southeasterly 35 to 45mph, powerful gusts downslope to some lower ground in west; generally strengthening, sustained 50-60mph into afternoon-evening. |
| Effect of wind on you? | Walking soon becomes challenging with buffeting gusts making balance difficult in exposure, generally deteriorating to become widely difficult. Severe wind chill. |
| How wet? (Precipitation and its impact) | Local light snow, largely dry west 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? | Higher bases and broken west coast Cloud often shrouding the high terrain of Easter Ross and Caithness, bases reaching middle slopes during snow. More broken toward west coast and Skye, mostly just patches on high terrain, clearing tops for periods. |
| Chance of cloud free Munros? | 30%, up to 70% nearest west coast. |
| Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud) | 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) | -2 or -3C. Feeling like -15 to -20C in direct wind. |
| Freezing Level | 400-500m, up to 600m Skye/Torridon or slightly higher some coastal slopes. Local frost in some inland glens in the morning as well. |

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

| | Tuesday 27 January | Wednesday 28 January |
|--|---|--|
| How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you? | East-southeasterly 55-65mph, soon rising, reaching sustained speeds of 70-80mph, with powerful gusts downslope. Widely difficult conditions - mobility likely only by crawling in full force of wind and gusts. Severe wind chill. | Southeasterly 40 to 60mph - some uncertainty, peak speeds varying, generally strongest toward west coast. Difficult conditions with powerful gusts to some lower slopes. Significant wind chill. Chance of local improvements. |
| How wet? (Precipitation and its impact) | Snow inland and east slopes Snow on and off on eastern slopes from Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope. Only wind-blown snow reaching Wester Ross and Skye, very little if any towards the coast. | Patchy rain, sleet/snow some tops Rain may be frequent or more persistent for a few hours, some snow on high tops mainly inland. |
| Cloud on the hills? | Breaks to high terrain near west coast Cloud shrouds high terrain from Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope most or all day, and likely Skye too - bases reaching to middle slopes during snow. Higher bases and often broken towards coastal Wester Ross, some summits may see clear periods. | Varied, clearer northwest coasts Covering eastern hills and south Cuillin much of day to mid-slopes. More broken and higher in west north of Torridon. |
| Chance of cloud free Munros? | 20% inland/east, up to 40% west. | 30% |
| Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud) | Mostly cloudy, some bright periods on low western terrain. Good visibility, though suddenly poor during snowfalls. | Glimpses of sun mainly coastal areas near Ullapool. Visibility good, though some haze near coast, poorer if in rain. |
| How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level | -3C, locally near 0C Skye/west coast slopes. Feeling like -18 to -23C in strongest wind. 400-500m. Locally much more variable near west coast, above freezing point to some higher elevations. | 0 or +1C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C. 800 to 1000m, but just above freezing on many west coastal higher slopes. Patchy frost some glens from dawn. |

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 27 January, 2026

Powerful southeasterlies prevail across Scotland this week and many indications favour strong east or southeasterly winds onward into the first half of February. Scottish mountains are expected stay below freezing in the extended range, fresh heavy snowfalls giving substantial depths and drifts across south and eastern areas, much less snow northwestward. Hills in England and Wales will see varying freezing levels, sub-zero for periods to 600m or lower, but intermittently lifting just above the tops - a mix of rain and upland snowfall. A generally unsettled pattern with Atlantic lows continuing to frequently circulate over Britain on a southerly track, whilst high pressure resides away to the north.

Forecast issued at 16:16 on Sunday, 25 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.