

The Northwest Highlands

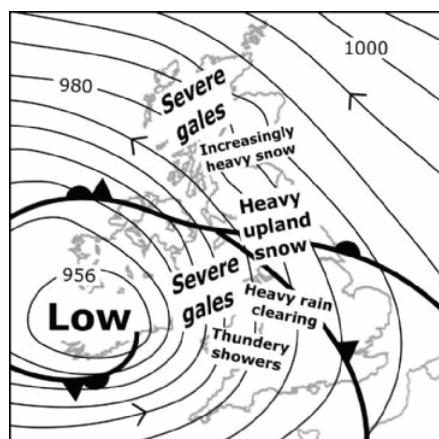
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Tuesday, 27 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 27 January, 2026

Severe conditions - storm-force winds on mountains, damaging gusts to some lower terrain. Extensive hill snow for N England & S Scotland, snow setting in heavier with time for southern Highlands; blizzard conditions widely, rain only lower slopes. Showery bursts follow in Wales with risk of hail and thunder.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Increasingly severe gales. Patchy snow east, largely dry west.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 27 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	East-southeasterly 55-65mph, soon rising, reaching sustained speeds of 70-80mph, with powerful gusts downslope.
Effect of wind on you?	Widely difficult conditions - mobility likely only by crawling in full force of wind and gusts. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow inland and eastern hills Snow on and off on eastern slopes from Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope, persistent at times, though small amounts. Only wind-blown snow reaching Wester Ross and Skye, very little if any towards the coast.
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.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% inland/east, up to 40% west.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly cloudy, some bright periods on low western terrain. Good visibility west coast, though a general haze most areas, though suddenly poor during snowfalls.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C, locally near 0C Skye/west coast slopes. Feeling like -18 to -23C in strongest wind.
Freezing Level	400-500m. Locally much more variable near west coast, above freezing point to some higher elevations. Rising variably to 800m or above evening-night.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 28 January	Thursday 29 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 30 to 50mph - strongest toward west coast, may ease further.	East to southeasterly 35 to 45mph, very gusty in places downslope toward west.
Effect of wind on you?	Risk of challenging conditions particularly Skye, less further east, but blustery and gusty in places. Significant wind chill.	Challenging walking on exposed higher terrain, buffeting gusts locally lower down. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	A little rain or sleet fading Rain for a few hours around dawn, some snow on high tops mainly inland. Soon fading, leaving most of day dry.	Occasional snow mostly northeast Snow flurries mostly over hills from Ben Hope to Easter Ross, sleet or rain on lower slopes toward coast. Rare light flurries or spots of rain elsewhere.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly east, clearer west coasts Covering eastern hills much of day to mid-slopes. More broken and higher across most western mountains, some hills largely clear. Patches may drift onto south Cuillin.	Often covering eastern tops, breaks west Fairly persistent cloud banks over eastern hills, bases mostly above 800m inland with breaks higher up Wester Ross and Skye.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sun mostly west coast, weak at times through high cloud. Visibility very good west, more haze toward east coast.	Occasional sun mostly near west coast around Torridon where visibility good. Hazier further east and north.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or +1C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -13C.	-1C inland and east, up to +1C locally nearest to west coast and on Skye. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -15C.
Freezing Level	800 to 1000m, but just above freezing on many west coastal higher slopes. Patchy frost some glens from dawn.	700 to 800m, or slightly lower toward Caithness. Higher toward west coast, just above freezing on some upper slopes.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 28 January, 2026

Strong east or southeasterly winds likely to prevail onward into early 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 16:20 on Monday, 26 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.