

The Northwest Highlands

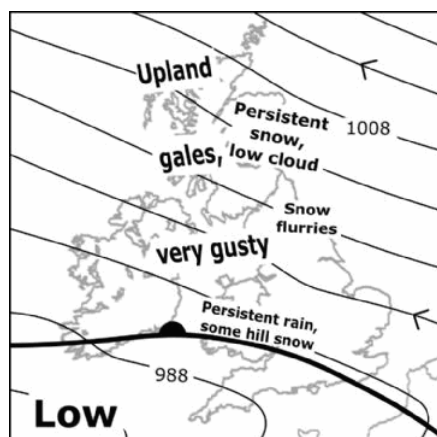
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Tuesday, 3 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 3 February, 2026

Feeling bitterly cold in gale force easterly winds over the hills. Snow falling to lower slopes, most constant in eastern Scotland with further drifting and whiteout over hills. Snow flurries over the Pennines. Some cloud breaks near west coasts. Rain and increasingly hill snow for Wales, persistent in southeast.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales, gusty. Snow east, largely dry west, cloud breaks.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 3 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Easterly 35 to 50mph, very gusty in places around higher mountains and downslope west of high terrain, particularly toward west coast.
Effect of wind on you?	Challenging walking conditions over exposed terrain, gusts knocking you off balance. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow mostly east and north Snow frequent or persistent eastern hills from Ben Wyvis area up to Ben Hope. Further west, lighter flurries, rare near coast, often dry Skye and near Torridon.
Cloud on the hills?	Most persistent east, breaks west Covering much higher eastern terrain above 600m, 800m further inland, but often higher and more broken westwards, but grazing higher slopes for periods.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10% east, to 50% west coast near Skye.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun mainly near Skye, where visibility mostly good. Very poor if in snow and cloud east/north, whiteout on some higher terrain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4C north and east, to -1C near west coast. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -18C.
Freezing Level	300-400m Caithness to Easter Ross, up to 600m more western areas, or locally varied higher up on Skye and nearby coast.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 4 February	Thursday 5 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Easterly 35 to 50mph, very gusty, strongest speeds and gusts toward the north, often 50mph all day Ben Hope. Challenging conditions with frequent buffeting gusts, often difficult over northern mountains. Significant wind chill.	Southeasterly 25 to 40mph, gusty in places, including downslope to west. Walking strenuous in exposure, frequent buffeting gusts making balance challenging in places. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow mostly east Snow frequent or persistent over eastern hills from Ben Wyvis area to Caithness and at times Ben Hope, sleet or rain lowest slopes. Patchy flurries westward, often dry much of west coast.	Snow northeast tops Snow flurries mostly eastern hills near and north of Dornoch Firth, may be more frequent snow at times on tops, mostly rain below 600m. Largely dry west coast, particularly Skye.
Cloud on the hills?	Most persistent east, breaks west Cloud covering higher mountains inland above 800m, or to some lower elevations toward eastern coasts. Further west, higher and more broken, best toward Torridon coast and Skye.	Mostly east, breaks west Cloud banks persistent inland and toward east & north above 600 to 800m, lowest near North Sea. Higher and more broken cloud westwards, patches mostly on high tops, often clearer Skye and south of Torridon.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%	40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, dull and misty eastern hills, poor visibility risk whiteout in fog and snow. Brighter toward west coast, local glimpses of sun and good visibility below cloud.	Sun mostly west coastal hills toward Skye with very good visibility. Cloudier inland, hazier north and east, poor visibility in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-3C, up to -1C near Skye, rising slightly during day. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -17C. 300-400m in east, to 600m or locally higher toward west coast. Possible variable rise further onward into night.	0 to -2C, coldest north/east, up to +1C nearest west coast and on Skye. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -13C. 700 to 900m, lowest toward east where may drop further; locally varied higher up toward west coast and on Skye.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 4 February, 2026

East or southeasterly winds prevail, strong to gale force over many hills for sustained periods this week. Freezing levels will vary, rising briefly during Wednesday from the south, but lowering widely again below 600m during Thursday, tending to lift again over England and Wales on Friday, then possibly rising just above freezing point to higher mountains in Scotland during the weekend, before colder air returns again next week. Further snowfalls mostly over eastern hills in Scotland, occasionally hills in England & Wales, mixed with rain here. Indications of less precipitation and lower wind speeds more often by early next week. Highest cloud breaks generally west & northwest Scotland.

Forecast issued at 16:15 on Monday, 2 February, 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.