

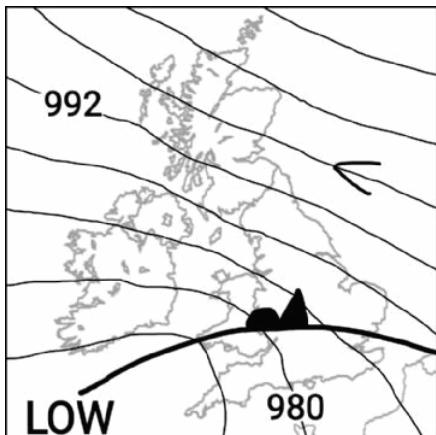
# The Northwest Highlands

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 Thursday, 5 February, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

#### Based on forecast chart for noon 5 February, 2026

Gale-force easterly winds, up to storm-force over the tops of the Highlands with severe wind chill; powerful gusts downslope into the glens. Further snowfalls over E & SE Highlands, sleet or rain lower down; low cloud and whiteout over hills. England and Wales: Rain and upland snow focused east Wales and into Pennines.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Easterly gales with snow and hill fog focused in northeast. Best breaks Skye.

## Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 5 February, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	East to southeasterly 45 to 60mph, powerful gusts around higher mountains and downslope to the west.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Difficult mobility, violent gusts may knock you over in places. Sudden ferocious gusts running downslope into some glens. Severe wind chill.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Snow northeast tops</b> Snow flurries mostly eastern hills near and north of Dornoch Firth, more frequent snow at times on tops, initially rain below 500m, becoming snow lower down with time. Substantially or completely dry west coast, particularly Skye.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Mostly east, breaks west</b> 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.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>40%, but 70% on and near Skye.</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Sun mostly west coastal hills toward Skye with very good visibility. Cloudier inland, hazier north and east, poor visibility in precipitation.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	0 to -2C, coldest north/east, tending to lower more widely during day. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -15C.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	700m dropping to 500m with time in east; locally varied to 900m or above for a time toward west coast and on Skye.

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 6 February	Saturday 7 February
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Easterly 40 to 55mph, powerful gusts around higher mountains and downslope to the west.	Easterly 25 to 40mph, perhaps higher in the morning around Ben Hope.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Difficult mobility on high terrain, buffeting gusts knocking you off balance some lower slopes. Severe wind chill.</b>	<b>Walking fairly arduous with significant buffeting and wind chill, most marked toward Ben Hope.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Snow mostly east and north</b> Frequent snow over eastern hills from Ben Wyvis area to Caithness and at times Ben Hope, sleet or rain only lowest slopes. Flurries extend west to Ullapool, but few if any coastal Wester Ross to Skye.	<b>Patchy precipitation mainly in the east.</b> Patchy snow or flurries, rain below 300m later 700m; mainly hills near and east of A836 from Tongue to Lairg. West of Ben Hope and down to Skye, very little if any.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Lowest and most persistent east</b> Covering mountains above 600-800m in east, or lower nearest the North Sea. Fairly extensive above 800-1000m in west, some breaks toward Torridon and Skye.	<b>Extensive, but good breaks west coast and Skye.</b> Extensive coverage across hills from Ben Hope, east of A836 toward coast, where bases around 500-700m. Higher bases further west, best breaks to tops Skye.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, glimpses of sun mostly toward Torridon coast. Hazy, visibility poor in snow, whiteout in cloud on tops.	Patchy sun toward west coast in an otherwise overcast atmosphere. Hazy, best visibility west coast, poor or very poor in snowfall.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-4C north and east, to -2C toward west coast and on Skye. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C.	-4C lifting to near freezing in the afternoon.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	300-400m east and northern areas, up to 600m further westward, or variably higher up nearest to west coast around Skye.	400-600m, lifting to 800-900m from south.

## Planning Outlook

## All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 6 February, 2026

Cold east or southeasterly winds prevail, but less cold widely over the weekend as freezing level lifts somewhat from the south, rising just above freezing point in Scotland toward 1000m. Colder air then likely returns from east 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 for periods during next week. Highest cloud breaks west & northwest Scotland, where terrain will be very dry toward west coast.

## Forecast issued at 16:39 on Wednesday, 4 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.