

The Northwest Highlands

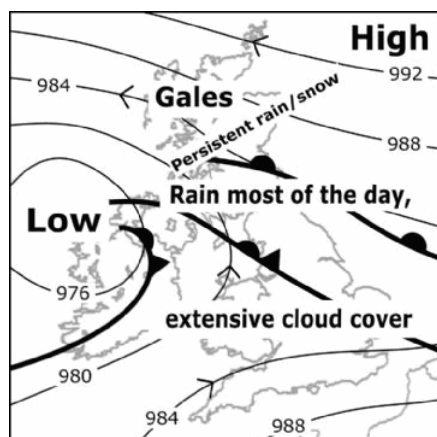
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Wednesday, 11 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 11 February, 2026

Windy for many, gale force gusts in Scotland, most powerful west. Snowing south and east Highlands (whiteout on high terrain), only patchy west; rain to lower slopes at first. Extensive cloud from southern Scotland through England and Wales and often raining, heaviest south and west slopes. Lighter wind southern Pennines.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales with powerful gusts; often snowing central and north areas

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 11 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Easterly 40 to 45mph, powerful gusts in places over high ground and towards the west, reaching 55mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Widely arduous walking with significant wind chill and buffeting - strongest gusts likely require bracing to maintain balance.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent showery snow from the east, only odd spots to Skye Frequent showery snow driving in from the east affects the Munros from Kintail to Ben Hope much of the day, including the northwest coast; mostly rain below 300-400m, the snowfall level lowering with time. Only odd spots reaching coastal mountains south of Torridon, including Skye.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, but cloud base higher toward Skye Most hills persistently cloud covered above 800m, bases often lower to the east, as low as 500m Ullapool to Assynt. Typically nearer 600-700m west coast. South from about Torridon, higher cloud base, typically 800 to perhaps 1050m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Less than 10%, but 40% near Skye
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun western hills, best chance around Skye, but high cloud weakens sunshine. Very poor or appalling visibility in snow, locally very good near Skye/Torridon.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C Skye to -4C in the far north. Southern areas lowering to -2 or -3C with time, highest temperatures always around Skye/Torridon; further lowering after dark. Will feel as cold as -15 to -20C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	500-700m from dawn, or locally higher Skye and Torridon. Lowering from the north, 400-500m by evening, lowering further into night.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 12 February	Friday 13 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	East-northeasterly 30-40mph, trending northeasterly and easing with time, 25-30mph, always strongest south. Arduous walking with severe wind chill early, slowly easing with time, though always blustery in exposure.	North-northeasterly, some slight variability in direction through the day, 20-30mph, at times stronger on high tops. Blustery on high terrain all day with significant wind chill; walking may become strenuous at times.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Early snow south, then northern showers Some early snow in southern and eastern areas. Becoming drier for a time, then patchy snow showers arrive onto northern Munros and slowly move south.	Snow showers Snow showers affect north and west coastal slopes most of the day, all the way to Skye, some hail mixed in as well, small risk an odd lightning flash north. Showers at times push inland too.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Mostly high terrain, well-broken north/west Cloud mostly on high terrain from Kintail to Ben Hope and east, western hills often clear. With time, cloud becomes well-broken in the north, though some patches will increasingly drift down north and west coast high terrain. 60%	Patchy cloud on high terrain Patchy cloud drifts onto coastal slopes all day, mostly on higher terrain, lowest bases near Ben Hope to 800m; towards the south, summits will see breaks. The inland south often, but not always, cloud-free. 60%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Frequent bursts of sunshine in the north and west, most often cloudy east but glimpses here too. Excellent visibility.	Sunshine in-and-out near the coast, more consistent inland. Excellent visibility away from snow showers.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-4C, dropping a degree in the far north; may start slightly warmer Skye. Feeling like -20C (colder early) in strongest wind. Most terrain frozen, locally to glen level north/east; up to 500m Skye early, lowering with time.	-6 or -7C, rising a degree or two in the sun. Feeling like -20C or colder in strongest direct wind. Nearly all terrain frozen from dawn, just some coastal slopes/Skye up to 300-400m. Some thawing on sun-exposed low slopes.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 12 February, 2026

Becoming colder for all areas during the transition into the weekend, with much mountain terrain frozen again to increasingly lower elevations - soonest toward the north and east of Scotland. A widespread frost is likely early on Saturday. Northeasterly wind will be dominant - the distribution of snow showers shifting with time from eastern hills to more north-facing mountains, particularly Scotland. Away from showers later in the week, brighter than recently with sunshine and clearer hills, most likely later Friday and Saturday.

Unsettled weather returns on Sunday, with a more active week likely to follow, dominated by west-to-northwesterly winds - most precipitation in the west with some freeze-thaw cycles in central and southern areas.

Forecast issued at 16:20 on Tuesday, 10 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.