

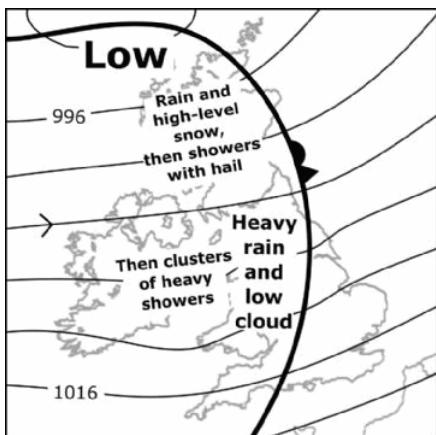
The Northwest Highlands

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 Friday, 20 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 20 February, 2026

Extensive gale-force southwesterlies. A rise of freezing level toward higher tops in Scotland, where early hill snow soon turns mostly to rain. Lifting above freezing to highest tops in England & Wales by dawn, a few hours of heavy rain. Clusters of heavy showers follow into all western areas with hail, a chance of thunder.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Soon widely upland gales. Rain then heavy showers in west.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 20 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Starting southwesterly 25-35mph in north, but very soon from dawn rising on Skye and nearby, to 45-55mph, extending to all areas during morning; a westerly shift in afternoon. Powerful squally gusts.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking soon becoming challenging with significant wind chill on high terrain; maintaining stability a constant effort.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain, briefly snow tops, then showery Persistent rain Skye and west coast from dawn, sleet or wet snow on higher areas at first, soon becoming mostly rain toward the tops. Rain extends northeastward, replaced by showery conditions in west, some heavy bursts with hail, chance isolated thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, brief breaks inland/north Extensive cloud from middle slopes up Skye/Torridon, to lower slopes during rain. Also often to middle slopes along the west coast, some breaks to higher slopes during rain cessations, best chance of high breaks well inland, but these likely only brief.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Often cloudy but a few bright or sunny breaks well inland and north. Visibility often poor, but excellent during breaks in cloud and rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0C at and before dawn, soon rising, reaching +2 or 3C. Feeling like -13C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	Varied around 800m at first, locally lower inland, patchy frost into some northern glens. Soon generally rising, to 1000m, or higher near coast and Skye.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 21 February	Sunday 22 February
How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly, 25mph early in the day, but strengthening to be in range 35 to 45mph, later over 50mph Skye to Kintail.	Southwesterly 40 to 50mph, frequent squally gusts in showers, at times to 60mph on higher tops.
Effect of wind on you?	A relative lull in morning, but walking conditions likely to become arduous again with time, risk more difficult later.	Challenging conditions over the mountains, frequent buffeting making walking arduous in exposure. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Often raining, becoming heavier Rain on and off widely, most persistent western mountains around Skye and Torridon, briefly starting as sleet above 900m. Rain likely setting in widely heavier from the southwest afternoon.	Frequent rain, hail, snow high tops Generally showery, but merging into near-constant precipitation over western mountains, heavy bursts with hail, snow falling mostly above 900m. Risk of isolated thunder, mainly in west.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive Blanketing the mountains all day, from lower elevations upward near west coast and Skye. Locally higher bases inland and eastward, but rarely above 600-800m.	Fairly extensive higher areas Covering the mountains much of the time above 800 to 1000m, but cloud bases will vary in and out of showers. Occasionally forming to 600m in west. Some breaks higher up inland and east.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast and dull west, some brighter skies possibly toward north/east for a time. Visibility generally poor, locally better early in day north/eastern areas.	Glimpses of sun mostly eastern areas. Visibility occasionally very good, but often reduced by showers, at times poor in west.
How Cold? (at 900m)	1C at first, soon rising to 3 or 4C. Where exposed to increasing wind on tops, feeling like -7 to -10C.	1C. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -15C on tops.
Freezing Level	1000-1100m around dawn, soon rising above the summits.	1000 to 1100m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 21 February, 2026

Southwesterly winds brings milder conditions into this weekend - lifting above freezing to tops in England and Wales with substantial thawing, and generally higher freezing levels in Scotland; periods of thawing to Munro summits will occur but also further snowfall and refreezing on higher terrain during the day-to-day variability of precipitation and freezing levels onward into early next week. Likely colder later next week, back below freezing on higher terrain for a run of days. Often windy with periods of upland gales. Some spells of heavy rain over all western hills and low cloud frequently covering the hills.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Thursday, 19 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.