

# The Northwest Highlands

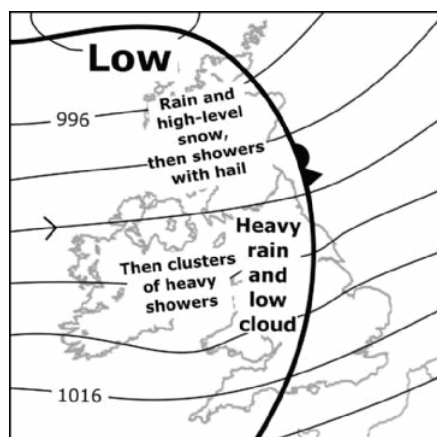
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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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

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	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.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Walking soon becoming challenging with significant wind chill on high terrain; maintaining stability a constant effort.</b>
<b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b>	<b>Rain, briefly snow tops, then showery</b> 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.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Fairly extensive, brief breaks inland/north</b> 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.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> 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.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	0C at and before dawn, soon rising, reaching +2 or 3C. Feeling like -13C in direct wind.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	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.

[illegible]

**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.

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.