

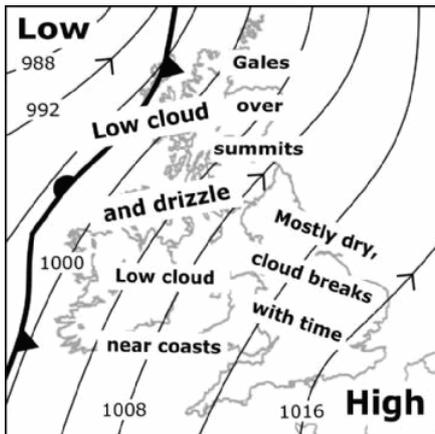
The Northwest Highlands

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, 24 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 24 February, 2026

Widely windy, gales over high terrain and more widely Scottish Highlands. Most rain in northwest Scotland with extensive coastal cloud, some drizzle on other high northwestern terrain with low cloud, most persistent on south/west aspects. Largely dry central and east areas, early low cloud, sun breaks with time.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales, severe west coast hills; drizzly Skye, more widely later

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 24 February, 2026

| | |
|--|---|
| How windy? (On the Munros) | Southwesterly 40-50mph and gusty. Strongest wind west coast, strongest gusts to 60mph. |
| Effect of wind on you? | Challenging conditions over exposed higher terrain, frequent buffeting down to mid-heights will require constant effort to maintain stability, particularly near the coast. Significant wind chill despite milder air. |
| How wet? (Precipitation and its impact) | Light rain on and near Skye, patches more widely afternoon Light rain and drizzle often affecting high terrain of Skye and up to Torridon. Afternoon brings broader areas of rain across Skye and patches northward along coastal hills, some reaching towards Easter Ross too. Wet underfoot where snow melts. |
| Cloud on the hills? | Fairly extensive, lowest Skye, chance breaks for a time Shrouding the mountains widely, from lower slopes up around Skye, and Kintail, nearer 600-800m northward along the coast. Through the morning, local breaks are likely, to higher terrain or even summits inland and north, though the chance of clear hills reduces with time. |
| Chance of cloud free Munros? | 40% inland north, widely lowering to 20% |
| Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud) | Generally cloudy and murky toward west, poor visibility Skye and nearby coast. Better visibility eastward with bright and sunny breaks but also some haze. |
| How Cold? (at 900m) | Variable between 3 to 5C most areas, typically mildest towards the north. In exposure to wind, feeling like -8 to -10C. |
| Freezing Level | Above all summits with thawing to upper slopes, though icy surfaces remain on high tops with local refrozen snow patches. |

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

| | Wednesday 25 February | Thursday 26 February |
|--|--|---|
| How windy? (On the Munros) | Southwesterly 15-25mph; notable gusts, not just on high slopes. | Southwesterly 30-45mph, some variability in this range and notable gusts on high terrain. |
| Effect of wind on you? | Fairly small, though walking at times affected by buffeting gusts. | Walking at least strenuous and often arduous with considerable buffeting in exposure and significant wind chill. |
| How wet? (Precipitation and its impact) | Rain most of the day Rain affects Skye and west coastal mountains persistently, from before dawn. Inland mountains see some dry periods but rain regularly spreads here too. | Pulses of rain/snow, locally frequent Bands of rain will sweep west-to-east, showery rain lingering on and near Skye between pulses. Falling largely as snow from 900m up. Well inland and north will see dry periods between the band of rain. |
| Cloud on the hills? | Extensive A sheet of cloud shrouds the west coastal hills from middle or lower slopes upward, Skye in particular nearly constantly shrouded to low slopes. Higher breaks possible Ben Wyvis and hills east of Ullapool, but unlikely above 700-800m. | Variable, best breaks inland north During pulses of rain, fog shrouds high terrain with lowest bases as low as 600-700m during heaviest falls. Drier periods bring higher bases, likely with breaks to inland summits. On Skye, cloud banks likely persist from middle slopes up all day. |
| Chance of cloud free Munros? | 10% | 50% inland Munros, 20% Skye and nearby |
| Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud) | A few brighter moments towards the east, otherwise overcast and dull. Mostly poor visibility in cloud and rain. | Bright/sunny bursts during breaks in the rain, best inland. Mixed visibility, at times very good, though very poor if in snow. |
| How Cold? (at 900m) | 5C; only small change with added height. Feeling below freezing in direct wind. | Variable between 0 to 2C, likely coolest around the midday hours. Feeling like -12 to -15C in direct wind. |
| Freezing Level | Above the summits. | 900-1100m, some variability through the day; lowering overnight. |

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 25 February, 2026**

West to southwesterly winds prevail from mid-week into the weekend as areas of low pressure move toward northwest Scotland; regular rainfall here, most frequent and heavy over western mountains. Bands of rain from the west also affecting England and Wales. Milder temperatures from mid-week with freezing levels above all summits for a few days, substantial thawing to the summits in England and Wales, some high slope thawing in Scotland too. Extensive gales, only a brief easing on Wednesday, then soon unsettled again with cooler temperatures returning, showery west with bands of rain passing east, some snow on Scottish Munros. Some drier, brighter weather is possible over the weekend, though interruptions by bands of rain are likely with low confidence in detail.

Forecast issued at 15:59 on Monday, 23 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.