

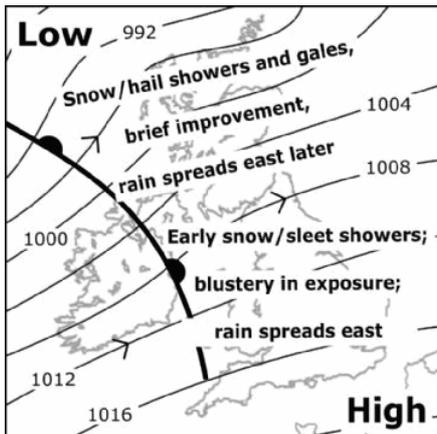
# The Northwest Highlands

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 Monday, 16 March, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 16 March, 2026**

Snow and hail showers affect most areas in the morning, frequent over western hills. A brief easing, then several hours of rain arrives to Wales, moving north and east into England and Scotland through afternoon and into evening. A notable rise in temperature with arrival of rain. Strong wind all day, a slight easing for a few hours.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Snow and hail showers, gales; rain afternoon into evening

## Detailed Forecast for Monday, 16 March, 2026

<p><b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b></p> <p><b>Effect of wind on you?</b></p>	<p>Westerly 50 to 60mph most of morning. Then gradually easing to around 35-40mph for several afternoon hours and shifting southwesterly, then strengthening again into evening, notably gusty to lower slopes.</p> <p><b>Difficult walking most of the day with severe wind chill. A brief improvement of conditions but this followed by a rapid deterioration, with considerable buffeting reaching lower slopes.</b></p>
<p><b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)</p>	<p><b>Frequent snow and hail showers, rain later</b></p> <p>Shower after shower falling as snow above 300m, later 600m. Hail mixed in as well, small risk of odd thunder near the coast in the morning.</p> <p>Rain arrives on Skye afternoon, spreading north and east widely into evening, risk some freezing rain at first.</p>
<p><b>Cloud on the hills?</b></p> <p><b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b></p>	<p><b>Variable, to lower slopes in precipitation, most extensive south</b></p> <p>Cloud base will vary: near precipitation forming below 450m, sometimes 300m. Otherwise, cloud base 600m morning, to 800-1000m Sutherland and eastern summits elsewhere, some eastern summit breaks for a time. Late in the day, cloud filling in widely from the south.</p> <p><b>30%</b></p>
<p><b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)</p>	<p>Glimpses of sun only - mainly lower slopes well inland, more widely cloudy late in the day.</p> <p>Persistent haze at best; appalling visibility in precipitation, whiteout conditions over lying snow.</p>
<p><b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b></p> <p><b>Freezing Level</b></p>	<p>-3C, slowly rising to 0C afternoon, sharply rising towards 3C around or after dusk, likely rising further overnight.</p> <p>Will feel as cold as minus 18C due to wind chill.</p> <p>500m (nearer 600m Skye), gradually rising, 800m afternoon, later sharply rising above the summits with arrival of rain.</p>

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	<b>Tuesday 17 March</b>	<b>Wednesday 18 March</b>
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>  <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	Southwesterly 50 to 70mph, strongest west coast. Powerful gusts over high terrain, and possibly lower slopes too.  <b>Mobility widely difficult with significant wind chill; you could be blown over in powerful gusts, in places on lower slopes.</b>	Southwesterly 25-40mph early, lowest speed south; easing and trending westerly, 15-25mph.  <b>Starting arduous with considerable buffeting and significant wind chill in exposure, improving to fairly small.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Raining Skye and nearby</b> Frequent or incessant rain and drizzle onto Skye and nearby mainland. Elsewhere, largely dry, just a little drizzle in wind - though possibly steadier rain edging inland afternoon. May break late in the day.	<b>Some light showers, most hills dry</b> A few light showers affecting west coastal hills, falling as snow flurries from 750m up at first, the snowfall level rising.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Blanket fog Skye, higher and broken north inland areas</b> Persistent fog Skye and nearby mainland, covering some south facing coastal cliffs, to widely 200-400m. In rain, patches of fog from lower slopes up, but most cloud above 750 to perhaps sometimes 1000m. well inland and north.	<b>Most extensive high western terrain</b> West coast slopes often in cloud above 800-900m, lowering periodically, particularly during showers where may reach 600m. Higher bases inland though with similar variability, likely breaks off tops towards Ben Wyvis.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>10% Skye; 30% elsewhere</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Dull and murky Skye and nearby. Pockets of sun here and there inland and north; visibility good or sometimes excellent.	A patchwork of cloud and sunshine, best sun breaks in the east. Very good visibility, an offshore haze to the northwest.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>  <b>Freezing Level</b>	5C most of the day, dropping to 2C from the west late in the day. Feeling like -10C or colder in direct wind. Above the summits, lowering to 1000m late in the day.	0C lifting to around 2C, some variability, staying cooler near the west coast. Feeling like -10 to -15C in early wind. 900m from dawn, lifting to 1100m or higher.

**Planning Outlook****All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 17 March, 2026**

Areas of low cloud, drizzly rain and strong winds will continue to affect mainly western mountains until Wednesday, the rain at times heavy in western Scotland. Pressure begins to quickly rise on Wednesday, providing fairly widely settled conditions across the country. Some cloud and spotty light rain lingers in north England/south Scotland for a few days, elsewhere becoming mostly sunny. England, Wales, and southwest Scotland seeing milder temperatures, mostly light wind but the occasional stronger breeze. Elsewhere in Scotland stays cooler, some overnight frosts possible under clear-sky nights. Over the weekend, first indications of a cool easterly wind building across all areas, perhaps some periods of rain south, but further detail currently uncertain.

**Forecast issued at 16:21 on Sunday, 15 March, 2026**

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