

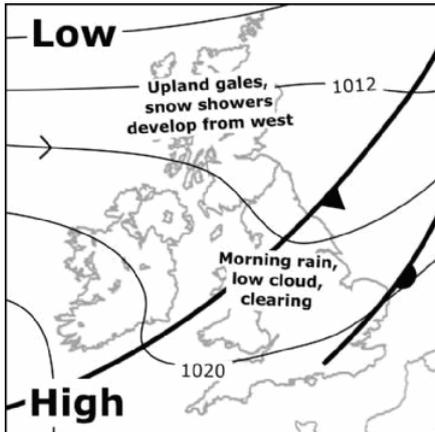
The Northwest Highlands

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, 27 March, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 27 March, 2026

Wind strengthens across Scottish mountains to gale-force, significant chill factor. A dry morning central-eastern Highlands, but snow showers in the west develop widely and become heavier with hail. Early rain clears southeastward over England, cloud lifts and breaks; slower to improve southward across Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Upland gales, later severe; squally hail and snow showers.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 27 March, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	West to southwesterly, 40 to 55mph, generally strengthening in the morning, sudden squally gusts over 60mph around showers. By dusk onward sustained speeds reaching 60-70mph, soonest in north.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking with significant wind chill, increasingly difficult, making balance challenging with powerful gusts able to knock you off your feet.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent snow and hail showers, risk thunder From dawn, showers from the west, snow to 600m at first, but lowering to 300-400m, increasingly hail too. Showers soon push inland in morning, heavier falls for several afternoon hours; chance of isolated lightning.
Cloud on the hills?	Variable, lowest and most persistent west Cloud comes and goes all day above 700-800m, most persistent along the west coast and as low as 600m during showers. Well-broken inland early, more frequent during afternoon showers.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50% inland, to 30% west coast
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of bright sunshine, mostly inland, rare along the west coast. Variable visibility, intermittently good, but poor or appalling during snow showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C, gradually lowering, -3C late afternoon. Feeling like -15 to -18C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Lowering from overnight, 700-800m at dawn, falling to 600m through the day.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 28 March	Sunday 29 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Westerly 45 to 60mph, strongest toward the north and in morning, powerful squalls. Gales likely strengthen again into night. Challenging conditions over the mountains, mobility difficult particularly morning. Significant-to-severe wind chill.	Southwest at first, soon westerly, 70-80mph around dawn, then near 50mph all day, sudden squally gusts. Severe conditions at first, remaining difficult over the mountains all day, mobility often challenging. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Hail and snow, fewer showers later Showery morning, frequent to more constant precipitation for a time western mountains, hail and snow falling to some lower elevations. With time becoming fewer and less heavy showers and mostly rain below 600m.	Heavy rain, snow, then showery hail A swathe of heavy rain from before dawn, a more intense band soon moving through early morning, abruptly turning to snow to mid-elevations. Then showery hail, and snow falling increasingly toward 400m.
Cloud on the hills?	Lifting and breaking higher during day Often covering higher slopes above 600-800m in the morning, lowest and most persistent toward west coast. Base tending to rise, breaks to higher slopes for periods into afternoon.	Varied over tops Cloud base constantly changing, 600 to 900m, lowest near west coast in showers, patches at times inland. Briefly breaking to above higher slopes.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% rising to 40%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sun breaking through more often as the day progresses. Visibility very poor in showers, then more often becoming very good.	Brief bursts of sun, mainly in east. Visibility changing quickly, at times very poor in snow, intermittently very good.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-3C rising to 0C. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C. 600m in morning, rising to 800-900m afternoon.	+1C at first, dropping to -1C or later -2C. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -18C. Briefly just above freezing to upper slopes around dawn, but soon lowering again, to 700-800m by noon, later 600m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 28 March, 2026

Changeable westerlies prevail onward into early next week, continuing gales over most high terrain. Below freezing on Scottish mountains above 700-800m into Monday with snow showers; higher freezing level further south, above the tops in Wales with mostly drizzly rain here. Milder air lifts above freezing to all tops into Tuesday with low cloud, drizzle and rain, most persistent west-northwest Scotland. Mixed conditions likely continue, but some windows of better weather mid-late in the week - temperatures vary above and just below freezing on Scottish tops. Potential for cold conditions again early April, but drier conditions possibly more common by then.

Forecast issued at 15:10 on Thursday, 26 March, 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.