

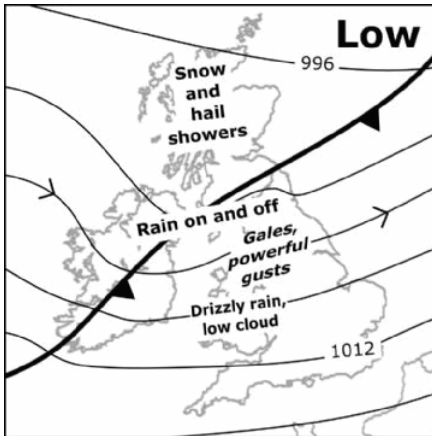
The Northwest Highlands

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, 3 April, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 3 April, 2026

Cold with showery snow in the Highlands, also hail in north. Varied winds, blustery in northern Scotland, moderating for a time central Highlands. In England & Wales, a swathe of gales likely affects the mountains, but still some uncertainty about the northward extent; rain and drizzle, plus low cloud covering many hills.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Chilly, brisk winds. Heavy showery hail and snow.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 3 April, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	West-southwesterly, overnight gales ease by dawn, then typically in range 25 to 35mph during day, briefly less at times southern areas, but squally gusts in showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Blustery with considerable wind chill, some buffeting gusts, making walking uncomfortable in exposure, affecting balance on ridges.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent snow and hail, chance lightning Clusters of showers throughout the day and night, with hail, and snow often falling to 300-400m. Some longer periods of precipitation, heavy at times, notably Skye. Chance of isolated thunder & lightning in heavier showers.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, some breaks east Covering western mountains above 800m most of the time, banks to 600m near coast for periods. Briefly lifting higher when dry, bases more frequently rising around Ben Wyvis, occasionally clearing high tops afternoon.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, occasional bursts of sun mostly in east. Visibility varying - appalling for periods with moments of whiteout in cloud and snow, intermittently very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2 or -3C. Feeling like -12C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	Up to 800m in overnight hours, but dropping to 500-600m before dawn and then little change all day, slightly higher near Great Glen afternoon.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 4 April	Sunday 5 April
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Westerly 25-35mph at first, easing S-SE'ly up to noon, then increasing afternoon to 50mph, by dusk onward 60-80mph+. Blustery start, lessening for a few hours, but deteriorating with time, by late in the day any mobility increasingly difficult.	Stormy conditions overnight lessen toward dawn, but still near 70mph at first, then westerly 40 to 55mph, squally gusts. Frequent buffeting, walking challenging on higher exposed terrain. Possibly still severe at first. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow showers, later snow / rain setting in A few showers mostly near west coast early in day, with snow falling to some lower slopes for a time. Fading, but then later more persistent hill snow, possibly to mid-lower slopes, likely only briefly rain higher up by evening.	Frequent hail and snow A succession of heavy hail and snow showers, risk constant precipitation for a few hours from dawn; snow falling to lower elevations early in day at least. Risk isolated thunder & lightning.
Cloud on the hills?	Patches west, otherwise little until late Patchy cloud over western mountains, likely to break up largely, many mountains clear for a good part of the daytime, but later in day lowering widely from south as precipitation develops.	Varying over tops Cloud base constantly changing, often capping higher slopes above 800m in western areas; patches to 600m or lower at times, whilst briefly clearing higher up.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sun in morning weakens as high cloud builds, later increasingly overcast skies. Visibility very good away from showers, then later very poor, appalling in snow.	Brief bursts of sun and very good visibility, but suddenly appalling in cloud and snow or hail, temporary whiteout possible.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-3C, may rise toward 0C briefly later, soon dropping again into night. Feeling like -15C in early wind, then even colder later. Frost inland glens at dawn, 600m by noon. Then varying later, may stay 400-600m, only briefly rising higher by evening.	-4C rising to -2C afternoon. Feeling like -15 to -18C in the wind. 400-500m from dawn, rising to 700m afternoon.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 4 April, 2026

A storm system moves across Britain over the Easter weekend, bringing severe conditions increasingly widely - severe gales over the mountains advancing northwards into Scotland by later Saturday daytime. Rain and hill snow also sweeps northward - a substantial snowfall develops particularly in northern Scotland later Saturday. Colder for all by Sunday with all mountains sub-zero, above 600-700m in Scotland, 800m in England and Wales - hail and snow showers with gales bringing severe chill factor. Milder southerlies develop for Monday, dry for most, but risk of gales especially in the west. A changeable weather regime is expected to continue next week, possibly turning chillier again later in the week.

Forecast issued at 15:46 on Thursday, 2 April, 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.