

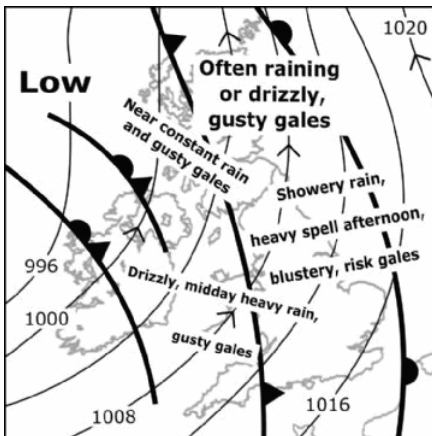
# The Northwest Highlands

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 Wednesday, 15 April, 2026



### British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 15 April, 2026

Widespread gales, powerful gusts over tops and down northern slopes, severe at times in Scotland, particularly west. Persistent rain for many, brief dry windows east (notably Pennines), then heavy rain sweeps east afternoon, followed by showers, only easing late in the day. Mild air, but feeling cold in wind.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Rain, most persistent Skye; mild but feeling cold in gusty gales

## Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 15 April, 2026

<p><b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b></p> <p><b>Effect of wind on you?</b></p>	<p>South-southeasterly 40-55mph, some variability but with powerful gusts, not just high slopes, locally variable direction, approaching 60mph at times. An easing tendency later, notably along the coast, but always a risk of stronger gusts returning.</p> <p><b>Challenging conditions with significant wind chill in exposure all day; constant chaotic gusts making it difficult to stay on your feet; any forward progress tortuous in most powerful wind.</b></p>
<p><b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b></p>	<p><b>Near-constant rain Skye/Kintail, patchier north, showers later</b></p> <p>Rain fairly widespread in the morning, local heavy falls, trending patchier to the east and north, at time dry; staying drizzly on high southern tops. Rain more persistent on Skye and Kintail, trending showery later, some showers drifting further north.</p>
<p><b>Cloud on the hills?</b></p> <p><b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b></p>	<p><b>Fairly extensive, some improvement inland/north</b></p> <p>Widely extensive to mid-slopes from dawn, to lower slopes in many places, particularly south Cuillin. A lifting trend in bases, perhaps higher terrain Ben Wyvis to Ben Hope, possibly some summit breaks afternoon. Skye stays well shrouded, and later more widely shrouded again.</p> <p><b>10% Skye, to 30% well inland and north</b></p>
<p><b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)</p>	<p>A few glimpses of weak afternoon sun, but otherwise mostly cloudy and often dull in cloud/rain. Visibility better to the north for a time as rain breaks, but suddenly deteriorating where rain returns.</p>
<p><b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b></p> <p><b>Freezing Level</b></p>	<p>6 or 7C, little change with height from dawn. Mildest north where may rise to 8C near Ben Hope and parts of Caithness. Feeling as cold as -10C in strongest direct wind.</p> <p>Above the summits all day, lowering onto the high tops overnight.</p>

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>  <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	Southwesterly 30-40mph, some lighter speeds in the early morning. Speeds may approach 50mph briefly coastal south.  <b>Walking soon arduous in exposure with frequent buffeting gusts and significant wind chill, locally more challenging.</b>	South-southeasterly 30-45mph, some variability and a risk of higher speeds along west coast, to 55mph Skye for periods.  <b>Walking often arduous in exposure with considerable wind chill, more challenging near the west coast for periods.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Showers become widespread, later easing</b> Frequent showers onto Skye and Kintail from dawn, also often along the west coast. More scattered inland at first but a trend towards more widespread showers from midday, often heavy, then easing later.	<b>Often raining, heavy showers Skye later</b> Showery rain drifts northward across all Munros through the day, setting in more persistently for several hours with an increasing risk of heavy falls. Later breaking into scattered showers, heaviest Skye with hail.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>  <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>Variable, most extensive south</b>  Cloud shrouds high tops at dawn, bases 600-900m, lowest south, locally 400-500m southern aspects. A lifting trend with some breaks, though increasingly frequent showers limit clear summits. Least breaks Skye/Torridon, bases rarely above 700-800m until late.  <b>20% rising to 40% north</b>	<b>Variable, mostly high terrain, late breaks</b>  Highly variable: high tops in cloud most of the day, bases between 700-900m, more widely lower as rain sets in and with ragged patches forming to lower slopes during and after rain. Later, higher breaks, perhaps to summits inland north, though unlikely Skye.  <b>20%; 40% later</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sunshine, best north and east, at times more often cloudy. Variable visibility, excellent out of rain but suddenly very poor.	Mostly cloudy and often dull in rain with poor visibility. Sunny glimpses later with good visibility.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>  <b>Freezing Level</b>	1 or 2C, rising to 3C, locally 4C Ben Wyvis. Variably cooler around showers. Feeling like -8 to -10C in direct wind.  Just touching highest tops at dawn, soon lifting above all summits.	4 to 6C, mildest in the north. Feeling as cold as -10C in strongest wind.  Above the summits.

## Planning Outlook

### All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 16 April, 2026

Unsettled conditions as the weekend approaches: showery on Thursday (local hail and lightning in Scotland), more rain and often heavy on Friday, accompanied by gusty winds, gales over mountains for periods; some bright spells on Thursday and later Friday too. Temperatures will tend to rise several degrees during daylight, even when cloudy, and often becoming warm in the valleys; slopes north of major hill groups often milder too. Saturday sees continued showers, mostly north and west where staying blustery, but a trend towards higher pressure building through late weekend into early next week. Confidence in detail for oncoming high pressure remains very low: a risk of chilly easterly wind for a time with showers, mostly east and southern areas.

### Forecast issued at 16:25 on Tuesday, 14 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.