

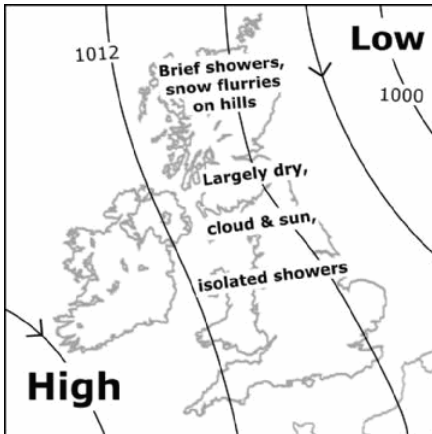
The Northwest Highlands

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, 15 May, 2026



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

Remaining cold, near to freezing all day on higher tops. Strongest northwesterly winds in the morning and toward eastern Scotland giving significant chill factor. A scattering of mostly brief showers with snow and hail, less intense than recent days. Cloud lifting above many summits, occasional sun.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Cold strong winds easing. Brief showers with snow & hail.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 15 May, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 30 to 35mph from dawn, briefly 40mph easternmost hills at first. Easing to 25mph through middle of day, then 20mph or less later.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous start with significant wind chill and buffeting, but hour by hour easing down, still blustery into afternoon, but becoming small later.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Scattered snow and hail showers A scattering of mostly brief snow and hail showers through the day. Tending to fade during afternoon. Snow falling 500 to 800m, lowest in the morning.
Cloud on the hills?	Varying, most frequent coastal hills Banks of cloud over the tops in the morning, concentrated across hills from Skye up to Assynt and Ben Hope where may persist into afternoon, but tending to lift. Better breaks form inland as bases rise.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40% rising to 70%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchy sun, best early morning inland, then improving west coast afternoon. Visibility very good, briefly lowering in showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C at dawn, lifting to -1 to +1C; lowest up toward Ben Hope. Feeling like -10 to -15C in early wind.
Freezing Level	700m at dawn, lifting to 800-1000m, staying lowest around Ben Hope.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 16 May	Sunday 17 May
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Variable below 10mph at first. Becoming S-SW'ly 15 to 25mph, soonest on Skye; by evening westerly 25mph. Small early in day, becoming breezier, feeling noticeable and rather chilly on exposed higher terrain.	Southwesterly 25 to 35mph, may reach 40mph at times on and near Skye. Making walking uncomfortable on exposed high terrain, affecting balance at times. Considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain develops in west Rare light showers near north coast at first, otherwise a dry morning. Patchy rain pushes onto west coast on and near Skye in afternoon, becoming more persistent later, heavier near Skye & Wester Ross, extending inland.	Rain and showery bursts Rain on and off all day, but a few hours in the morning drier in eastern areas. Increasing risk of heavier showery bursts forming, becoming concentrated inland then eastward later. Some snow on highest tops. Risk of hail & thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Little if any, then forming in west Patchy cloud around some slopes mostly near coast in morning, lifting and clearing. Some cloud banks forming onto higher slopes, soonest on Cuillin, extending further onto west coast hills later.	Most persistent west, some breaks Often capping western hills above 600-700m in morning, patchier and higher cloud inland and eastwards. Bases tending to rise, then varying in and out of showers, at times breaking to higher slopes.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	80%, dropping to 30% west later	40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Early sun weakens as high cloud thickens, more overcast afternoon. Visibility excellent, reducing later near Skye as rain develops.	Largely cloudy, some sun mostly east in morning. Visibility very good, but reduced in showers.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-1C rising to +3C afternoon. Feeling nearer -5C if exposed to wind. 700m plus frost inland glens at dawn. Rising to be just above freezing to highest summits during afternoon.	1C rising to 3 or 4C afternoon. Wind chill feeling like -7 to -10C on tops. Close to freezing point on higher tops around 1000m early morning, rising above all summits into afternoon.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 16 May, 2026**

A shift toward west-southwesterly over the weekend brings a gradual rise of temperature. A mixed weather story with some rain and lowering cloud moving in from the west into Saturday afternoon. By Sunday and Monday, some showery rain, passing eastwards during the daytimes, generally improving afternoons in western areas. Risk by later Monday of rain moving into Wales from the southwest. Damp south-southwesterlies then prevail for a few days next week, with rain at times Tuesday and Wednesday, most on western hills, particularly Scotland. A drier and warmer theme later in the week as higher pressure builds.

Forecast issued at 16:15 on Thursday, 14 May, 2026

The Production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by 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.