

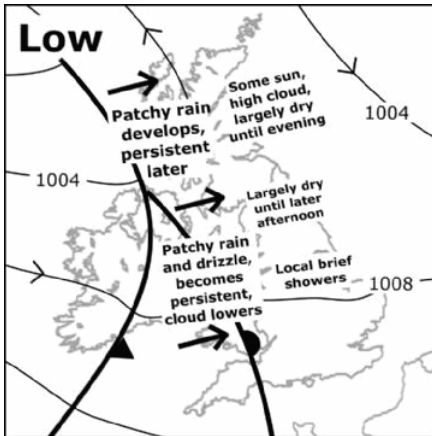
The Northwest Highlands

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 Saturday, 16 May, 2026



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 16 May, 2026

Chilly but fine with light winds much of the day for the Highlands. Increasing wind, rain and lowering cloud encroaches onto western coasts later in daytime. Southwesterly breezes elsewhere, largely dry until late for northern England, but rain, drizzle and low cloud moves into Wales sooner, more blustery later.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Dry, clear hills; then increasing breeze, rain & low cloud later west.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 16 May, 2026

<p>How windy? (On the Munros)</p> <p>Effect of wind on you?</p>	<p>Northwesterly 20mph at dawn in far north/east. Otherwise variable below 10mph early in day, or then into afternoon northern areas. Becoming south-southeasterly 15 to 25mph, soonest on Skye; after sunset turning southwesterly 25mph near Skye.</p> <p>Small early in day, or longer in north and east; becoming breezier in west, feeling noticeable and rather chilly on exposed higher terrain.</p>
<p>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</p>	<p>Rain develops in west later afternoon; persistent into evening</p> <p>Local light showers in north at first, otherwise dry morning & middle of day. Patchy rain pushes onto west coast near Skye mid-afternoon, becoming more persistent later, some sleet high tops, heavier up to dusk near Skye & Wester Ross. An odd shower possible afternoon in Sutherland. Rain gradually extending inland & north into night.</p>
<p>Cloud on the hills?</p> <p>Chance of cloud free Munros?</p>	<p>Little if any, then forming in west</p> <p>Patchy cloud around some slopes mostly near coast in morning, lifting and clearing. Some cloud banks forming onto higher slopes, soonest on Cuillin in afternoon, extending further onto west coast hills later above 700m.</p> <p>80%, dropping to 30% west later</p>
<p>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</p>	<p>Early sun weakens as high cloud thickens, more overcast afternoon. Visibility excellent, reducing later near Skye as rain develops.</p>
<p>How Cold? (at 900m)</p> <p>Freezing Level</p>	<p>-1C rising to +3C afternoon. Feeling nearer -5C if exposed to wind.</p> <p>700m plus frost inland glens at dawn. Rising to be just above freezing to highest summits during afternoon.</p>

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 17 May	Monday 18 May
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 25 to 35mph. Making walking uncomfortable on exposed high terrain, affecting balance at times. Considerable wind chill.	South-southeasterly 10-15mph inland, to often 20mph near Skye, risk increasing to gusty 30mph; likely stronger into night. Fairly small, but likely more noticeable on exposed Cuillin, gusts may affect balance, risk becoming more blustery with time.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	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.	Localised showers Occasional showers possible near west coast in morning, fading out. Risk of localised slow-moving showery bursts forming inland afternoon-evening, greater risk toward north, chance thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	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.	Lifting and clearing, returns in showers Varied cloud banks over upper slopes in the morning, most lifting higher up with time and clearing from many tops. Returning locally around showers, filling in on some hills for periods, ragged patches to mid-slopes.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%	30% rising to 70%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, some sun mostly east in morning. Visibility very good, but reduced in showers.	Variable cloud, glimpses of sun, locally sunnier near coast later afternoon. Visibility very good, but reduced in heavier showers.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	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.	1C rising to 4 or 5C. If exposed to stronger wind, feeling near -5C on tops. 1000-1100m at dawn, plus possible slight frost inland glens. Rising above all tops.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 17 May, 2026

A mixed but milder outlook. Showery bursts of rain Sunday and Monday, passing eastwards during the daytimes, generally improving afternoons in western areas. By later Monday, strengthening southerly winds and 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 much warmer theme later in the week as higher pressure builds.

Forecast issued at 16:29 on Friday, 15 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.