

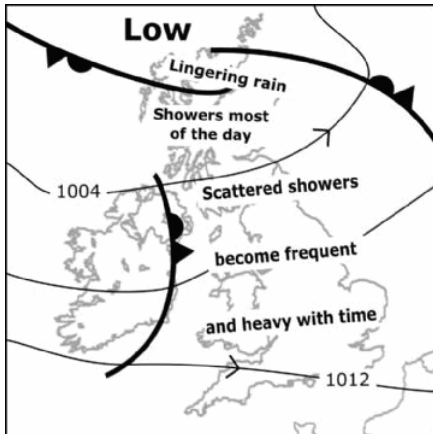
The Northwest Highlands

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 Sunday, 17 May, 2026



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 17 May, 2026

Scattered showers for most through morning, early low cloud (lowest west) rises to and above many summits for several hours. Showers become frequent and heavy afternoon, risk of isolated lightning and hail; showers most of the day in Scotland. Breezy in exposure, strong gusts near showers, and quite chilly.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Early rain turns to showers, early snow on tops; chilly

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 17 May, 2026

| | |
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| How windy? (On the Munros) | Southwesterly 15 to 25mph; lighter and variable north of Ullapool for a few early hours. May trend even lighter later in the day. |
| Effect of wind on you? | Starting to affect comfortable walking on exposed high terrain at times with a wind chill, though effects will be variable and at times fairly small. |
| How wet? (Precipitation and its impact) | Rain most of the day with showery bursts Rain on and off all day; rain fairly widespread north and west in the morning, pushing northward. Increasing risk of heavier showery bursts forming, becoming concentrated inland then eastward later. Some snow on highest tops early. Risk of hail & 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; perhaps most widely to middle/lower slopes in the north for a few early hours. Bases tending to rise, then varying in and out of showers, at times breaking to higher slopes. |
| Chance of cloud free Munros? | 40% |
| Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud) | Largely cloudy, a few sun glimpses breaking out in the south. Visibility very good, but reduced in showers, to perhaps very poor in snow on high tops. |
| How Cold? (at 900m) | 1C rising to 3 or 4C afternoon. Feeling below freezing on the tops in strongest wind. |
| Freezing Level | Close to freezing point on higher tops around 1000m early morning, to near 900m southwest coastal hills. Rising above all summits into afternoon. |

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

| | Monday 18 May | Tuesday 19 May |
|---|---|--|
| How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you? | South-southeasterly 10-15mph inland, to 20mph near Skye; gusts around showers approaching 25mph. Rising overnight. Fairly small, but likely more noticeable on exposed Cuillin, gusts may affect balance. | South-southeasterly 35-50mph; gusty and variable on high terrain. Trending southwesterly, easing to 30-35mph. Arduous walking with considerable buffeting and wind chill well into the day; effects may ease somewhat. |
| How wet? (Precipitation and its impact) | Localised showers Occasional showers possible near west coast in morning, fading out. Risk of localised slow-moving showery bursts forming inland afternoon-evening, a chance of localised thunder. | Rain most of the day Persistent rain lingers for several morning hours. Breaking into frequent showers, at times merging into broader areas of rain, most of the rain towards the south. Slippery rock surfaces and risk isolated hail and thunder. |
| Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros? | 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, most cloud north and east. 30% rising to 70% | Fairly extensive, local higher cloud Extensive to many lower south and eastern slopes at dawn, highest bases near the northwest coast. Bases gradually rise though the day, ending perhaps 900m or above eastern hills, and becoming more extensive west. Southern areas unlikely to clear above 600-700m. 20% |
| Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud) | Variable cloud, glimpses of sun, locally sunnier near Skye later afternoon. Visibility very good, but reduced in heavier showers. | Chance of some sunny bursts later in the day but otherwise cloudy. Variable visibility, often poor due to frequent rain. |
| How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level | 1C rising to 4 or 5C; staying cooler Skye. If exposed to stronger wind, feeling near -5C on tops. 1000-1100m at dawn, plus possible slight frost inland glens. Rising above all tops. | 4 or 5C, rising as high as 8C. Feeling like -5 to -10C in direct wind. Above the summits. |

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 18 May, 2026

A mixed but milder outlook. Showery bursts of rain Monday, passing eastwards; by later Monday, strengthening southerly winds and rain moving into Wales from the southwest. Damp south-southwesterlies then prevail for a few days as mid-week approaches with regular showers, most on western hills where drizzly rain may persist between showers. Expect increasingly wet conditions underfoot, slippery rock surfaces. Also, a risk of isolated hail and lightening in the showers. Indications of high pressure building over the continent later in the week, brining milder and drier conditions to England and Wales. However, some drizzle and low cloud may continue to affect western hills, with periods of rain and wind continuing to affect Scotland. This trend may continue into the weekend, though detail currently uncertain.

Forecast issued at 16:04 on Saturday, 16 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.