

The Northwest Highlands

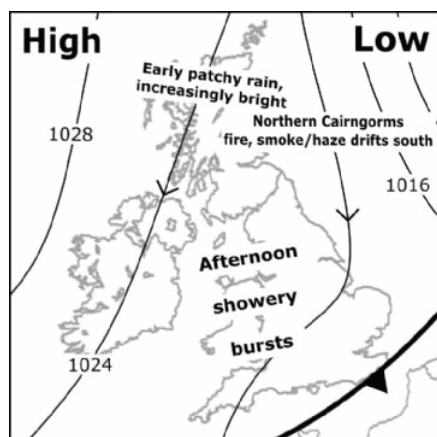
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Saturday, 18 July, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 18 July, 2026

Fog and patchy light rain north Scottish highlands early, breaking for a dry bright afternoon; smokey views east Scotland. Warm and dry with widespread high fire risk. Sun and fair weather cloud England and Wales, afternoon scattered showery bursts from Yorks Dales NP southward to Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Some early light rain and cloud, improving, clearest inland

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 18 July, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northerly 10-20mph, oriented northwesterly at first, and sometimes gusting up to 25-30mph over highest summits.
Effect of wind on you?	Fairly small, but strongest gusts over tops beginning to affect walking and feeling chilly.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy morning rain, later dry Drizzly in the morning on higher terrain near north and west coast, some patchy light rain drifting more widely for several early hours too. Driest well inland, and later more widely dry.
Cloud on the hills?	Increasingly broken, soonest inland south Fairly extensive at dawn, to at least middle slopes along north and west coasts, bases mostly above 600-700m well inland. Bases lifting with a breaking trend, mostly above 700-800m along coasts, and later more widely broken, northernmost tops may stay under cloud.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% rising to 70% coasts, 90% well-inland
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast at first, bright sunshine increasingly breaking out with very good visibility, soonest inland and south.
How Cold? (at 900m)	6C rising to 10C well inland, locally 11C Ben Wyvis/Kintail. Least change Ben Hope/Caithness. Feeling near freezing in direct wind.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 19 July	Monday 20 July
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northwesterly 10-15mph, strengthening towards 20-30mph, strongest north with gusts to 35mph. Fairly small but wind increasingly inconvenient and later feeling chilly.	Northwesterly 10-20mph, strongest sustained wind north, more widely early. Fairly small.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Most Munros dry A few sprinkles drifting onto northwestern hills, a greater chance later in the day of light spots of rain along the coast and some drizzle on tops, but small totals and elsewhere entirely dry.	Little expected Some fine drizzle on high terrain along the north and west coasts where in cloud, but otherwise dry.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Well broken, then filling in on high terrain At dawn, mist patches at middle and lower slopes (tops above cloud), locally to glens and coastal cliffs. Cloud lifts, to mostly above 700-800m with breaks; little or no cloud inland. Through afternoon, cloud gradually fills in from the northwest above 800m. 60%, to 80% well inland; lowering to 30%	Extensive early, lifting Fog shrouds the hills widely from middle slopes up, to lower slopes towards the west coast, locally to glen/coastal cliff level. Bases rising, to above 900m inland with summit breaks forming. Rare breaks above 800m along the west coast. 10%, rising to 60% well-inland
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A patchwork of cloud and sunshine, increasingly cloudy through afternoon. Excellent visibility.	Mostly cloudy, increasing sunny breaks inland afternoon. Very good visibility out of cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	6C rising to 7 to 9C; coolest west, mildest east. Feeling near freezing in stronger breeze. Above the summits.	7 or 8C, slight rise inland afternoon. Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 19 July, 2026

Ground conditions remain very dry with wildfire risk; some areas in north Wales, the Peak District, and Cairngorms NP are currently inaccessible due to fire hazards. Weather remains settled late weekend into next week as high pressure persists west of Ireland. A northerly flow will cool temperatures slightly, dawn temperatures in the middle single digits in Scotland; staying warm in England and Wales but hill temperatures unlikely reaching the 20s. Cloud and drizzle starts to affect northwest Scotland more often, occasionally drifting further south, chance of an area of rain slipping south through the country Tuesday to Wednesday, though totals likely small. An unsettling trend is indicated for the following weekend, bringing wind, some rain, and cooler temperatures.

Forecast issued at 15:24 on Friday, 17 July, 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.