

The Northwest Highlands

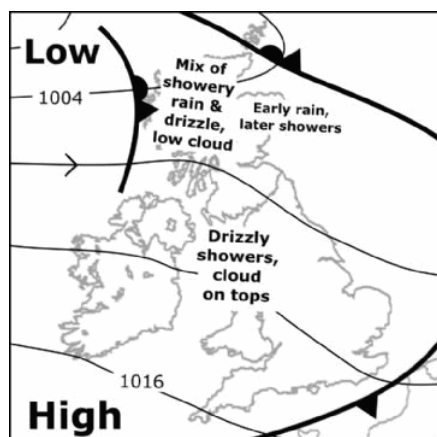
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



Skye Basecamp - a brand new climber's hostel run by Skye Guides mountain guiding

Visit www.skyebasecamp.co.uk to book your stay

General Summary for Tuesday, 18 August, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 18 August, 2026

Fresh-to-strong westerly breezes bring frequent showery rain and drizzle to western Scotland all day, plus patchy rain western England and Wales in the morning, here becoming drier until rain returns by evening. All western tops often in cloud. Some showery rain extends east across the Highlands.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Breezy, rain and showery bursts, low cloud often on hills.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 18 August, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 20 to 25mph, at times 30mph, strongest most often around Skye to Kintail.
Effect of wind on you?	Affecting ease of walking and balance on some high tops and ridges, mostly toward south. Considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain on and off, occasionally heavy A band of rain in northern areas in the morning, some heavy, tending to clear away northward. Showery rain frequent over western hills, mixed with drizzle. Drier windows in east, but some heavy bursts move eastward in afternoon, small chance of isolated thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, lowest west Often covering hills above 600 to 800m in the morning, some lower banks widely around rain, much of day in the west, whilst further east higher breaks form.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, brief sun in east for a time. Visibility good, but reduced in showers and slight coastal haze.
How Cold? (at 900m)	7C, trending cooler later in day. Feeling near or just below 0C in the wind.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 19 August	Thursday 20 August
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Variable 10mph or less early in day, but sudden gusts in rain. Becoming NE'ly 20 to 30mph afternoon, soonest in north. Prepare for notable wind chill if exposed to increasing wind. Ease of walking starting to be affected as speeds rise.	North-northeasterly 20 to 30mph. Feeling distinctly chilly on exposed high terrain. Breezy over hills, in places may affect comfortable walking.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent or persistent rain, risk lightning Areas of rain from dawn near west coast and in far north, but increasingly showery rain forming widely, heavy bursts mainly inland into the afternoon, moving around slowly to give rain locally for an hour or more. Risk of thunder.	Rain on and off Showery rain spreading from the north, more frequent rain for periods especially north. Some heavier bursts form inland.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive Shrouding hills fairly widely above 600 to 800m, some breaks at times if drier to 900m or above for periods. During and after rain, cloud lowering, ragged patches to lower slopes.	Fairly extensive on tops Often capping higher slopes above 700-900m, some lower patches in rain. Breaks occasionally toward some tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Fairly cloudy; some sun later near coasts. Visibility often reduced by rain, some periods where very good if dry.	Mostly cloudy, brief sun breaking through. Visibility very good at times, poor in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	6 or 7C, little change all day. Feeling like 0 to -3C if exposed to increasing wind. Above the summits.	4 to 6C, coolest toward far north, little variation all day; slightly cooler by evening. Feeling like -3 to -5C in stronger wind. Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 19 August, 2026

Low pressure dominates across Britain into midweek, bringing showery conditions widely, some more organised bands of rain at times. Some heavy and thundery downpours forming, mostly into the afternoons, becoming focused further south with time. Fresh westerly winds turning northerly and temperature lowering later this week, dropping close to freezing on high Scottish tops by Friday and frost may occur in Highland glens over a couple of nights. More often dry with rare lighter showers over the weekend as higher pressure builds. Strengthening south-southwesterly winds into early next week with a risk of rain returning from the west, but warmer temperatures are likely.

Forecast issued at 16:25 on Monday, 17 August, 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.