

The Northwest Highlands

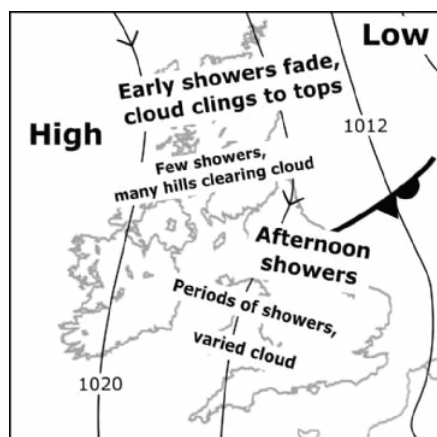
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Friday, 21 August, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 August, 2026

Early showers in north Scotland, then a dry afternoon, though cloud lingers on northern tops. Largely dry start for south Scotland and England, mostly clear hills, then afternoon showers forming, particularly over the Pennines. Showers on and off in Wales, some heavy bursts. Cool-to-mild and little wind.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Early showers fade but hill cloud lingers, mostly north and west

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 21 August, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northerly 15-20mph, gradually shifting northwesterly and speeds tending to ease slightly in the west. Some stronger breezes over Caithness hills.
Effect of wind on you?	Mostly small.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Morning showers, substantially dry afternoon Showers drift from the north, most frequent with a few heavy bursts in the early hours, but quickly becoming well scattered and likely dry afternoon, only rare light spotty rain on north and west coastal hills.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive to the north and west Bases near 500-700m fairly widely in the morning, to lower slopes on windward coastal aspects. A lifting trend with time, breaks forming inland, to just banks over tops Easter Ross and Ben Wyvis. North and western coastal high terrain remains shrouded above 600m, some higher bases Skye.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly cloudy, a few sunny glimpses inland southern areas as the day goes. Visibility largely poor on summits, often dull to the northwest; becoming very good where cloud lifts.
How Cold? (at 900m)	4C, rising a degree Skye and nearby hills to the east.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 22 August	Sunday 23 August
How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 15-25mph, notably stronger speeds over high terrain and gusty too.	West-southwesterly 20-30mph, strongest north.
Effect of wind on you?	Fairly small in places; strongest wind over tops affecting ease of walking with a distinct chilly feeling.	Fairly small, though breezes affect comfort of walking on high terrain in the north with a chilly feeling.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Drizzle, a few light spots Fine drizzle on high terrain much of the day, particularly along the coast. Some showery rain will likely affect most hills for a period, eastern hills seeing the lowest rainfall totals.	Drizzly west, fading From dawn, drizzly on west coastal slopes, reaching quite low at first, but gradually isolating to higher areas and mostly fading with time. Eastern Munros largely dry all day.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive The summits shrouded from dawn, lowest bases west, with lower ragged patches into sheltered glens. Soon lowering to 600m along the coast and more widely lowering with time, patches forming to coastal cliffs later.	Extensive Coastal slopes shrouded from 600-700m upward most of the day, lower in the morning, locally to low slopes/glens. Starting extensive east as well, bases approaching 800-900m Ben Wyvis/Easter Ross.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A few sunny glimpses east, but largely overcast and increasingly dull with poor visibility.	Glimpses of sun break out far east, but otherwise overcast, dull near the coast with poor visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	5 to 7C. Feeling below freezing in strongest wind.	7C, locally rising a degree east. Feeling near or below freezing in strongest wind to the north.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.	Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 22 August, 2026

The weekend is often cloudy in north and west Scotland, some drizzle on the summits with occasional light rain, amounting to little. Drier south and east Scotland, but cloud will reach here too, particularly on Sunday. England and Wales will be largely dry and bright this weekend with little wind and mild temperatures. On Sunday, high pressure west of the country may facilitate local inversion conditions, but low cloud likely quick to fade.

Next week begins dry and bright, but wind shifts southeasterly and pressure drops again as the week goes, bringing periods of cloud and rain (sometimes heavy) to most hill groups, some stronger wind at times. Similar conditions persist into the following weekend: generally unsettled but a chance of a settled window, best in the east.

Forecast issued at 16:00 on Thursday, 20 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.