

The Northwest Highlands

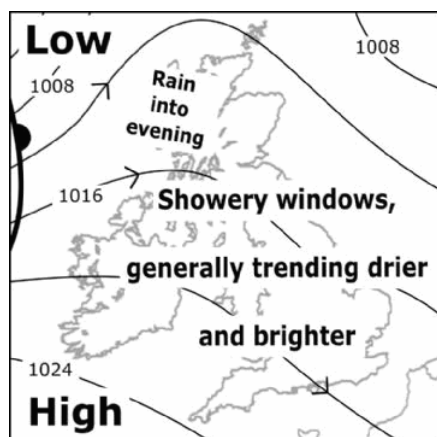
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Wednesday, 16 September, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 16 September, 2026

Northwesterly wind pushes chilly air and showers into Scotland, milder but showery in Wales and west England. Wind lessens and showers increasingly scattering, a few light showery clusters here and there (total rainfall small). Rain and wind into west Scotland later, spreading widely overnight.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Early shower fade, sun breaks; rain and wind later

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 16 September, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northwesterly 15-25mph, soon shifting westerly and lessening, to 10-15mph or briefly less, then shifting southwesterly and rapidly strengthening, finishing 40-50mph, strongest along the coast and gusty. Further rising into night. Small effects through much of morning and into afternoon, but deteriorating through afternoon to widely strenuous conditions with considerable buffeting and wind chill and further deteriorating overnight.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Early showers, dry window, then later rain Scattered showers in the morning, soon mostly just northern areas and fading for several dry hours. Patchy rain will return from the west as afternoon goes, first on Skye, spreading and setting in as evening approaches.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Breaking for a time, increasingly extensive into evening Patches cover high terrain in the morning, most extensive north. A lifting trend, breaks above most summits for a time, though caps may continue to graze the Cuillin. Cloud begins filling from the west from mid-afternoon on, high terrain increasingly shrouded, later as low as 500m towards west coast. Rising to 60% for several hours, then deteriorating, 20% later
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchy sunshine, best south and inland, then high cloud thickens from the west. Visibility very good well into the day.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	3C rising to 6C, rising slightly further into night. Feeling as cold as -5C in direct wind later in the day. Just above highest tops in the north at dawn, rising further above summits.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 17 September	Friday 18 September
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West-southwesterly 40-55mph, quite gusty, tops speeds approach 60mph. Arduous walking in exposure all day, considerable buffeting will challenge balance; significant wind chill.	Westerly, turning southwesterly, 35-45mph; trending lighter for a few hours, but gusts to 55mph over tops later in the day. Strenuous conditions in exposure most of the day, buffeting affecting stability with considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Showery rain sets in Showers stream onto the west hills from dawn, increasingly pushing eastward and becoming frequent, setting in widely for a few hours at least. Heaviest rain west and north, a risk of hail forming. Beginning to break up later.	Showery rain, mostly afternoon Areas of patchy rain through morning, dry windows, and often dry east Munros. Rain arrives around Skye/Torridon afternoon, more widely for several hours, some heavy falls, breaking up later.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Increasingly extensive Cloud covers west coast hills above 700-800m most or all day, regularly dropping towards 500-600m in showers. Starting higher with breaks to eastern tops in the morning, but will fill in more widely with time, most hills covered above 600m, down to 400m west coast. Starting 60% east, lowering to 10% widely	Varied over tops, later filling in Cloud often covers west slopes above 700-800m some variability and a lifting trend through morning, good summit breaks Easter Ross. Blanket cloud arrives to Skye, filling in widely well into the day, may later break up again somewhat. 50%, to 70% east, lowering to 10% well into the day
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of bright sun, mostly east, increasingly clouding over. Visibility starts good inland, but deteriorating with cloud, rain, and haze.	Patchy sun, increasingly cloudy afternoon and dull for a time. Generally hazy, and deteriorating in cloud and rain.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	4 or 5C. Feeling like -5C, to as cold as -10C in strongest direct wind. Above the summits.	4C rising to 6C, further rising to approach 8C into evening. Feeling below 0C in direct wind. Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 17 September, 2026

Showers and strong westerly wind prevails from Thursday into the weekend - areas of low pressure passing north of Scotland with frontal systems bringing bands of rain, followed by showers, wettest over western mountains in Scotland. Periods of gale-force winds over higher terrain, cool temperatures with significant wind chill, particularly in the north where temperatures will occasionally approach freezing point on high Scottish tops. Showers generally more scattered in England and Wales, most showers in the west; bright spells too, but bands of rain and low cloud will pass these areas. Mild temperatures, at times warm south Pennines and Wales.

Milder, more settled weather is indicated next week, though sometimes breezy in Scotland, spells of rain in the west.

Forecast issued at 16:12 on Tuesday, 15 September, 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.