

The Northwest Highlands

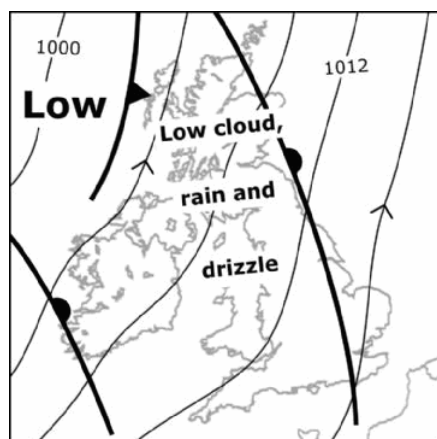
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Monday, 12 October, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 12 October, 2026

Extensive low cloud blankets the mountains, poor visibility widely; generally damp with drizzle and some steadier rain. Best chance for drier conditions and local higher cloud breaks to the north of major hill groups. Wind speeds will vary, but often blustery around tops. Fairly mild southerly air.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Murky and damp, locally better north; varied wind.

Detailed Forecast for Monday, 12 October, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southerly, speed varying, 25 to 40mph, strongest around Skye early in day, then slightly less for a few hours. Speeds rising again during afternoon to 40-50mph, into evening 60mph+ western mountains with powerful gusts. Often blustery around higher exposed terrain in the west, but variable moments of lower impacts on some slopes, more often inland. Deteriorating to more difficult conditions later in day, then rapidly severe from dusk.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy rain, locally drier north; wetter later western hills Rain and drizzle soon fairly widespread from dawn, most persistent Skye and Torridon area, patchier elsewhere. Some drier periods inland and north, but often damp near Skye. During afternoon rain sets in steadier in west, more extensive rain into evening-night, some heavier falls Skye to Wester Ross.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Fairly extensive, local breaks north/east Shrouding many hills all day, from low-mid elevations upward from Skye to coastal Wester Ross, cloud base nearer 700-800m inland. Higher cloud bases northward - some north/eastern hills initially clearer around dawn and breaks forming again here to upper slopes in afternoon away from rain. Blanketing hills widely again later. Almost nil Skye and west; 20% north/east.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Generally overcast, murky west, some brighter moments develop toward north and perhaps more widely over an hour or so, visibility then good out of cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	8 to 10C, some warmer spots toward the north out of cloud; slightly warmer into night. Increasingly humid. Feeling below freezing if in stronger wind. Above the summits.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Tuesday 13 October	Wednesday 14 October
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West-southwesterly, overnight gales ease for a brief early lull to 25mph or less, but rise again during day to 40-50mph+. A window of fairly small effects in morning, but beware of deteriorating again quickly during the day to become challenging.	South-southwesterly, in range 50 to 80mph, notable increase with height; sustained speeds rising during daytime. Frequent buffeting even on lower hills, but severe conditions on high terrain, mobility difficult; powerful downslope gusts.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Heavy showers set in again west Heavy overnight rain sweeps away eastward by dawn, but leaves a legacy of showers. Bursts of rain cluster to become frequent or more constant again in west, with hail, chance of thunder.	Often raining west, heavier later Raining much of the day on western mountains around Skye and Wester Ross, sometimes only lighter spots; drier further north and east. Later a belt of heavier and more widespread rain arrives from west.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Changing rapidly, extensive in rain Varied cloud banks from dawn, but for a few hours may break well toward upper slopes especially inland and east. Often capping western tops, but in showers then varying, lowering and filling in widely. 30%	Most persistent western hills Banks of cloud shrouding west coastal areas above 600-800m fairly persistently. Further north and east the cloud base higher, clinging to many high tops, but some breaks at times. 20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Intermittent sun for a few hours mainly inland and east, but then often cloudier. Visibility at times very good where dry, but then suddenly poor in showers.	Glimpses of weak sun mainly eastern areas where visibility fairly good, but a general haze, poorer visibility west coast.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	Mild 10C overnight but dropping to 6C by dawn, lowering further during day to 3C. Feeling later like -10C as wind increases. Above the summits, but dropping close to highest tops later in day.	5C rising to 8C. Feeling like -7 to -10C directly in the wind. Above the summits.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 13 October, 2026**

A very unsettled Atlantic pattern this week. Southwesterly gales strengthen to become severe on the mountains into Wednesday, moderating into Thursday. Frequently raining particularly over western hills, some bands of more extensive heavier rain passing eastwards through midweek. Milder early in the week, then cooler later, with showery conditions by Thursday into Friday on westerly winds - Scottish high summits may drop back close to freezing with some snow falling on higher tops. Indications start to favour higher pressure building into next weekend and early next week for a period of quieter weather and scope for inversion conditions on high terrain.

Forecast issued at 16:00 on Sunday, 11 October, 2026

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