

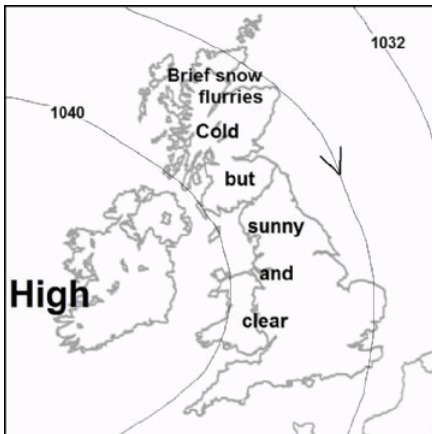
West Highlands

Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area include Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, includes Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Includes Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Thursday, 20 January, 2022



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 20 January, 2022

A cold day, much terrain frozen, including frost in sheltered valleys. Brisk N-NW'ly winds, up to gale force on eastern tops in the morning, giving significant chill factor on higher areas. A few snow flurries in northern Scotland, but most places dry with sunshine and most hills free of low cloud.

Headline for West Highlands

Cold, blustery. Dry, hills mostly clear, sunshine.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 20 January, 2022

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly in the range 15 to 30mph, strongest on tops in Ben Nevis range.
Effect of wind on you?	May well impede walking occasionally on higher slopes where wind chill will be significant at times.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	No precipitation expected
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly clear for much of day A few patches capping some tops briefly in the morning. Otherwise, hills clear. Towards dusk, cloud banks likely lowering onto coastal hills mainly near Mull.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	90%, later 40% around Mull.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Fairly extensive sunshine, but high cloud building from west through day. Visibility excellent.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4 or -5C at first, lifting to -2C, or slightly higher onward into evening. Wind chill as cold as -16C in the strongest winds on tops.
Freezing Level	Terrain widely frozen from lower slopes upwards, but freezing level rising to 600m or above near coast and on islands.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 21 January	Saturday 22 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West to northwest 20 to 25mph, strongest Lochaber; risk locally 30-35mph; strongest winds not necessarily on highest tops. Varied, in places fairly small, but blustery or suddenly gusty, including through passes and to lower slopes.	West to southwesterly, in range 20 to 35mph, strongest winds not just on higher slopes, sudden gusts in places. Varied, in places expect sudden buffeting on higher and some lower slopes, very gusty into passes and some corries.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Little if any precipitation Chance of an odd patch of drizzle, mainly near coast, perhaps snow grains some slopes.	Drizzly at times Some hills drizzly for periods, most common near and west of Loch Linnhe, snow grains on some slopes. Very little toward the central highlands.
Cloud on the hills?	Low cloud focused west, high tops above Banks of cloud are likely to frequently cover western mountains, particularly west of Loch Linnhe, although higher summits likely to poke out above cloud. The cloud more broken further inland.	Low cloud, some breaks on tops Low cloud likely to shroud many hills, to low elevations much of the day near coast. Some higher slopes may emerge between or just above cloud layers. Breaks more frequent well inland.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	60%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Some lower areas often cloudy or misty, occasional sun mainly inland. High tops may remain in sunshine and clear air.	Mostly cloudy, dull or misty many areas, intermittent sun some higher slopes and well inland. Visibility sometimes very good away from cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	1C western mountains where in or around cloud, but rising locally as high as 5C some tops toward central highlands. Frost in many inland glens from dawn. Mountain terrain also at least partly frozen, but air temperature rising above zero.	As high as 3 to 5C in places, but some slopes nearer to 0C where in low cloud. Air temperature mostly above freezing point, but some upland terrain frozen or partly frozen.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 21 January, 2022

High pressure extends back across Britain later this week to become centred over England and Wales into the weekend and next week, allowing westerly winds to influence Scotland. Temperatures will drift back above freezing point on most hills from Friday, although some western slopes will stay close to zero where in cloud banks. Inversion conditions varied from day to day, with high tops lying above or sometimes between cloud layers. Frost in some valleys, less so in the north & west. Mostly small amounts of precipitation in the week ahead. Where snow exists on high tops, beware of compacted hard snow and ice. Strongest winds toward the northern Highlands, at times gale force and very gusty.

Forecast issued at 15:18 on Wednesday, 19 January, 2022

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through Mountaineering Scotland with the support of 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, 2022.