

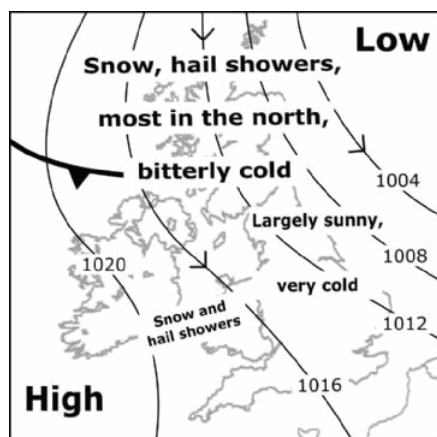
West Highlands

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



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General Summary for Sunday, 4 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 4 January, 2026

Snow, hail, and wind continues driving into northern Scotland with showers passing into central and western areas; snow coverage fairly widespread in the Highlands. Southern Scotland and England mostly sunny, blustery in exposure. More snow and hail showers for Wales, pushing further east afternoon. Widely very cold.

Headline for West Highlands

Snow and hail showers; bitterly cold in the wind

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 4 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	North to northwesterly 30 to 40mph, squally gusts in showers. Speeds trending towards the lower end of the range with time, though stronger gusts will still occur.
Effect of wind on you?	Severe wind chill over the mountains. Arduous walking on snow cover with frequent buffeting in exposure much of the day, though slightly easing with time.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow showers, mostly coasts and north Snow showers running southward over coastal areas into Lochaber/Creag Meagaidh, some reaching towards Glencoe and further south, mostly morning, though often dry here. Snow falling and accumulating to sea level.
Cloud on the hills?	Often covering northern and coastal summits, lower in showers Varying cloud bases from Mull to southern islands, 700-900m, briefly lower in showers. Often capping tops inland Lochaber above 800-1000m, lowering here in showers too. Often clearer Loch Lomond NP, though tops likely in cloud for a few hours morning/midday here too.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% Lochaber-Mull, to 60% south.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of sunshine, sunniest Loch Lomond, though occasional more widely cloudy. Visibility excellent away from showers, but very poor where snow falls or blows around and also if in cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-6C, locally cooler inland (and as low as -10C on Ben Nevis summit); a degree warmer southern islands. Wind chill feeling like -22C, to -25C Ben Nevis summit.
Freezing Level	Terrain widely frozen, staying sub-zero from glens upward. Nearest the coast, partial thawing in sunlight to 200-300m, highest levels Mull to Islay.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northerly 30-35mph, easing and shifting northwesterly with time, 20-30mph into evening. Significant wind chill, severe on high exposed tops where walking conditions will be strenuous with buffeting.	Changeable: west-southwesterly 20-30mph, rising with time, up to 40mph over summits, shifting northerly later. Variable conditions, walking increasingly strenuous in exposure with significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow showers coasts and Lochaber Ongoing snow showers running southward into Lochaber towards Creag Meagaidh/Ben Nevis ranges. Some showers reaching Mull and Islay as well, likely dry Glencoe and south.	Patchy sleet/snow, setting in later Bands of patchy snow pass eastward, increasingly as sleet/rain to middle slopes near the coast. A broader area of snow arrives afternoon, setting in heavy for several hours inland.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied, often covering northern and coastal tops Varying cloud bases Lochaber and coasts, 700-800m, locally lower in showers. Also often capping tops inland Lochaber above 800-1000m. Well broken or often clear south of Glencoe to Loch Lomond NP/Clyde Sea Lochs.	Becoming extensive Cloud shrouds the mountains above 800-900m most or all day, variable bases down to 600m during pulses of snow but a few local higher breaks for a time. Filling in more widely to middle or lower slopes with time, first in the north.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40% Lochaber/coasts, to 70% south.	10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of sunshine, often sunny Loch Lomond. Visibility excellent away from showers, but very poor where snow falls or blows around.	Sunshine unlikely. Moments of very good visibility early, though increasingly appalling as snow sets in with whiteout conditions.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-5 or -6C; -8C above 1200m and at dawn in the glens. Wind chill as cold as -25C early in the day on high tops. Terrain widely frozen. Nearest the coast, partial thawing in sunlight to 200-300m, rising slightly further after dark.	-1 to -3C, some variability, warmest near the coast; trending colder overnight. Feeling as cold as -15C in the wind. Terrain widely frozen from overnight, lifting but variable; up to 800m along coasts, unlikely above 300-400m well inland.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 5 January, 2026

Monday stays cold with terrain widely frozen; sunshine inland with continued snow showers along coasts. The weather then turns more variable: fronts begin to approach the country on Tuesday, with cloud gradually becoming widespread on high terrain from the north, an area of snow arriving widely into Scotland and tracking south into England and Wales overnight into Wednesday. Most terrain will stay frozen but a brief local lifting of freezing levels in western areas. Some sunny breaks and snow showers will follow this system. Beyond Wednesday, confidence in forecast detail is significantly lower, but another weather system is indicated for Thursday into Friday, this possibly bringing a swathe of snow, rain, and strong winds to the south and perhaps more widely.

Forecast issued at 15:30 on Saturday, 3 January, 2026

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, 2026.