# 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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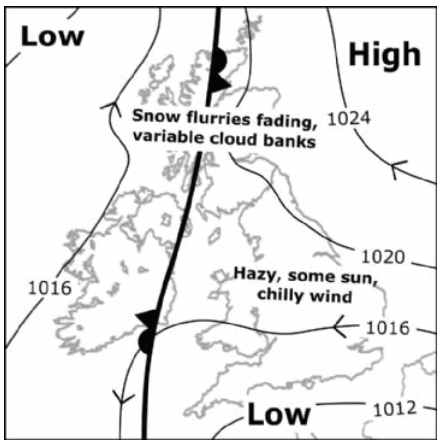
## General Summary for Wednesday, 25 November, 2026




**British Mountain Summary:**
**Based on forecast chart for noon 25 November, 2026**

Early morning snow in the central Highlands will fade to flurries, becoming largely dry. Locally strong SE'ly wind for eastern Scotland, much less wind further west. England & Wales generally dry, with some weak sun, but hazy views and a cold wind.

**Headline for The Northwest Highlands**

Mostly light wind, but risk windy northeast; patchy snow flurries.

## Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 25 November, 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **How windy? (On the Munros)** | South-southeasterly 10 to 20mph, likely often low speeds many western mountains. Toward east, locally stronger, 25-30mph possible Ben Wyvis group, perhaps Ben Hope; local 40mph more likely confined to Caithness. |
| **Effect of wind on you?** | **Fairly small most mountains much of the day, but toward east more blustery with considerable chill, though poorer conditions likely stay away further east.** |
| **How wet?** (Precipitation and its impact) | **Patchy snow flurries**<br>Western mountains likely see very little, but here and there some light snow or sleet falling occasionally across the region. |
| **Cloud on the hills?** | **Some breaks mostly northwest mainland**<br>Varying banks of cloud fairly extensive across hills in the morning, likely to persist in more eastern areas, also Skye. Western hills north of Torridon likely see breaks toward some upper slopes. |
| **Chance of cloud free Munros?** | **30%, to local 60% Slioch to Ullapool area.** |
| **Sunshine?** Air clarity (below cloud) | Little if any weak sun due to layers of high cloud.<br>Visibility mostly very good. |
| **How Cold? (at 900m)** | Locally just below 0C Ben Wyvis area, but toward west +1 or 2C.<br>Feeling like -10C if in wind in east. |
| **Freezing Level** | Some eastern hills around 800m or possibly lower, but most western groups 1000m or above. |

**The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead**

| | Thursday 26 November | Friday 27 November |
|---|---|---|
| **How windy? (On the Munros)** | South-southeasterly 35 to 50mph, strengthening during day, gusts 60mph by afternoon; 70-80mph after dark. | Southerly 60-70mph at dawn, easing to 25-35mph, perhaps much lower speed for part of the day. |
| **Effect of wind on you?** | **Challenging walking conditions, becoming difficult on high terrain, powerful downslope gusts. Significant then severe wind chill.** | **May well become fairly small, but beware severe conditions from overnight still beyond dawn; prepare for marked chill.** |
| **How wet?** (Precipitation and its impact) | **Dry until evening**<br>Toward or beyond dusk, patchy rain and upland snow flurries moving onto Skye and west coast, making slow progress inland onward into evening, but risk of hill snow setting in widely into night. | **Early snow and rain, then showers west**<br>A period of snow across the hills from overnight into morning, turning more rain higher up near west coast, breaking up into showers mostly affecting Skye. |
| **Cloud on the hills?** | **Mostly little**<br>Patchy cloud banks drifting over some high summits, but many west coastal mountains from Torridon northwards often clearing. Banks may be more frequent south Cuillin. | **Fairly extensive, lifting with breaks**<br>Shrouding hills widely early in the day, the cloud base rising with some breaks forming for inland and northern areas, but often covering higher slopes near Skye. |
| **Chance of cloud free Munros?** | **70%** | **30%** |
| **Sunshine?** Air clarity (below cloud) | Weak sun at best through a thickening veil of high cloud from the west.<br>Visibility very good, though some haze develops in west. | Some glimpses of sun breaking through with time.<br>Visibility very poor, risk appalling in early snow, then improving to very good. |
| **How Cold? (at 900m)** | -2C, slightly higher Skye and nearby coast. Feeling like -15C to later nearer -20C directly in the wind on high tops. | -2C inland, to just above 0C coastal tops. Risk of wind chill feeling like -15C at least in the morning. |
| **Freezing Level** | Much terrain frozen, thawing on sunlit slopes up to 600m, or slightly higher near west coast. | Inland near Great Glen 600m or partly frozen lower down, but near coasts 800-1000m. |

## Planning Outlook

**All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 26 November, 2026**

Atlantic fronts bump into cold air across Britain by late Thursday into Friday, resulting in further hill snow, particularly substantial in southern Scottish Highlands. Strong to gale force south to southwesterlies prevail into the weekend, but a cold body of air across Britain will be slow to warm up, leaving many mountains frozen especially inland across Scotland and northern England; lying snow staying in place across the hills and some further flurries over hills at times, locally more persistent rain and hill snow; driest northern Scotland. Wales tending to become milder sooner over the weekend. Early next week, southwesterly gales are likely, milder for all at times with rain.

**Forecast issued at 15:53 on Tuesday, 24 November, 2026**

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