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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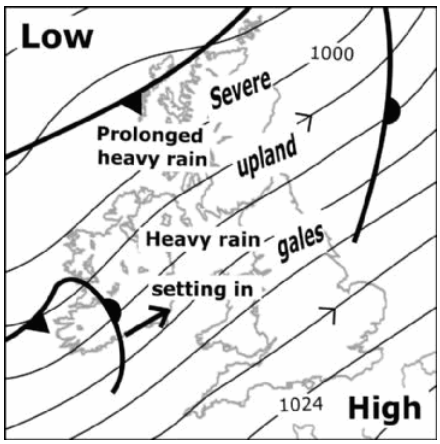
General Summary for Monday, 30 November, 2026



British Mountain Summary:
Based on forecast chart for noon 30 November, 2026

Storm-force winds on high mountains, plus powerful gusts to lower heights. Sustained heavy rain for western areas, all day in Scotland, setting in increasingly for England & Wales; less rain easternmost hills. Rapid thaw of previous snow. Flooding expected.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Severe gales on mountains; heavy rain all day west.

Detailed Forecast for Monday, 30 November, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 55 to 70mph; marked rise of wind speed with increasing height, but some powerful gusts reaching low slopes. Speeds moderating a little into afternoon, particularly northern areas to 30-40mph, but rising again into night.
Effect of wind on you?	**Severe conditions on high terrain, mobility very difficult, gusts blowing you over; may lessen for a few hours toward the north; challenging walking in places on lower hills with significant wind chill.**
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	**Prolonged heavy rain west** Raining all day Skye and much of Wester Ross to Kintail, incessant heavy falls. Further north and east, the rain patchier and may fade at times. Very wet underfoot, streams in spate.
Cloud on the hills?	**Extensive** Shrouding the mountains widely above 600 to 800m, sometimes lower around Skye and nearby coast. Some higher breaks at times toward Ben Hope and Ben Wyvis.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	**10%**
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast and dull, locally brighter skies toward far northeast. Hazy at best, visibility mostly poor due to rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Rising from before dawn up to 6C, tending to lift slightly further by late in the day. Feeling like -10C in the wind.
Freezing Level	Well above freezing to highest summits; rapid thawing of previously frozen terrain and snow cover on mountains.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Tuesday 1 December	Wednesday 2 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 60-70mph with stronger gusts from dawn, tending to lessen to 30-40mph, locally perhaps less at times.	Westerly 25 to 35mph, locally 40mph at times mainly in the north.
Effect of wind on you?	**Continuing severe conditions on high terrain early in the day at least, improving, but risk still challenging in places.**	**Blustery, affecting ease of walking, in places more frequent buffeting on exposed tops; considerable wind chill.**
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	**Rain likely clearing during day** Frequent or persistent rain from overnight into the morning, but may tend to break up and clear, leaving a few showers toward the west coast, later of snow above 800m. Streams in spate, expect flooding.	**Showers west** Showery rain on and off for west coastal hills, snow flurries on higher slopes above 700-800m mainly inland, risk of hail. Often dry further east.
Cloud on the hills?	**Mostly western tops, breaks likely** Banks of cloud covering higher slopes frequently around Skye and Wester Ross, most extensive in the morning, but tending to thin, clearer breaks at times north/east.	**Varying over western tops** Banks of cloud drifting over higher slopes mostly above 800m, varying and breaking higher for periods, more often clearing to 1000m or above inland, better eastward.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	**40%**	**30%**
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A little sun breaking through, mostly north and eastern areas. Visibility poor if in rain west, improving to be very good.	Brief sun breaking through, mostly east. Visibility often very good, but reducing in showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	7C from dawn into the morning, then falling quickly toward 0C. Wind chill risk feeling like -7 to -12C.	0 or 1C. Feeling like -10C in the wind.
Freezing Level	Starting well above the summits, but during the day a rapid drop to 900-1000m through middle of day from west.	900-1000m, slightly higher Skye and nearby coast.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 1 December, 2026

High rainfall totals and a rapid thaw at the start of this week leads to flooding; expect some routes to be impassable. Dropping back sub-zero on Scottish tops by Tuesday into Wednesday, with a showery mix of rain, snow and hail. High pressure then builds later in the week bringing commonly dry conditions over a run of days into the weekend and beyond for some places; temperatures varying, some overnight frost, also fog. A mixed southwesterly may return to Scotland for a time with some rain mainly in the west. Onward into mid-December shows signs of colder weather patterns returning.

Forecast issued at 15:00 on Sunday, 29 November, 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.