

The Northwest Highlands

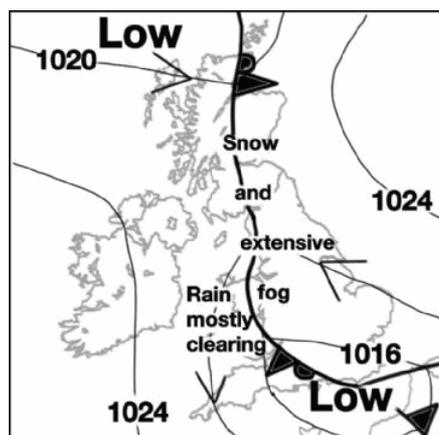
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Thursday, 14 January, 2021



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 14 January, 2021

Extensive snow along the spine of Britain will only slowly ease or fizzle out from the north. In Wales, mostly rain confined to morning. Almost blanket fog most mountains, although a slow improvement westernmost areas. Upland wind near gale force Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Rain/snow easing to showers. Extensive fog, particularly morning.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 14 January, 2021

How windy? (On the Munros)	Soon westerly, 15 or 20mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Small.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain/snow changing to showers Overnight precipitation will through the day gradually fizzle out, albeit occasional showers will follow, particularly on more western mountains. Near the coast, snow only above 900m, but abrupt transition inland where snow falls into valleys.
Cloud on the hills?	Very extensive and low Fog in many areas from lowest slopes up most or all day, although will tend to improve from the west as cloud base rises to 450 to 700m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Less than 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Pockets of sun will slowly coming through, most likely afternoon. Visibility poor; or in snow very poor. Will tend to become very good or excellent on coastal hills in afternoon.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1 to +1C; little fall in temperature with height.
Freezing Level	Mostly 1000m, but abruptly transition on more eastern hills to more or less valley level - with terrain partly frozen and in places very icy.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 15 January	Saturday 16 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Timing uncertain: Probably little wind at first, becoming southerly 20 to 30mph, risk later 40mph west coastal hills. Negligible at first, likely to deteriorate, may result in buffeting and significant wind chill western mountains.	South veering westerly, typically 40 to 50mph. There may be a temporary lull. Walking often difficult where exposed and wind chill significant.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Precipitation very unlikely Small risk of snow, rain lower slopes encroaching onto west coastal hills at dusk.	Extensive across the hills Overnight rain will soon ease to showers - although for an hour or two the precipitation may be frequent and heavy. Level to which snow penetrates very varied, perhaps in places to lower slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	Summits extensively cloud free Here and there patches of cloud on higher slopes, but overall the hills free of cloud - whilst ribbons of fog persist in some glens.	Extensive across the hills Cloud base will vary; initially may be confined to highest areas. As winds turn westerly, so cloud base will become typically 500 to 700m, but lower near precipitation.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Extensive bright sun before high level cloud progressively weakens the sun. Excellent or superb visibility although fog some valleys.	Glimpses of sun developing. Frequently hazy, and visibility poor in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0C. Most terrain at least partly frozen. However, freezing level will vary: some daylight thawing in places to the highest tops.	Between 0 and 2C. Starting above the summits near coast, but dropping toward 900m. Well inland, very varied, locally 500m.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 15 January, 2021**

Further bands of rain will come in off the Atlantic over the next week, turning to snow on the mountains. However, there will also be some dry days with well broken cloud. In Scotland, the Munros will remain almost persistently sub-freezing, whilst further south, temperatures on higher summits will fluctuate with side of freezing point.

Forecast issued at 7:45 on Thursday, 14 January, 2021

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