

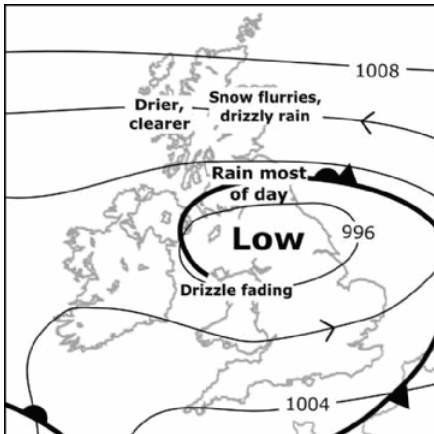
The Northwest Highlands

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, 3 April, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 3 April, 2024

Strong easterly winds, sub-zero on Scottish tops, significant chill factor. Persistent rain central & SE Scotland. Snow for E Highlands, mostly flurries. Extensive low cloud. Higher cloud bases, more often dry near west coast N from Mull. Frequent bursts of rain N England. Becoming often dry Wales, but strong westerlies.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Cold and windy, gusty, gale-force. Snow flurries east.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 3 April, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Easterly 30 to 40mph, strongest sustained speeds toward the far north, but gusts widely up to 50mph around some major summits and ridges.
Effect of wind on you?	Blustery with frequent buffeting over higher terrain, suddenly gusty making walking arduous over exposed terrain. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow or rain mostly east Snow flurries, often falling toward lower elevations in northeast, rain lowest slopes; locally persistent around Ben Wyvis. Small amounts toward Skye and Wester Ross.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, breaks west Shrouding most higher areas, lowest cloud near to Moray Firth. Some breaks to upper slopes toward west coast, best around Torridon and on Skye.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10% Ben Wyvis to Loch Fannich; 40% west coast.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of weak sun near Skye, otherwise overcast. Hazy north and east, murky locally, visibility good in west.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0C Skye, -1 or -2C mainland, lowering. Nearer -3C Ben Hope all day. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C, coldest all day in north.
Freezing Level	500-600m far north, 700m Ben Wyvis, to 900m Skye & Torridon, but tending to lower slightly across all areas with time.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 4 April	Friday 5 April
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	East to northeasterly 20 to 30mph. Blustery over higher terrain, significant wind chill where exposed on higher tops, especially in north.	East turning southerly, 35 to 50mph, gusts 60mph+ at first. Possibly easing during day, but risk gales returning into night. Beware of changing conditions, at times very difficult with powerful gusts to lower slopes. May improve for a time.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow or hail flurries north/east Occasional snow or soft hail flurries, mainly toward north and east, snow falling to lower elevations in the morning. Tending to fade into afternoon. Mostly dry toward Skye and Torridon.	Snow possible to low levels for a time Risk of extensive snowfall over the hills, at first toward lower slopes. Most persistent in eastern areas. Turning to sleet or rain to higher levels, especially near Skye. May be small amounts much of west coast.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly east and north, breaks west Banks of cloud most persistent from Ben Hope to Ben Wyvis. Mostly confined to higher slopes toward the west, with breaks to many tops.	Fairly extensive Covering the hills widely, lowest cloud bases toward the east, but also Skye for periods. Best of breaks to upper slopes in coastal areas north of Torridon.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun, best in west. Visibility very good, slight haze north.	Overcast, a veil of high cloud at least. Visibility locally good if dry, but poor in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2 to -4C, coldest in far north in morning. Rising toward 0C on Skye. Feeling like -10 to -15C if exposed to stronger winds. Close to freezing from low elevations upward in the morning. Rising to 700m near Ben Hope, 1000m on/near Skye.	-2 to -4C, coldest in north in morning. Rising gradually to 0C, up to +2C Skye. Wind chill often feeling like -10C or below. Near/below freezing glens upward at first, rising variably, some N/E areas slowly above 600m, but near Skye above 1000m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 4 April, 2024

Complex areas of low pressure continue to circulate over Britain. Chilly easterly winds for Scotland through midweek, eventually turning southwesterly by the weekend with a rise of temperature by this stage. Risk of widespread upland gales Friday into the weekend. The western Highlands will generally see least precipitation and best cloud breaks. Eastern Scottish hills plus much of England and Wales more often affected by low cloud and periods of rain or hill snow. Fresh snow accumulations over the Highlands. England and especially Wales typically above freezing to tops.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Tuesday, 2 April, 2024

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, 2024.