

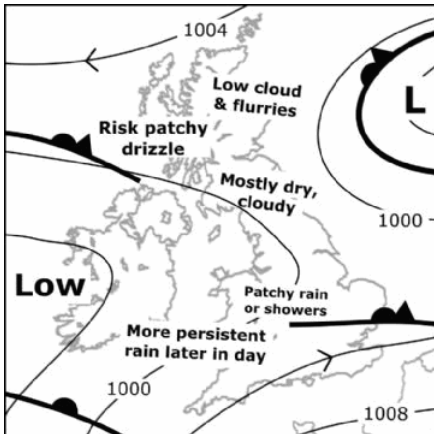
The Northwest Highlands

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, 4 April, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 4 April, 2024

Chilly northeasterlies across the Highlands, but wind speeds tending to ease. Sub-zero temperatures across the mountains all day. A lot of low cloud, patchy snow flurries, locally drizzly. Mostly dry for northern England, some cloud breaks. Patchy rain for Wales, later turning wetter as SW'ly winds freshen; gales by dusk.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Cold, brisk winds easing. Local flurries. Cloud breaks west.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 4 April, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	East to northeasterly 20 to 30mph in the morning, tending to ease a little into afternoon, but will strengthen again into evening, reaching 50mph+ overnight.
Effect of wind on you?	Blustery over higher terrain, significant wind chill where exposed on higher tops, especially in north. Improving a little during daytime, but deteriorating into night.
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. Mostly dry toward Skye and Torridon.
Cloud on the hills?	Most persistent east, breaks west Banks of cloud most persistent from Ben Hope to particularly Ben Wyvis area - here often to mid-slopes all day. Higher bases westwards, mostly confined to higher slopes toward the west coast around Skye and Torridon, with breaks to tops for periods. Some improvements too toward northwest.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% north and east, to 40% far west.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun, best in west. Visibility mostly very good in west, dull or misty toward east.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2 to -4C, coldest in far north in morning. Rising to -1C, or just above 0C on Skye. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C in the morning, coldest in north and east.
Freezing Level	Close to freezing from low elevations upward in the morning. Rising to 600m near Ben Hope, 800m Kinlochewe area, 900-1000m on/nearest Skye.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 5 April	Saturday 6 April
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	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.	Southeast turning southerly, 50 to 70mph, speeds tending to peak into afternoon, reaching 80mph, continuing into night. Severe conditions over the mountains. Buffeting from low levels up. Gusts may blow you over even at mid-heights.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow to low levels, turning to rain Extensive snowfall over the hills at first toward lower slopes. Most persistent in eastern areas. Turning to sleet, rain to higher levels, frequent rain setting in on & near Skye. Least amounts in Ullapool area.	Heavy rain, frequently wet near Skye Extensive rain in the morning, heavy for a time, especially Skye & Torridon area. Further pulses of rain follow, may set in again for periods in west. Into evening and night, hail, or snow on higher Munros.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive Covering the hills widely, lowest cloud bases toward the east, but also Skye for much of the day. Best of breaks to upper slopes west coast near Ullapool.	Changing quickly, occasional breaks Cloud bases will vary, covering the mountains widely in rain. Possibly breaking up substantially for periods to higher summits, but lowering again abruptly.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast, a veil of high cloud at least. Visibility locally good if dry, but poor in precipitation.	Mostly cloudy, brief bursts of sun. A general haze, visibility poor in rain; occasional improvements.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2 to -4C, coldest in north in morning. Rising gradually, by evening widely +2C. Wind chill often feeling like -10C or below. Near/below freezing glens upward at first, rising slowly above 600m in north, soon above 1000m Skye; later above all tops.	4C to briefly 6C; tending to fall by afternoon, to around 1C later in day. Wind chill feeling like -10C, later -15C. Above the summits most or all day, but into the evening and night dropping back close to freezing above 1000m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 5 April, 2024

Very unsettled into the weekend and likely next week, influenced by deep areas of low pressure centred west or northwest of Britain. Southerly gales, sustained storm-force speeds across higher mountains throughout Saturday and Sunday. Temperature rising above freezing to highest tops into Saturday, plus heavy rain sweeping north - a period of thaw across the Highlands. Cooler by Sunday, the freezing level back to 1000-1200m, then varying temperatures for the week ahead. Frequent precipitation continuing, focused on western mountains, at times persistent rainfall, intermittently snow on higher Scottish tops, plus showers with hail. Periods of strong winds continue, risk further upland gales.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Wednesday, 3 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.