

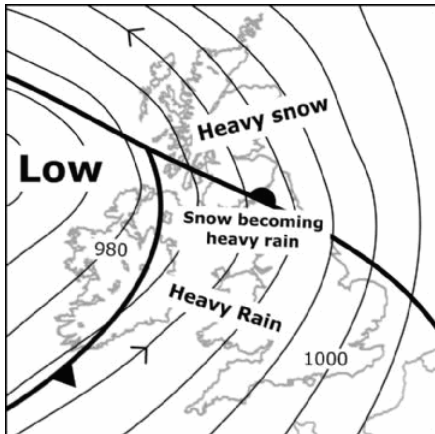
# The Northwest Highlands

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 Saturday, 23 November, 2024



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 23 November, 2024**

Severe weather widely with storm-force upland winds; heavy snow over the Highlands giving sustained blizzard conditions to lower elevations. A rapid switch from snow to rain up to high tops for northern England, already by dawn in Wales - here prolonged heavy rain with flooding likely.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Stormy; heavy snow spreads north, rain and rapid thaw starts later.

## Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 23 November, 2024

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Southeasterly 60 to 85mph; ferocious gusts reaching lower slopes, particularly turbulent west of major mountain groups. Speeds lowering from south up to dusk, but increasing again into night, turning southerly.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Severe conditions, any activity on the exposed ridges highly dangerous regardless of experience. Difficult even on lower hills, gusts may knock you over.</b>
<b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b>	<b>Heavy snow, changing to rain; rapid thaw starts later.</b> Dry start in north, but soon moderate then heavy snow falling to lower elevations gradually extending northwards to all areas in morning. Snowfall fairly persistent, but an abrupt transition into rain near coast around Skye. Sleet & snow fading in north into evening, then periods of rain to tops spread from southwest into night.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Hills covered extensively</b> Hills fully covered, very likely all day. Locally during morning a few clear spots in the north, but cloud lowering widely. Some breaks to 700m Ullapool area.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</b>	Overcast, zero visibility, whiteout becoming widespread, extending north in morning. Briefly brighter at the start of the day toward northeast.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	Rising from -5C in morning, to +3C late afternoon, or higher after dark.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Variable, at first all terrain frozen inland, 300-500m near coast. Rising erratically afternoon; above summits soonest near Skye, more widely from dusk.

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 24 November	Monday 25 November
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b> <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	Southwesterly 45 to 55mph across most areas, locally less occasionally. Highest peaks at times 60-65mph. <b>Difficulty maintaining stability, easily blown over by gusts or unsure footing. Significant wind chill.</b>	South to southwesterly, switching west to northwesterly; 40 to 60mph; may vary considerably, possible short-lived lulls. <b>Expect difficult walking conditions most of the day, any improvements likely only temporary. Significant wind chill.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Morning showers, fading inland</b> Rain and showers likely on the coastal mountains and inland in the morning, fading through the day except for coasts around Skye where often wet. Sleet or snow occasionally on highest summits.	<b>Rain most persistent Skye</b> Frequent precipitation, of snow on the higher Munros in the morning, then mostly rain. Heavy bursts most frequent near the west coast and on Skye, risk of hail.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Tops in cloud, some breaks northeast</b>  Potential for cloud breaks away from the coast, most likely in the far northeast. Mountain tops likely within cloud.	<b>Varied, but covering tops most of day</b>  Cloud base rapidly changing, but often shrouding the mountains above 800m, or 600m nearest west coast. Brief higher breaks mainly eastern hills.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly cloudy along the central coast. The far north may see intermittent sun. General haze, visibility reduced in rain.	Rare if any glimpses of sun. Visibility briefly good, but suddenly very poor due to precipitation.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>  <b>Freezing Level</b>	2 or 3C, slightly warmer around dawn. Feeling like -10 to -15C in wind.  Above the summits at first, dropping to 1200m during the morning.	2 to 4C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C.  1100m in morning, but likely lifting above all summits during the day, soonest near to west coast.

## Planning Outlook

### All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 24 November, 2024

A powerful area of low pressure continues to influence all areas Sunday into Monday, bringing sustained gales from lower hills upward, storm-force on higher mountains. After a rapid period of thaw in all areas late Saturday, by Sunday-Monday the Scottish high tops are back just below freezing point. Frequent showery rain, or snow on the Munros, most persistent in the west. Into midweek, higher pressure tries to expand over Britain bringing drier conditions, with temperatures nearer the seasonal average compared to the current very cold spell. Periods of rain and milder southerly air later in the week - above freezing to all tops. Early December shows signs of chillier northerlies returning.

### Forecast issued at 16:00 on Friday, 22 November, 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.