

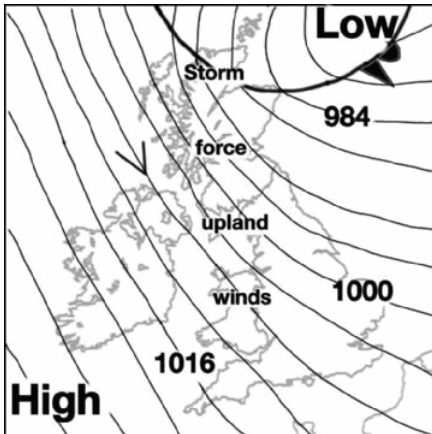
The Northwest Highlands

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.)



[Skye Basecamp - a brand new climber's hostel run by Skye Guides mountain guiding](#)
 Visit www.skyebasecamp.co.uk to book your stay

General Summary for Sunday, 22 December, 2024



British Mountain Summary:
 Based on forecast chart for noon 22 December, 2024

Very severe conditions due to widespread storm force northwesterly winds across the mountains. Frequent snow showers will come in off the sea, extending well inland and in some areas merging to give almost constant snow and whiteout for a few hours.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands
 Storm force upland wind. Frequent snow; whiteout.

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 22 December, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 55 to 75mph; particularly gusty near precipitation. Generally least windy far north.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking on lower slopes, whilst higher up severe wind chill and any mobility challenging, particularly near precipitation.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent snow At best showers, sometimes heavy and one after another; mostly rain in valleys. Sometimes the precipitation more or less constant over a few hours, giving whiteout.
Cloud on the hills?	Very extensive across the mountains; cloud base varying Near precipitation cloud sometimes below 400m particularly near the coast, but breaks to 750m, perhaps fleeting breaks to higher tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Less than 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sunshine, mainly well inland. Very varied visibility, appalling or near zero in snow/blowing snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C, slight rise through day. Will feel as cold as minus 20C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	600m; will rise marginally through daylight.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Monday 23 December	Tuesday 24 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West backing southwesterly; a lull to around 20mph after dawn, before strengthening toward 40mph afternoon. Mostly small; but anticipate a change in afternoon to considerable wind chill and more strenuous walking.	Southwesterly 50 to 60mph; perhaps a little less strong near Skye. Very difficult conditions where exposed on higher areas; severe wind chill and walking strenuous; balance/foot placement not easy.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain spreading inland The odd snow shower morning. From midday (possibly just before near Skye): Rain, or temporarily snow or refrozen rain above 600m, spreading inland.	Raining most of the day Raining almost constantly, although on more eastern mountains south from Ben Wyvis the rain on and off and total rainfall small.
Cloud on the hills?	Deteriorating as cloud later envelops lower slopes, particularly near coast Patches of cloud near the coast above 750m whilst well inland cloud may well lift off summits below 900 to 1100m. But anticipate deterioration in precipitation as cloud fills in across the hills, forming on lower slopes near the coast.	Blanket of cloud across even most lower slopes. Cloud base widely below 200m near Skye and Wester Ross. Elsewhere, the cloud a little higher, but rarely above 600m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50% dropping afternoon from west to 10%	Almost nil
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sunshine. Visibility very good or excellent, but poor in precipitation.	Sunshine not expected. Widely poor visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-2C rising to 0 to 2C afternoon. Will feel as cold as minus 8C directly in the wind. 700m, through afternoon transitioning to above the summits, initially near the west coast.	7C. Will feel as cold as minus 9C where exposed to the wind Above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 23 December, 2024

A change in the weather pattern from Tuesday as high pressure progressively envelops Wales and England. Here (and also in S Scotland), extensively dry and the and progressively dropping, initially across Wales. Mild - although frost in valleys some nights. Still windy Scottish Highlands, here very mild with lying snow substantially melting. Rain frequent NW Highlands, and less so W Highlands. Further east little or no rain.

Forecast issued at 12:03 on Saturday, 21 December, 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.