

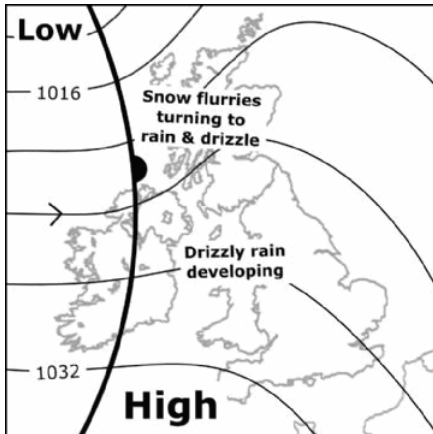
The Northwest Highlands

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 Monday, 23 December, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 23 December, 2024

A warm front arriving from the west brings rain preceded by snow or freezing rain on higher slopes - later much milder, well above freezing to all tops. A brief lull, but winds strengthening during the day in Scotland. Windy from dawn Pennines & Wales then a brief lull develops here during day.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Wind increasing. Rain and lowering cloud from west.

Detailed Forecast for Monday, 23 December, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	West soon backing southwesterly; a lull to around 20mph after dawn, then strengthening toward 40-45mph by midday into afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Mostly small early morning; but changing through day to considerable wind chill and more strenuous walking, soonest on Skye.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain spreading inland, brief snow flurries Dry start. but during morning, rain arriving from west, soonest on Skye - inland temporarily snow or refrozen rain above 600m, spreading inland during middle of day. Persistent drizzly rain western hills through afternoon.
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 briefly lifts off summits below 900 to 1100m. Deteriorating in precipitation as cloud fills in across the hills, forming on lower slopes near the coast.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40% dropping from west to 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sunshine. Visibility starting very good, but reducing in precipitation; very poor if in cloud and over lying snow on high terrain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C rising to 0 to 2C afternoon; then 6C+ into night. Will feel as cold as minus 8C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	700m, or partly frozen lower down in morning. Through afternoon transitioning to above the summits, sooner nearest the west coast.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Tuesday 24 December	Wednesday 25 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	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.	Southwesterly 50 to 65mph; marked increase with height, sudden gusts in high passes and locally downslope to east. Difficult conditions on exposed higher terrain, gusts may knock you over. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	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.	Rain most of day west Persistently damp across western hills with drizzly rain, at times steadier rain which may set in. Small amounts further east.
Cloud on the hills?	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.	Extensive Blanket cloud from lower slopes upward near west coasts, above 600m well inland, local higher breaks toward Ben Wyvis.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Almost nil	Almost nil
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sunshine not expected. Widely poor visibility.	Murky and dull, local brightness east coast. Visibility widely poor.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	7C. Will feel as cold as minus 9C where exposed to the wind Above the summits.	5C. Wind chill makes it feel as cold as -10C. Above the summits. (May start to drop well into the night to 900-1000m).

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 24 December, 2024**

West to southwesterly winds prevail through Christmas, gales over higher terrain, strongest in Scotland. The wind likely eases into Boxing Day as high pressure expands northwards. Mild for all through midweek, damp across western hills with extensive very low cloud; recent snow cover continually melting. Higher cloud bases and brighter further east. A risk of westerly winds strengthening again into the weekend, particularly Scotland. Some indication of colder air returning from the northwest into the New Year period.

Forecast issued at 15:00 on Sunday, 22 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.