

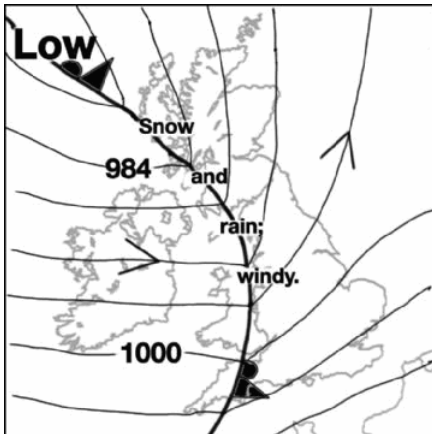
The Northwest Highlands

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, 23 January, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 23 January, 2025

The onset of a change as air begins to come in off the Atlantic. There will be extensive low cloud, and as a weakening front comes inland precipitation (snow on the mountains, even lower slopes Scotland) will set in for a couple of hours or so (very little N/NE Scotland). Upland winds will also strengthen markedly.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Snow; rain lowest slopes spreading slowly inland. Windy near Skye.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 23 January, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southerly strengthening morning to 40mph Skye; 30mph other coastal summits and 25mph elsewhere.
Effect of wind on you?	Western mountains south of Ullapool: Significant wind chill and buffeting where exposed. Elsewhere: Conditions less impactful; will still make walking strenuous in places.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow mainly toward Skye Initially just a few showers near west Skye, snow flurries above 600m. Elsewhere dry at least most or all morning. Rain and snow near Skye by midday will slowly spread inland. Very little all day far north.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied: many summits clear for part of day, but increasingly forming near snow Skye and increasingly nearby mainland hills: Hills largely cloud free, before on Skye cloud fills in across the hills. Through day will lower toward 600m progressively inland. Elsewhere: cloud persisting on some higher slopes, whilst for most of day others remain cloud free.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Dropping to less than 10% near Skye; 70% eastern and northern summits
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of weak sun giving way due to thickening high cloud. Visibility very good or excellent but appalling in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1 or -2C. Will feel as cold as minus -14C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Poor defined between 300 and 700m (little temperature change with height).

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 24 January	Saturday 25 January
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Low confidence: considerable sometimes abrupt changes. A lengthy lull, especially north, but may later be westerly 60mph. Sometimes small, but anticipate severe wind chill and walking, perhaps any mobility to become abruptly difficult.	Westerly later southwesterly, typically 40 to 50mph, although perhaps 65mph post dawn. Expect severe wind chill and walking challenging particularly higher areas in morning.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow on and off Bands of snow, sometimes heavy, moving north, interspersed with dry interludes. most precipitation near Skye. Expect whiteout.	Frequent hail and snow A mix of snow and hail showers and sometimes almost constant intermittently heavy precipitation. Expect whiteout and small risk thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied, often extensive Cloud bases fluctuating, at times covering some hills from lower slopes up, but occasionally breaking toward summits.	Extensive on higher tops Varying cloud base; breaks to 800m, occasionally 1000m, but near precipitation, forming at 450m or sometimes lower (particularly within a few miles of the west coast).
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Rare brief sun. Visibility intermittently appalling with whiteout.	Glimpses of sun, most widely lower easternmost slopes. Visibility intermittently very good, but abruptly appalling in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-4C rising to around 0C for a few hours, then starting to drop again from dusk. Will feel as cold as minus 15C directly in 200m rising to 750 to 1000m. Lowering again from dusk.	-3C. Will feel as cold as minus 18C directly in the wind. 450m

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 24 January, 2025

An extremely intense Atlantic low will make landfall in Scotland on Friday. In many areas upland winds will approach or reach hurricane force, and widespread precipitation will occur.

Precipitation will then fall most days over the coming week as low pressure continues to dominate, giving further periods of upland gales or storm force winds. On the Scottish Highlands most precipitation will be of snow, whilst further south snow more intermittently and often confined to higher summits.

Forecast issued at 14:30 on Wednesday, 22 January, 2025

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