

The Northwest Highlands

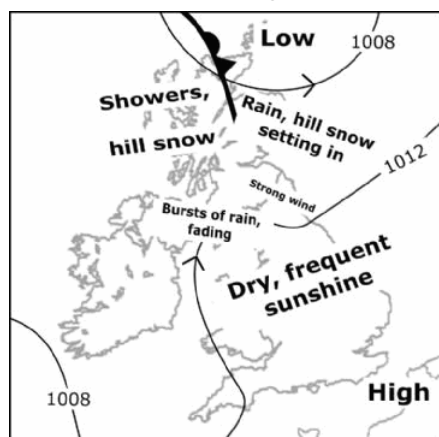
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Thursday, 17 April, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 17 April, 2025

Snow setting in for a time over the Munros in Scotland, staying sub-zero on high tops. Showery in the Southern Uplands. Windy with bursts of rain in north England, fading through afternoon as cloud lifts and breaks. Mostly dry with a brisk breeze south Pennines and Wales with frequent sunshine.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Showery rain/hill snow. Variable strong winds.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 17 April, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	At dawn, northwesterly 25-35mph. Beware of sudden speed changes north up to 40mph briefly. In the south, shifting westerly to 15-20mph by noon, spreading to most areas through afternoon, always windiest north.
Effect of wind on you?	Balance and stability affected through the morning; considerable buffeting and significant wind chill. Gradually easing to fairly small later afternoon.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Northern rain clears, followed by showers, snow on Munros Morning rain and hill snow around Moray Firth and northern areas drifts away to the north by noon. Showers drift onto the west coast and inland through the afternoon, some frequent and heavy on and east of Skye.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive Fairly extensive over high terrain at dawn, bases lowering to 700-800m in showers. Cloud will lift to mostly high terrain in the later afternoon, though still shrouded here.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little or no sun Mostly poor visibility, very poor in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C to +1C Feeling as cold as -12C in morning wind.
Freezing Level	800-900m, rising to 1000m through the afternoon. Some windward hills on the west coast maintaining a lower freezing level.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 18 April	Saturday 19 April
How windy? (On the Munros)	Easterly 10-15mph. Increasing through later afternoon up to 25mph.	Easterly 10-20mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking starting to be impeded with stability challenges on exposed terrain. Notable wind chill.	Mostly small
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain around Skye afternoon Frequent rain setting in on Skye in the afternoon, some patchy spots inland.	Little rain expected Chance of light rain Skye and surrounding areas at dawn soon clearing, though may be entirely dry.
Cloud on the hills?	High terrain often covered Cloud banks drifting around high terrain most of the day, bases lowering towards 800m in heaviest rain near Skye. Bases sometimes lifting toward highest tops or occasionally breaking.	Early mist, passing banks over high tops Misty glens and corries at dawn, dispersing. Passing cloud banks drift over terrain above 1000m here and there through the afternoon, mostly in the north. Staying clear Skye.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	70%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	No sun expected. Visibility good away from rain, possible haze, poorer toward Skye.	Glimpses or intermittent sun, best north. Excellent visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 to 1C, rising slightly. Wind chill -5 to -8C, near -10C in places.	0C, nearer 2C Skye at dawn. Rising to 4C west coast, northern areas staying around 2C, chance lower.
Freezing Level	900-100m at dawn. Gradually rising to near the summits.	900m north of Ullapool at dawn, mostly above summits southward and Skye. Rising mostly above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 18 April, 2025

Several cores of low pressure are circulating around the British Isles through the weekend and into next week. Western areas are likely to see rain with a few stray showers into the east. High pressure will briefly build in on Easter, settling the weather momentarily. Southern areas will see showers into early next week and low pressure will become dominant in the Atlantic, which may push several bands of rain eastward toward the British Isles, though details remain uncertain at this point. Temperatures will be near average or slightly cooler, depending on the position of low pressure.

Forecast issued at 16:28 on Wednesday, 16 April, 2025

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, 2025.