

The Northwest Highlands

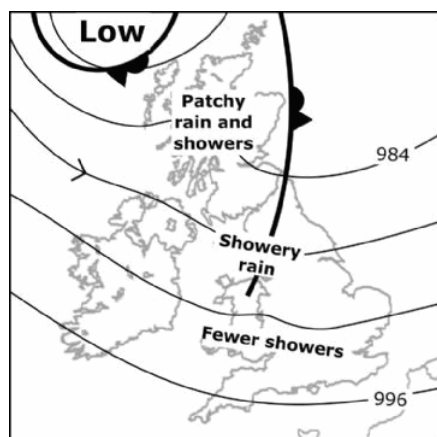
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Tuesday, 21 October, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 October, 2025

Patchy rain drifts east across the Highlands, breaking up into showers. Staying showery all day toward west coast, locally more frequent rain. Showery rain throughout the day for England and Wales, occasionally heavy. Low cloud most persistent west. Increasingly windy, feeling cold.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Wind strengthening. Frequent rain Skye and west coast.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 21 October, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	South-southwesterly early morning, 15-25mph, or less for a time eastern areas. Abrupt switch westerly and increasing, onto Skye during morning, then middle of day elsewhere, 30-35mph, risk local 40mph afternoon, squally gusts.
Effect of wind on you?	Fairly small at first, but blustery higher western tops. Becoming more arduous over the hills with time, significant wind chill, soonest on Skye.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain on and off, most frequent west Areas of rain fairly widely from dawn, some heavier bursts locally. Tending to fade to just occasional showers north and eastern areas. Further west around Skye, Torridon and Kintail, showery rain more frequent all day, turning to sleet on highest tops. During afternoon, most west coastal areas will be showery.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, lowest west Shrouding the mountains fairly widely in the morning, bases typically 600-700m, lower for a time in west. Some breaks forming to 800m or above toward Ben Wyvis and Ben Hope, but often covering western high terrain all day.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, glimpses of sun mostly east. Visibility often reduced around rain, locally good for periods in north/east.
How Cold? (at 900m)	5C, dropping to 2 or 3C, soonest on Skye, more widely toward evening. Feeling like -5C in exposure to the wind, dropping toward -10C on higher tops.
Freezing Level	Above the summits, then dropping close to highest tops on Skye afternoon, more widely later in day.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 22 October	Thursday 23 October
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West or southwesterly 20 to 30mph. Blustery, starting to affect comfortable walking and balance on exposed tops and ridges. Considerable wind chill.	South-southwesterly or variable, speeds may change rapidly, risk 40-50mph for periods, but for a few hours may be less. Beware of changing conditions, possibly difficult for several hours; prepare for significant wind chill over the mountains.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Occasional west coast showers Showers mostly brief, focused on western mountains, most common near coast, falling as sleet or snow on highest Munros.	Rain / high-level snow may set in west Showery rain, or falling as snow on higher Munros, possible hail - most frequent near west coast, may merge into constant precipitation, heavy at times in west. Drier toward east, possibly several hours.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Often capping high tops Variable cloud banks mostly above 700-900m, most persistent coastal areas in north. Breaks to higher slopes most often further inland and east. 30%	Often covering western tops Cloud very varied, shrouding hills extensively in precipitation in west, from mid-slopes upward. Best chance of breaks to tops likely further east. 30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Fairly cloudy west, glimpses of sun east. Visibility very good away from showers.	Largely cloudy. Visibility very good where dry, but often poor west, very poor if precipitation sets in.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	2C. Feeling like -5 to -8C in the wind. Near or just above highest summits, 1100-1200m.	2 or 3C. If wind speed increases, chill factor feeling near -10C. 1100m or just above highest summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 22 October, 2025

A complex weather situation through midweek, with various centres of low pressure drifting around slowly. Areas of rain and showers, but also drier moments - Wednesday and possibly Thursday often dry in eastern Scotland and northern England - beware of a deterioration from the northwest during Thursday with gales and rain setting in. Significantly colder later in the week as winds turn northerly. Freezing level dropping to 800-1000m into the weekend, lowest in northern Scotland. A mix of sunshine and showers falling as snow on high terrain, most frequent in north-facing areas.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Monday, 20 October, 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.