

The Northwest Highlands

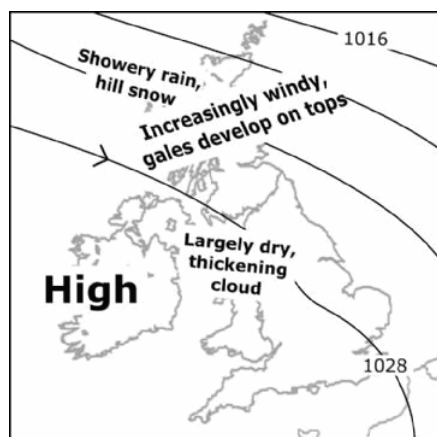
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Wednesday, 31 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 31 December, 2025

Much terrain frozen, frost into valleys and glens in the morning, all day out of sunlight, but temperature and freezing level tending to lift toward 800m from west. Showery rain and hill snow moving into W-NW Scotland. Wind strengthening, becoming gales over tops in Scotland during day, then N England after dark.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Increasingly windy, gales develop. Showery rain and hill snow.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 31 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly 30 to 40mph, strongest in northern areas, tending to increase widely, 50mph soonest toward Ben Hope. Turning northwesterly but remaining 40-50mph onward into night.
Effect of wind on you?	Be prepared for increasingly arduous conditions through the day with significant buffeting and wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy rain or upper slopes snow Patches of rain and snow increasingly developing, becoming frequent or persistent in western areas. Level to which snow falls tending to vary between 700 and 900m. By evening, snow lowering again, becoming frequent showery snow and hail to lower slopes into night.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, lowest western hills Soon after dawn, if not before, low cloud becoming extensive across the hills above 600 to 800m, patches forming to some lower slopes toward west coast.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly cloudy, some brightness east. Becoming hazier, with poor visibility in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C, lifting to 0 or 1C, will then drop to -4C into night. Feeling like -10 to -15C in the strongest winds during day.
Freezing Level	300-600m, plus frost in glens mostly toward the Great Glen from dawn; lifting to 800-1000m, then into night dropping to 400-500m.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 1 January	Friday 2 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 35 to 50mph, squally gusts in showers.	Northerly 30 to 40mph, squally gusts in showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Frequent buffeting, walking often arduous on higher terrain. Significant wind chill, severe higher up.	Severe wind chill over the mountains. Frequent buffeting in exposure on higher terrain.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent snow and hail A succession of showers moving inland from coasts in west and north, merging to feel near-constant for periods, falling as snow and hail to lower slopes, chance isolated thunder mainly in north.	Near-constant snow and hail A succession of heavy showers coming in from the north, snow and hail falling and accumulating to sea level. Frequent whiteout over the mountains. Risk of isolated thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Often covering upper slopes Cloud base constantly changing, but often capping higher slopes, bases 600-900m, lowest most often near coast. Brief breaks higher up mainly toward Great Glen.	Often shrouding tops Cloud base constantly changing, often capping hills above 800-900m, shafts of cloud to 600m in showers. Brief breaks to upper slopes mostly toward Great Glen.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, brief bursts of sun. Visibility varying, very poor in snow and cloud, intermittently very good.	Rare brief bursts of sun. Visibility often appalling due to snow falling or blowing and where also in cloud; but intermittently very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C, falling to -5C evening into night. Wind chill feeling like -15C, later -20C higher tops.	-5C. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C on tops.
Freezing Level	400 to 600m, highest near to coast. Some inland glens near freezing all day, then into night dropping to all lower slopes.	Most terrain frozen, sub-zero all day glens upward. Just above freezing up to 200-300m on slopes nearest to the coast.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 1 January, 2026

Significantly cold wintry conditions into the start of January. Air temperature well below freezing on high terrain, plus low minima into many glens and valleys with sustained hard frost. Strong northerly winds later this week giving severe wind chill. Frequent and heavy snow showers moving into northern areas and running down coastal extremities with significant accumulations. Elsewhere, lots of dry and sunny weather, although occasional organised bands of snow will feed south at times in the Arctic airflow. Staying cold into next week with scope for snowfalls more widely.

Forecast issued at 16:28 on Tuesday, 30 December, 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.