

The Northwest Highlands

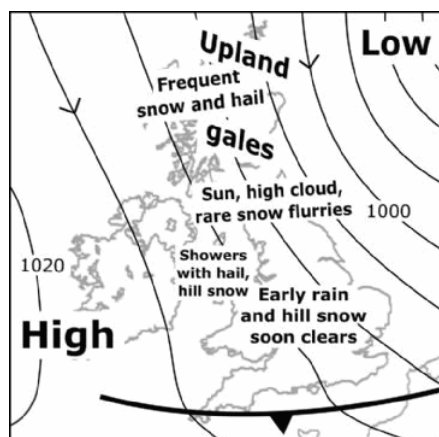
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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General Summary for Thursday, 1 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 1 January, 2026

Cold north-northwesterly winds, widely gale force over the mountains, difficult conditions with severe chill factor on Scottish high tops. Showery snow and hail frequent in northern Scotland. Rare showers central Scotland and northern England. Early rain and hill snow followed by showers in Wales.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Gales on mountains, snow and hail to lower slopes.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 1 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 35 to 50mph, sustained winds tending to strengthen widely during morning into middle of day, in places 60mph on high tops; squally gusts in showers.
Effect of wind on you?	Frequent buffeting, walking often arduous on higher terrain, gusts knocking you off balance in places in exposure. Significant wind chill, severe higher up.
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. Periods of whiteout on hills. Chance isolated thunder mainly in north.
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.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, brief bursts of sun. Visibility varying, very poor in snow and cloud, intermittently very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C, falling to -5C evening into night. Wind chill feeling like -15C, later -20C higher 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.

[illegible]

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 2 January, 2026

Terrain extensively frozen onward into the weekend and early next week at least ; sub-zero temperatures from the glens upward in Scotland and some valleys inland in northern England. Substantial fresh snow accumulations in the North West Highlands and Cairngorms, heavy showers streaming in from the north also containing hail. Largely dry and sunny from central Scotland to northern England. Hail and snow showers will run into north and west Wales from the sea . Bitter northerly winds, up to gale force higher tops, tending to lessen into Sunday. Some fluctuation of freezing level during next week, but some fronts moving in from northwest likely bring snowfall to hills at times more widely.

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.