#### MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

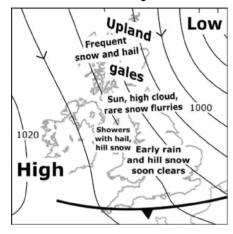
# The Northwest Highlands

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?	Frequent snow and hail	
(Precipitation and its impact)	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?	Largely cloudy, brief bursts of sun.	
Air clarity (below cloud)	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.	

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#### The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 2 January	Saturday 3 January
How windy? (On the Munros)  Effect of wind on you?	Northerly 30 to 40mph, risk 50mph at dawn, and again into the evening; squally gusts in showers.  Severe wind chill over the mountains.  Frequent buffeting in exposure on higher terrain.	Northerly 30 to 40mph, squally gusts in showers.  Continued severe wind chill over the mountains. Frequent buffeting on exposed terrain.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Near-constant snow and hail	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.	An ongoing stream of heavy showers coming in from the north, snow and hail falling and accumulating to sea level.  Frequent whiteout on the tops. Risk isolated thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Often shrouding tops	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.	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)	Rare brief bursts of sun. Visibility often appalling due to snow falling or blowing and where also in cloud; but intermittently very good.	Brief bursts of sun, more frequent Kintail. Visibility often appalling due to snow falling or blowing and where also in cloud; but intermittently very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-5C. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C on tops.	-5 or -6C. Wind chill feeling like -20C in exposure on tops.
Freezing Level	Most terrain frozen, sub-zero all day glens upward. Just above freezing up to 200-300m on slopes nearest to the coast.	Terrain widely frozen, staying sub-zero from glens upward. Nearest the coast, partial thawing in sunlight to 300-400m.

### **Planning Outlook**

#### 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.

#### Forecast issued at 15:55 on Wednesday, 31 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.