

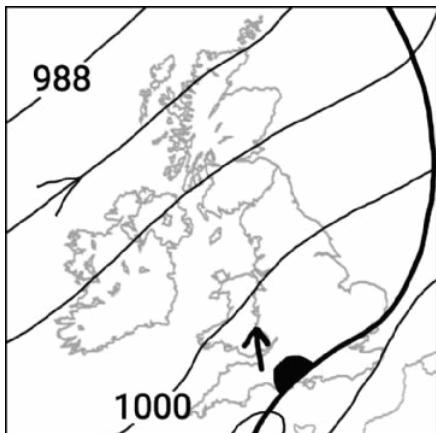
The Northwest Highlands

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, 15 January, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 15 January, 2026

Blustery and chilly south-westerly winds bringing occasional snow and hail showers, most prevalent across the west Highlands. Rain falling below 500m. Drier for England and Wales, but risk of marked deterioration later for southern and eastern Wales as rain and summit snow edges in from the south.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Snow or hail showers and blustery south-westerly winds. Hill fog extensive.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 15 January, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 25 to perhaps 35mph. May ease a little later.
Effect of wind on you?	Strong enough to make walking arduous where exposed and balance at times difficult. Considerable wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Heavy hail and snow showers Succession of hail and snow showers (mostly rain lower coastal slopes). Small risk thunder.
Cloud on the hills?	Unlikely to clear the Munros Higher areas almost always cloud covered. Cloud base typically 400 to 700m near the coast and 500 to 900m elsewhere. Highest cloud base Sutherland and Ben Wyvis.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sunshine. Very varied visibility: sometimes excellent, but appalling in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C, but feeling more like -10C in direct exposure to the strongest winds.
Freezing Level	750m, marginally higher close to the coast.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 16 January	Saturday 17 January
How windy? (On the Munros)	Variable or south-easterly in direction. 10-15mph or less. Perhaps 20mph up the west coast and Skye.	South-easterly 10 to 20mph, perhaps 25mph through some cols, passes and summits.
Effect of wind on you?	Mostly small	Mostly small, but wind chill still significant where exposed to the strongest breeze.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Mostly dry, bar coastal showers. Mostly dry, but risk of precipitation in the form of showers for the west coast and Skye. Snow above 500-600m	No precipitation expected Banks or patches of cloud at varying heights from mid to upper slopes, with ribbons of fog some glens. Clearest conditions west coast and far north.
Cloud on the hills?	Hills may be fairly clear above valley fog. Hills may well be fairly clear, although some caps of cloud across the tops at times. Likely ribbons of fog through some of the glens.	Varying banks, fog patches some glens. Banks or patches of cloud at varying heights from mid to upper slopes, with ribbons of fog some glens. Clearest conditions west coast and far north.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70%	40%, but 70% far north and west coast.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchwork of sunshine, best in the north and east. Visibility very good, away from any fog or showers.	Glimpses of sun toward west coast and far north. Otherwise dull. Visibility good or very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-1C	-1C to plus 2C; highest Ben Hope to west coast. Feeling closer to -8C in the strongest breeze.
Freezing Level	700-800m, but frost into the glens at first light.	Varied across the area, 600-1100m, highest toward west coast/Ben Hope. Patchy frost into some glens at dawn.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 16 January, 2026

A small scale low will pull away early on Friday morning to the North Sea to leave drier and chilly conditions into the weekend with a south to south-easterly airflow developing. Looking further ahead, a colder continental influence may be drawn in on south to east winds, but the extent of this is uncertain. The snow pack across the Scottish Highlands will be enhanced by further spells of snowfall where fronts edge in from the west, whilst for England and Wales snow accumulating on the hills at times, perhaps in the form of showers from the east.

Forecast issued at 16:46 on Wednesday, 14 January, 2026

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, 2026.