

The Northwest Highlands

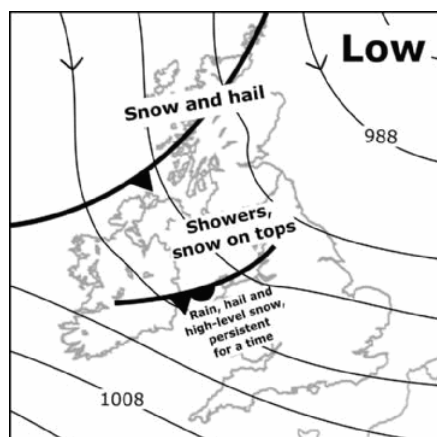
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



Skye Basecamp - a brand new climber's hostel run by Skye Guides mountain guiding

Visit www.skyebasecamp.co.uk to book your stay

General Summary for Monday, 16 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 16 February, 2026

Snow over northwestern mountains in Scotland will tend to extend further into Lochaber and Cairngorms by afternoon as NW'ly winds strengthen, some hail mixed in. Strong westerlies for England, gale-force on Welsh mountains, heavy showers merging into longer periods rain, snow confined to higher tops.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Windy, cold. Snow and hail, more persistent for a time.

Detailed Forecast for Monday, 16 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	North to northwesterly 25 to 35mph, lower speeds locally toward Great Glen at first. Squally gusts develop around heavier showers. From dusk, rapid increase to 50-60mph, stronger gusts for a time.
Effect of wind on you?	Blustery, affecting comfortable walking, gusts knocking you off balance where exposed. Significant wind chill. Deteriorating to more severe conditions quickly from sunset into evening.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow and hail, setting in for a time. Heavy snow and hail showers, merging into more frequent or constant precipitation over a few hours through middle of day - snow falling increasingly to lower slopes inland, rain lower coastal areas. Chance isolated thunder. Least precipitation near Great Glen.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive; highest cloud base toward Great Glen Cloud base varying, sometimes quickly, between 400m near precipitation and otherwise 600 to 800m. Toward the Great Glen, cloud rarely below 600m and breaks toward 1000m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sun mainly toward Great Glen. Very varied visibility; appalling or near zero for periods in snow, occasionally very good.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C dropping toward -5C by late afternoon. Directly in the wind feeling like -12 to -15C during daytime, colder soon after dark.
Freezing Level	600m or briefly higher at dawn, though patchy frost some inland and eastern glens. Lowering during day to 400m.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northerly 25 to 35mph at first, dropping to 15mph, or less into afternoon. Prepare for considerable wind chill in the morning, blustery conditions for a few hours at least. Becoming small.	South-southeasterly 20-30mph; very gusty, sudden changes in direction and not just on high terrain. Strenuous walking, including lower slopes due to considerable buffeting from strong gusts; significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow showers or flurries dying out Snow and hail showers Sutherland and near the coast elsewhere tending to fade. By evening, a further band of snow showers may move into the far north.	No precipitation expected
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Becoming confined to higher areas and increasingly clearing Cloud fairly extensive in the morning on higher slopes of Sutherland and near the west coast but patchy elsewhere. By afternoon patches above 750 to 900m, but increasingly mountains free of cloud. 70% by afternoon	Little or none Cloud caps will graze the high summits from Ullapool northward to Ben Hope from time to time, but the Munros otherwise free of cloud. 90%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchwork of cloud and bright sunshine. Excellent visibility, reduced around early showers.	Mostly sunny, some high cloud around. Excellent visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-5C. Early in day, feeling like -15C directly in the wind, easing. 300-400m but most terrain frozen; slight rise toward coast, partial thawing lowest sunlit slopes inland.	-4C south/east, to -2C west coast slopes. Feeling like -10 to -15C in strongest wind. Most terrain frozen from dawn, low sun-exposed slopes thawing, up to 500-600m west and northern coasts.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 17 February, 2026**

Much terrain frozen into midweek, frost into valleys and glens. Uncertain extent of strengthening winds by Wednesday, and possible snow moving into Wales. Late in the week and through next weekend, a switch to southwesterly winds is expected, bringing a change to milder conditions - lifting above freezing to tops in England and Wales, and generally higher freezing levels in Scotland; periods of thawing likely over the mountains, though some further snowfall at times on higher Munros. Rain most frequent over western hills. Generally windy with upland gales.

Forecast issued at 15:30 on Sunday, 15 February, 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.