

# The Northwest Highlands

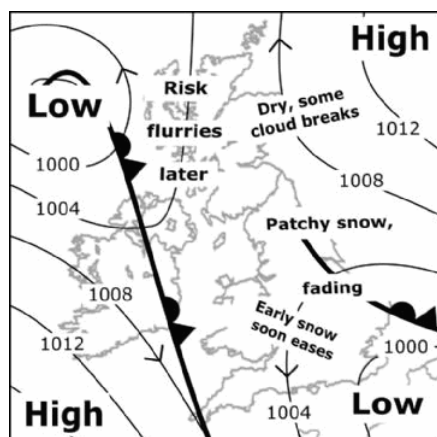
Areas north from Knoydart in the west, and the Great Glen towards the east (NB. Does not include Mull and areas west of Loch Linnhe, these are found in the West Highlands forecast.)



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## General Summary for Thursday, 19 February, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 19 February, 2026**

Most mountain terrain remains frozen. Gusty southeasterly wind with significant chill factor. Some snow flurries towards southwest of Highlands with low cloud banks, clearer northward. Light snow fading Peak District and Pennines, low cloud persists here. Generally dry Wales but increasingly windy.

### Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Strong gusty wind. Many hills clear, snow flurries later west.

## Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 19 February, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Southeast turning southerly 25 to 35mph, speed tending to increase, in afternoon 40mph western hills, more widely up to dusk.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Blustery and increasingly significant wind chill over the mountains, walking becoming more challenging in afternoon in exposure.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Some patchy coastal precipitation later</b> Patchy snow affecting west coastal slopes in the afternoon, rain below 300-400m; spreading more widely over Skye later and then inland into nighttime.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Little expected</b> The hills largely cloud free. Later in the day, cloud moves in from the west to graze high terrain, spreading inland into night.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Often sunny but weakened by high cloud, which may thicken with time. Excellent visibility.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	Between -3 to -1C, local variability and only little change with added height. Feeling like -15 to -18C in direct wind.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Most terrain frozen from dawn, lifting though spatially variable, 400-600m, perhaps higher to the far north and west.

## The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 20 February	Saturday 21 February
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>  <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	Starting southwesterly 25-35mph, very soon rising Skye, 45-55mph, spreading widely with a westerly shift; likely gusty.  <b>Walking becoming challenging with significant wind chill on high terrain; maintaining stability a constant effort.</b>	Southwesterly, possibly 25mph early in the day, but likely strengthening to be in range 35 to 45mph, risk later over 50mph.  <b>Scope for a relative lull at first, but walking conditions likely to become arduous again with time, risk more difficult later.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Often raining, afternoon breaks inland</b> Snow at Skye/Torridon from dawn, rain to low slopes at first. Spreading widely through morning, then a breaking trend, though often showery on Skye and Torridon, with the rain level progressively rising to high slopes.	<b>Often raining, becoming heavier</b> Rain on and off widely, most persistent western mountains around Skye and Torridon, briefly starting as sleet above 900m. Rain likely setting in widely heavier from the west with time.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>   <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>Fairly extensive, brief breaks inland/north</b>  Extensive cloud from middle slopes up Skye/Torridon, to lower slopes during rain. Also often to middle slopes along the west coast, some breaks to higher slopes during rain cessations, best chance of high breaks well inland, but these likely only brief.  <b>20%</b>	<b>Extensive</b>  Blanketing the mountains all day, from lower elevations upward near west coast and Skye. Locally higher bases inland and eastward, but rarely above 600-800m.  <b>10%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Often cloudy but a few bright or sunny breaks well inland and north. Visibility often poor, but excellent during breaks in cloud and rain.	Overcast and dull west, some brighter skies possibly toward east for a time. Visibility generally poor.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>  <b>Freezing Level</b>	0 or -1C at and before dawn, soon rising, reaching +2C. Feeling like -13C in direct wind.  500-600m, though variable, some low frosts at dawn, but also higher thaws near west coast; rising with time to 1100m.	1C rising to 3 or 4C. Where exposed to increasing wind on tops, feeling like -7 to -10C.  1000m from dawn, rising above the summits.

## Planning Outlook

## All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 20 February, 2026

Toward the weekend, a switch to southwesterly winds, bringing milder conditions - lifting above freezing to tops in England and Wales with substantial thawing, and generally higher freezing levels in Scotland; periods of thawing to Munro summits will occur but also further snowfall and refreezing on higher terrain during the day-to-day variability of precipitation and freezing levels onward into early next week. Often windy with periods of upland gales. Some spells of heavy rain over all western hills and low cloud frequently covering the hills.

## Forecast issued at 16:29 on Wednesday, 18 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.