

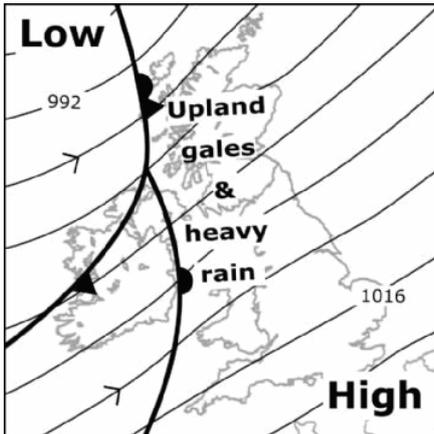
The Northwest Highlands

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, 26 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:
Based on forecast chart for noon 26 February, 2026

Gale-force southwesterlies, strengthening to be severe on higher mountains. Rain increasingly persistent from the west, some heavier falls setting in for periods combined with lowering cloud over the hills. Near freezing on higher Scottish tops, where some snow falls for a time.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Upland gales, severe high tops. Rain much of day west.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 26 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly soon strengthening from dawn 40 to 50mph, during morning reaching 60mph with gusts 70mph higher mountains, lasting onward through afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult conditions over the mountains, any mobility challenging on exposed terrain much of the day, gusts could knock you over. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent to persistent rain, often heavy west. Bands of rain will sweep west-to-east, showery rain lingering on and near Skye between pulses. Falling as snow on the tops for a time in morning as low as 900m, otherwise mostly rain. Well inland and north will see dry periods between bands of rain.
Cloud on the hills?	Variable, best breaks inland north During pulses of rain, fog shrouds high terrain with bases as low as 600-700m during heaviest falls. Drier periods bring higher bases, likely with breaks to summits briefly in north and east. On Skye, cloud banks persist from middle slopes up. Toward dusk, bases tend to rise with some breaks forming.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40% north/east Munros, 20% Skye and nearby.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief glimpses of sun inland and east, otherwise largely cloudy. Mixed visibility, at times very good, though very poor during precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Around 1C in morning, rising up to 3C during the day, lowering again into night. Feeling like -12 to -15C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	1000-1100m, rising into afternoon above all summits for several hours, lowering again onto highest tops after dark.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Friday 27 February	Saturday 28 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Westerly 20 to 35mph, strongest wind north, speed may vary during day locally. Blustery wind impedes comfortable walking particularly in the north with marked wind chill and some buffeting.	Southerly, strengthening during day 25 to 40mph, risk later afternoon 50-60mph Skye and near west coast. Blustery with increasingly powerful gusts, walking becoming challenging in exposure in west and wind chill significant.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Showers, snowfall level lowering Showers arrive from the west, snow falling to 800m at dawn, lowering with time. Showers may at times merge into broader areas of precipitation in west occasionally.	Much of day likely dry Chance of brief showers near west coast in morning, snow flurries above 600m. Late in day or perhaps only onward into the night, risk of rain preceded by hill snow moving in from west.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly high terrain, sometimes lower, may improve Terrain above 800-900m often in cloud, bases to middle slopes during showers, but with time a breaking trend, some "ribbons" at higher elevations but also breaks to summits possible, best chance inland.	Mostly little if any Some cloud banks drifting over higher slopes mainly southern Cuillin. Rare patches elsewhere.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% rising to 50%	70%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Often cloudy but with bright moments, brief sun bursts possible. Good visibility but some haze towards the west.	Mostly a good amount of sun, patchy cloud west; high cloud tending to build later. Visibility excellent.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0 to -2C, tending to lower during day. Feeling like -10 to -13C directly in the wind. 900-1000m from dawn, a lowering trend during day to 700-800m, reaching to 600m by evening.	-1 or -2C, lifting to 0C later west coast. Wind chill feeling like -10 to later -15C. 700 to 800m, plus frost some sheltered lower areas early morning. Likely rising higher later in day near west coast.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 27 February, 2026

A changeable southwesterly regime continues through the weekend into early next week. Colder for a time with a drop of freezing level Friday into Saturday allowing some refreezing of higher mountain terrain mainly in Scotland, the snowpack on high mountains consolidating following recent thawing. Milder air and thawing returns into Sunday, accompanied by rain and upland gales. During next week, higher pressure is expected to develop around the British Isles, bringing quieter weather, drier for most with lighter winds. Some fronts may continue to graze northwest Scotland with rain and stronger winds locally for a few more days. Temperatures tending to be on the milder side during early March, but some frosts into valleys at times.

Forecast issued at 16:27 on Wednesday, 25 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.