

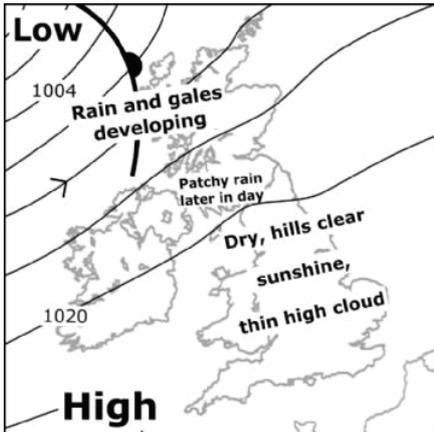
The Northwest Highlands

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, 23 March, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 23 March, 2026

Wind speed increasing significantly across Scotland, becoming severe-gale force over mountains into afternoon. Rain and briefly some snow on tops moving in from the west. England and Wales dry, with sun through a veil of high cloud, also increasingly windy - upland gales evening into night.

Headline for The Northwest Highlands

Severe upland gales develop. Rain and lowering cloud moves in.

Detailed Forecast for Monday, 23 March, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly, strengthening during day, rapidly near Skye, from 25-35mph early morning, to 50-70mph middle of day onward into afternoon, continually strengthening with gusts later over 80mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Deteriorating significantly as gales arrive, quickly becoming severe, making any mobility increasingly difficult on hills. Powerful gusts downslope to north of higher terrain
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain developing, becoming heavier by afternoon west Odd patches of rain near west coast, but dry inland much of morning. Rain arriving increasingly from west middle of day, briefly snow may fall on high tops inland. Rain more persistent into afternoon, heaviest soonest near Skye.
Cloud on the hills?	Very little, then lowering over hills Local patches near coast, but starting to form more widely over higher slopes in the afternoon, quickly filling in above 700-800m and lowering to 600m in west as rain develops, some lower banks on windward southwestern slopes.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	90%, dropping to 20% later in day.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Weak sun through high cloud, thickening to become overcast. Visibility very good, then poor later in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C rising to +2C by late afternoon. As wind increases, chill factor feeling like -12 to -15C in exposure.
Freezing Level	600m plus frost inland glens around dawn. Tending to rise, by late afternoon lifting just above freezing to highest tops. Starting to drop again overnight to 900m.

The Northwest Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Tuesday 24 March	Wednesday 25 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West to southwesterly 50 to 70mph, peak speeds likely in morning, but powerful squally gusts all day. Difficult conditions across the mountains, any mobility often very challenging in exposure. Severe wind chill.	Northwesterly 35 to 50mph, varying speeds with squally gusts around showers. Challenging walking conditions, frequent buffeting, often arduous over higher exposed terrain. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Heavy snow and hail showers Showery, increasingly heavy and frequent, clustering into more constant precipitation in western areas, falling as snow toward lowering elevations, also hail, risk isolated thunder & lightning.	Frequent hail and snow Showery snow and hail falling to lower slopes, frequent to at times near-constant over coastal areas in the north and west, but extending across all the region. Risk of isolated thunder & lightning.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied, but fairly extensive tops Cloud base constantly changing, but often covering high terrain, bases varying 600 to 900m, only brief breaks higher up.	Varying, but often capping tops Cloud base constantly changing, will come and go all day above 800-900m, frequently capping high tops toward coasts, patches at times to 600m. Briefly clearing tops.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Brief glimpses of sun mostly east. Visibility very poor at times, appalling in snow and cloud; intermittently good.	Brief bursts of bright sun. Visibility intermittently very good, but appalling for periods in showers with brief whiteout over tops.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0C at first, lowering to -2C afternoon. Feeling like -15 to -18C in the wind. Dropping up to dawn onto higher tops, then 700m before noon, 500m up to dusk.	-3 or -4C, slight rise into afternoon. Wind chill feeling like -17 to -20C on tops. 400m from dawn, lifting to 600m, slightly higher away from showers.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 24 March, 2026**

Cold, wintry conditions across all mountains into midweek - significant chill factor from gale force west then northwesterly winds. Showery hail and snow falling to increasingly lower elevations in the Highlands on Tuesday, whilst a band of heavy rain moves slowly southward over England & Wales. Hail and snow showers extend southwards into Wednesday, by then below freezing on all tops above 600-700m. Fewer showers by Thursday for many, though further snow then rain moves into western Scotland. Temperature and freezing level then varying as changeable westerlies prevail for Scotland through the weekend into early next week with periods of upland gales widely, accompanied by spells of rain, hill snow and hail showers; some windows of drier weather more often affect England & Wales.

Forecast issued at 16:07 on Sunday, 22 March, 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.