

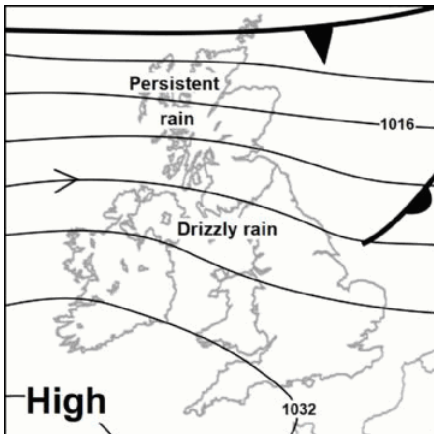
West Highlands

Western Highlands accessible from, and south of, Glenfinnan (Road to the Isles) and Glen Spean (includes Creag Meagaidh). This area includes Ben Nevis and the mountains around Glencoe. In the east, from Ben Alder south to Loch Lomond and Trossachs NP. Also Arran and Mull.



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General Summary for Wednesday, 22 November, 2023



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 22 November, 2023

Widespread upland gales, increasingly severe Scottish mountains. Least windy south Wales. Rain and drizzle most of the day western Scotland, heaviest northwest. Patchy rain or drizzle elsewhere, driest in easternmost areas. Extensive low cloud, lowest west. Above freezing to all tops.

Headline for West Highlands

Storm-force winds on tops. Generally wet, rain and drizzle.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 22 November, 2023

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly 50 to 70mph; considerable increase of speed with height; gradually increasing, risk 80mph later on Ben Nevis.
Effect of wind on you?	Challenging conditions and significant wind chill at mid elevations; gusts may blow you over. Increasingly severe conditions higher up, any mobility very difficult.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Drizzle and periods of steady rain Rain or drizzle in the wind fairly persistent all day for much of the region. Some heavier falls on and off Ben Nevis range westwards. Smaller amounts southwards into Loch Lomond NP to Arran, occasionally easing off. Further rain into night, some heavier falls developing.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive Blanket low cloud over the mountains, from lower slopes upward near coast. Highest bases well inland, rarely above 900m. Some rise of base over southern mountains during the afternoon.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10% Lochaber to Mull, 20% south.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little if any sun, mostly southern areas afternoon. Hazy, poor visibility in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	6C. Wind chill feels near -10C on tops.
Freezing Level	Above the summits.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 23 November	Friday 24 November
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	West later northwesterly, 60 to 80mph from overnight into the daytime, only gradually easing toward 40-50mph. Ongoing very difficult conditions and significant wind chill from mid-heights upward much of day. Severe on tops.	Northwesterly 45mph, risk 55mph Ben Nevis in morning, easing toward 30mph later in day. Dropping further into night. Considerable buffeting across the hills, affecting walking and balance on exposed higher ridges. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Heavy rain, then snow showers Rain continuing from overnight into morning, heavy falls for a few hours. Fading from north, turning to snow on the Munros as it eases. Later showers with snow falling below 600m, possible hail. Streams in spate.	Snow flurries Many areas often dry, but occasional snow flurries or brief showers, mainly Lochaber, locally running down west coast onto islands. Spots of rain or sleet only lower coastal slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive, cloud base rising Shrouding the mountains extensively in morning, lowest near to coast. As rain eases, bases starting to rise from the north, some breaks forming inland into the afternoon. Then varied in showers.	Mostly patches on high tops Broken cloud, most frequently covering higher slopes in Lochaber and near Mull, but varied with tops intermittently clear. Tops toward south often clearer, especially inland Loch Lomond NP.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast, hazy. Visibility improving following rain, very good away from showers.	Patches of cloud and sunshine in north and near coast, but often sunny toward Loch Lomond. Excellent visibility, locally briefly reduced in snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	As high as 5C at dawn, dropping from north toward 0C, then -3C after dark. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C. Above the summits at first, but lowering from north to 800-1000m by afternoon, 600-800m into night.	-1 to -3C. Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C. 600 to 800m, highest coastal areas. Also frost some sheltered glens at first.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 23 November, 2023

Much colder air moves in from the northwest Thursday into Friday - a significant rapid drop of freezing level to leave all mountains sub-zero. Showers with hail and snow falling to lower elevations in Scotland. Staying chilly into the weekend, but a good deal of dry and sunny weather with high pressure extending over Britain. Hard frost overnight into valleys and glens. Wind speeds tending to ease into Saturday. Lower confidence by Sunday as weak fronts may push in from the west bringing snow flurries or drizzly rain near to west coasts. Precipitation amounts likely to be fairly small into next week, staying on the cooler side, some variation of temperature, but mostly near or below freezing on high tops.

Forecast issued at 16:30 on Tuesday, 21 November, 2023

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, 2023.