

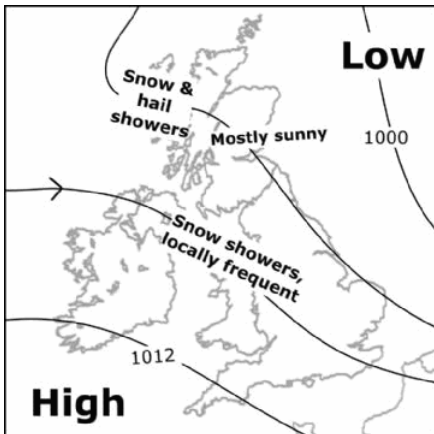
West Highlands

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 Friday, 22 November, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 22 November, 2024

Cold northwesterly winds continue, strongest over England and Wales, bringing significant chill factor over higher terrain. Snow and hail showers focused near to western coasts, some moving inland, but generally dry central and eastern areas with sunshine. Snow cover most substantial in northwestern Scotland.

Headline for West Highlands

Cold, but wind lessening. Showers of snow & hail becoming fewer.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 22 November, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly, easing from 30mph to soon 15-20mph.
Effect of wind on you?	At start moving around strenuous, wind affecting balance on ridges, impeding comfortable walking. Becoming small.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow showers mostly coasts, fading Snow and hail showers in western Lochaber and by the coast, occasionally reaching areas more to the south and east, but often dry toward central Highlands and Loch Lomond. Shower risk lowering through the day.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly clear Layers of low cloud may appear on various levels especially in and after showers, but hills most of the time clear, especially inland from Rannoch Moor southwards.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50% coasts, 80% inland
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sun frequent, most of the time with some clouds in the sky. Visibility very good, locally moderate in the west and in showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C well inland, closer to 0C near coast. Feeling like -10C directly in the stronger wind.
Freezing Level	400-600m toward coasts, rising a little through the day. Most terrain frozen inland from dawn, partial thawing to 400m on sunlit slopes afternoon.

West Highlands - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 23 November	Sunday 24 November
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeasterly 50 to 80mph; ferocious gusts reaching lower slopes, particularly turbulent west of major mountain groups. Severe conditions, any activity on the exposed ridges highly dangerous regardless of experience.	Southwesterly 50 - 55mph across most areas with small protected pockets of lower winds. High peaks likely 60 - 65mph. Difficulty maintaining stability, easily blown over by gusts or unsure footing. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Heavy snowfall, changing into rain Heavy snowfall soon becoming extensive in morning, lasting first half of the day, then an abrupt transition into rain. Substantial fresh wet snow falling within few hours. Becoming very wet underfoot lower slopes.	Persistent rain on coastal mountains Morning rain, some heavy, on the coastal mountains from Isle of Mull and north. Showery rain continuing on southwest facing slopes. Snow falling on higher tops in Ben Nevis range above 1000m.
Cloud on the hills?	Hills covered extensively Hills fully covered, very likely all day, from lower slopes up southern areas. Highest cloud bases northwest of Ben Nevis group, at times 700m or above.	Tops in cloud, occasional sun southwest. Fairly extensive low cloud, though potential for breaks in the southwest in the afternoon. Mountain tops likely within cloud.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	Almost nil	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast, zero visibility, whiteout; visibility staying very poor even as rain develops.	Glimpses of sun on southern islands and inland, overcast on the coast.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	Rising from -5C to +4C, or higher after dark. Variable, at first all terrain frozen inland, 300-500m near coast. Rising erratically afternoon; above summits by evening.	2-3C, slightly warmer around dawn. Coastal mountains slightly cooler. Feeling near -14C in wind. Above the summits in the morning, dropping to 1,200m during the morning and towards 1,000m into the evening.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 23 November, 2024**

A stormy weekend as a deep Atlantic low moves in, sustained gales from low elevations upward, hurricane-force over higher terrain. A period of heavy snowfall abruptly turning to rain from the southwest as a warm front arrives - the freezing level lifting above higher mountain summits by Saturday evening. By Sunday, Scottish tops back to freezing point. Next week, windy and showery on Monday, then higher pressure tries to expand over Britain bringing drier conditions, with temperatures nearer the seasonal average compared to the current very cold spell. Some occasional rain and milder air later in the week.

Forecast issued at 16:43 on Thursday, 21 November, 2024

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, 2024.