

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NORTHERN ISLES & NORTHEAST SCOTLAND
Saturday, 13 March 2010 at 11:22

HEADLINES

TODAY: SCATTERED SHOWERS, COOL NW'LY WIND

TONIGHT: MORE SHOWERS LATER

TOMORROW: BECOMING MOSTLY DRY

DAYS 2-5: SOME RAIN OR SHOWERS, LIGHTER WINDS

DAYS 6-10: CHANGEABLE

SUMMARY

Rather cloudy today with some mainly light showers. Feeling cold in a fresh NW'ly wind.

More frequent showers spreading south into Shetland, reaching Orkney by tomorrow morning.

Shetland bright with an isolated light wintry shower on Sunday. Orkney cloudy with showers, perhaps with rain later. Moderate or fresh W to NW'ly winds.

Mainly dry and bright conditions with a cool NW'ly breeze extending across the area on Monday, before rain and mild SW'ly winds arrive from the west later.

Turning brighter with scattered showers on Tuesday as winds veer NW'ly. Further rain and milder S'ly winds later on Wednesday.

The Further Outlook continuing changeable with rain or showers. Relatively mild S'ly winds increasing strong at times.

GENERAL SITUATION AND SYNOPSIS 06:00 UTC

With an anticyclone centred to the west of the UK and pressure low over Scandinavia, a fresh to strong NW'ly airflow covers the Northern Isles.

Later today a cold front will move south from the Norwegian Sea. This will bring a slightly cooler NW to N'ly airflow to Shetland overnight and to Orkney during Sunday morning. As the anticyclone drifts south, caught up by weak fronts associated with a shallow low moving east from Iceland, a combination of fronts will move east over the Northern Isles overnight.

While these may clear south on Monday as the low slips down into the North Sea, they are likely to return again overnight into Tuesday, as another shallow low moves east from Iceland. A weak ridge is forecast to follow from the west later in the day, as the low moves away over southern Scandinavia.

By Wednesday we are likely to see this declining, with an Atlantic depression pushing more fronts east by evening.

Thereafter, predictions are for low pressure to remain slow-moving over the northeast Atlantic, while high pressure migrates into the near-Continent. This is likely to produce an unsettled and changeable S'ly airflow over northern Scotland.

FORECAST FOR NEXT THREE DAYS

Confidence level: Weather type – high. Timing – high/medium.

Temperatures rising to 7° or 8° Celsius today, falling to around 2° Celsius tonight. Cooler on Sunday with temperatures of 6° or 7° Celsius, down to around 1° Celsius overnight. Milder on Monday, with temperatures back up to around 8° Celsius.

SATURDAY 13th: Mainly cloudy with some scattered showers - most of these across Orkney - while Shetland sees the best of any brightness. Feeling cold in the F5, occasionally F6, W to NW'ly winds. Little change at first tonight for Orkney. However, Shetland is likely to see a band of showers - wintry at times -

moving down from the north. The F5 W to NW'ly winds continuing over Orkney, but veering more N'ly and easing F4-5 over Shetland. By dawn Orkney will be cloudy as the showers arrive from the north.

Sea state – Moderate or slight in Orkney waters, with a 1 to 2 metre WSW'ly swell. Moderate through the Fair Isle Channel and northwards, but rough with a 3 metre swell northeast of Shetland.

SUNDAY 14th: Shetland will be cold with some bright spells and the chance of an isolated light wintry shower. Orkney will be cloudier with showers, perhaps merging into a longer period of rain later in the day. F5 NW'ly winds over Shetland, F4 W'ly winds in Orkney.

Sea state – Moderate or slight in Orkney waters, with a 1 to 2 metre WSW'ly swell. Moderate through the Fair Isle Channel and northwards, but rough with a 3 metre swell northeast of Shetland.

MONDAY 15th: Rain or showers over Orkney gradually clearing, as the mainly dry and bright conditions with a cool F4 NW'ly breeze over Shetland extend south. However, this is likely to be short-lived, with cloud, rain and milder weather returning overnight as winds, backing SW'ly, freshen F5.

Sea state – Moderate or slight in Orkney waters, with a 1 to 2 metre WSW'ly swell. Moderate through the Fair Isle Channel and northwards, but rough with a 3 metre swell northeast of Shetland.

10-DAY OUTLOOK

Confidence level: Weather type – medium. Timing – low/medium.

Temperatures in the daily range around 8° Celsius down to about 5° Celsius.

TUESDAY 16th: Turning brighter as fresh SW'ly winds veer NW'ly, and outbreaks of rain clear to brighter conditions with showers.

WEDNESDAY 17th: Becoming mostly dry and bright as fresh NW'ly winds ease. Cloud thickening later as freshening winds back SW'ly, bringing rain and milder conditions to end the day

THURSDAY 18th – TUESDAY 23rd: Changeable, with a mixture of showers or longer periods of rain and brighter interludes between. Relatively mild S'ly winds increasing strong at times.

DISCLAIMER

Be aware that the weather over north-west Europe - and especially around the Northern Isles - is part of an ever-changing and dynamic system. Therefore regard the '10-Day Outlook' as a guide only - there are times when any outlook going beyond about 36 to 48 hours is likely to prove unreliable.

Always check the latest forecast from the UK Met Office before undertaking any weather-dependent activity.

All forecasts are for planning purposes only.

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