

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE NORTHERN ISLES & NORTHEAST SCOTLAND
Thursday, 02 February 2012 at 12:31

HEADLINES

TODAY: LIGHT RAIN BECOMING CONFINED TO SHETLAND

TONIGHT: DRY, FROSTY

TOMORROW: BRIGHT. RAIN OVERNIGHT AS GALES DEVELOP

DAYS 3-5: RAIN AND WIND ON SATURDAY, THEN DRIER AND BRIGHTER

DAYS 6-10: MAINLY DRY AND MILD, BREEZY

SUMMARY

Mostly cloudy today with outbreaks of rain or sleet. Orkney becoming drier and brighter by the afternoon and Shetland through the evening. Dry overnight with a frost developing, widespread across Orkney. Light S to SW'ly winds.

Friday dry, bright and cool. S'ly winds freshening later with rain spreading from the southwest later in the evening. S'ly gales developing by Saturday with outbreaks of rain through much of the day, clearing during the evening as winds ease and veer SW to W'ly.

Bright with showers and moderate or SW to W'ly winds on Sunday. A milder, cloudy day on Monday with outbreaks of light rain and moderate SW'ly winds.

The remainder of next week rather cloudy with some showers or a little rain. Mild at first, but perhaps cooler later as mainly fresh to strong SW'ly winds turn W'ly to NW'ly.

GENERAL SITUATION AND SYNOPSIS 06:00 UTC

A ridge of high pressure, extending southwest over Scandinavia from an intense anticyclone over northwest Russia extends as far as the UK. A weak front lies just to the northwest of Shetland.

The ridge will weaken and slip south on Friday. As it does so a milder S to SW'ly Atlantic airflow will develop across western and northern Scotland, this becoming strong by Saturday, ahead of Atlantic fronts driven east by a depression near Iceland. As fronts clear a lighter SW to W'ly airflow will follow for Sunday.

During the course of next week an anticyclone, forecast to develop to the southwest of the British Isles, is likely to maintain a SW'ly airflow over northern Scotland. Later in the week this may become a cooler W to NW'ly, as the high is predicted to migrate northwards to the west of the British Isles.

FORECAST FOR NEXT THREE DAYS

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

Temperatures today and on Friday in the daily range 4° or 5° Celsius by day, down to near freezing overnight. On Saturday temperatures ranging from a high of 7° to a low of 4° Celsius.

THURSDAY 2nd: Mostly cloudy with some outbreaks of mainly light rain or sleet. Orkney becoming mainly dry by the afternoon with the clouds breaking to give some bright or sunny spells. Shetland continuing to see a little rain or sleet through the afternoon, but becoming drier and clearer here also by the evening, the night then dry with some clear spells, leading to a widespread frost for Orkney but rather more patchy across cloudier Shetland. Winds throughout a light F2-3 S to SW'ly.

Sea State: Mainly moderate, with a 2 metre S to SW'ly wind-swell.

FRIDAY 3rd: Starting cold, then another dry, bright and cool day with a fair amount of sunshine, the best of this more likely over Orkney. S'ly winds freshening F5 with thickening cloud bringing rain, perhaps preceded by sleet or wet snow, from the southwest later in the evening. The rain becoming heavier and more persistent overnight as S'ly winds increase F7 to gale F8.

Sea State: Becoming moderate to rough overnight, with a 2 to 3 metre S to SW'ly wind-swell.

SATURDAY 4th: Outbreaks of rain through much of the day, eventually clearing during the evening as S'ly gales ease F5 and veer SW to W'ly.

Sea State: Perhaps rough, with a 3 to 4 metre S to SW'ly wind-swell turning W or NW'ly later.

10-DAY OUTLOOK

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

Milder, with temperatures in the daily range around 7° or 8° Celsius by day, falling to 4° or 5° Celsius overnight. Possibly cooler later.

SUNDAY 5th: Mostly dry and bright with sunny or clear spells and scattered showers. Fresh W to NW'ly winds backing SW'ly later.

Sea State: Perhaps rough, with a 3 to 4 metre W'ly wind-swell.

MONDAY 6th: A milder, cloudy day with outbreaks of light rain and moderate or fresh SW'ly winds.

Sea State: Perhaps moderate to rough, with a 2 to 3 metre SW'ly wind-swell.

TUESDAY 7th – SUNDAY 12th: Rather cloudy with scattered showers or a little mainly light rain. Mild at first with strong SW'ly winds. Later in the week possibly turning cooler, as winds veer W'ly or possibly NW'ly.

Sea State on Tuesday: Possibly mainly moderate to rough, with a 2 to 4 metre W'ly wind-swell. Highest in the west.

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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