# Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.

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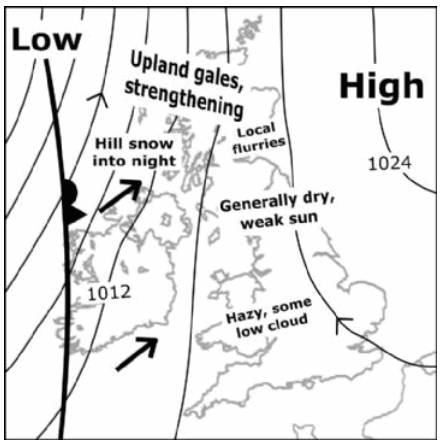
## General Summary for Thursday, 26 November, 2026




**British Mountain Summary:**
**Based on forecast chart for noon 26 November, 2026**

Much mountain terrain frozen, snow cover most substantial southern Highlands, but beware icy surfaces widely on hills. Staying sub-zero on tops all day, significant wind chill in strong to increasingly gale-force southerly winds. Largely dry daytime, then snow moves onto western hills into the night.

**Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath**

Gales, rising speeds to be severe; cloud banks, flurries southeast.

## Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 26 November, 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **How windy? (On the Munros)** | South-southeasterly 35 to 50mph, strengthening during day, gusts 60-70mph by middle of day into afternoon around high Cairngorms at least, stronger up to dusk; more sustained 70-80mph evening and night. |
| **Effect of wind on you?** | **Challenging walking conditions, becoming difficult on high terrain, increasingly severe higher Cairngorms; powerful downslope gusts. Significant then severe wind chill.** |
| **How wet?** (Precipitation and its impact) | **Largely dry day**<br>Brief snow flurries locally toward the southeast Cairngorms during the day.<br>Into night, snow gradually developing from the west, setting in heavier with time soonest southwestern Cairngorms NP. |
| **Cloud on the hills?** | **Most persistent south, breaks north**<br>Cloud banks likely to roll across most high terrain, lowest bases in south Cairngorms to 800m; further north the cloud more broken, best Monadhliath. |
| **Chance of cloud free Munros?** | **40%** |
| **Sunshine?** Air clarity (below cloud) | Sun likely to weaken as a veil of high cloud thickens from the west.<br>Visibility very good. |
| **How Cold? (at 900m)** | -2C.<br>Feeling like -15C to later nearer -20C directly in the wind on high tops. |
| **Freezing Level** | Much terrain frozen, thawing only on sunlit lower slopes up to 500m. |

**Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead**

| | Friday 27 November | Saturday 28 November |
|---|---|---|
| **How windy? (On the Munros)** | Southerly 60-70mph at dawn but likely soon easing to 25-35mph, perhaps dropping much less afternoon. | Southerly, speeds varying - high uncertainty - in range 30 to 45mph, very gusty in places not just on tops. |
| **Effect of wind on you?** | **Becoming fairly small, but beware severe conditions from overnight lasting beyond dawn; prepare for marked chill.** | **Expect significant wind chill, in places challenging walking conditions on exposed terrain; buffeting gusts even lower down.** |
| **How wet?** (Precipitation and its impact) | **Snow mostly morning, patchier north**<br>Snow from before dawn falling to lower elevations, the most constant heavier falls over southern Cairngorms NP, tending to fade from the west gradually, but flurries at least may linger further east. | **Mostly small amounts of snow**<br>Snow flurries most common over southern Cairngorms, locally may be frequent for periods, but total amounts likely small. |
| **Cloud on the hills?** | **Extensive**<br>Shrouding high terrain widely, from some lower elevations upward in southern areas; higher bases toward north, local breaks. Some improvement may develop near A9. | **Most persistent south, breaks north**<br>Fairly extensive banks of cloud, lowest and most persistent Glen Garry to Deeside, more broken north around Strathspey; some high tops may poke out of cloud. |
| **Chance of cloud free Munros?** | **20%** | **10% south, 30% north** |
| **Sunshine?** Air clarity (below cloud) | Overcast and dull.<br>Poor visibility widely, or whiteout over hills in snow and cloud. | Mostly cloudy, weak sun through high cloud at best northern areas.<br>Hazy, poor visibility if in snow and cloud; locally better northwards. |
| **How Cold? (at 900m)** | -2C, may rise gradually to just above 0C. Risk of wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C at least in the morning. | 0 or 1C, small variation with added height above around 700m, locally warmer north. Feeling like -10 to -15C in the wind. |
| **Freezing Level** | 500-600m, but much lower terrain may be at least partly frozen; may lift just above freezing to some higher slopes. | Varied and poorly defined; some higher northern slopes likely above freezing point, but much terrain frozen above 600m. |

## Planning Outlook

**All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 27 November, 2026**

Snowfall most substantial over southern mountains in the Highlands during the days ahead. Then by Saturday, a risk of heavy rain for England & Wales as temperatures rise here, and even in Scotland a rise of the freezing level, though likely lowering slightly again by Sunday. Gale-force southerly winds will be common over many mountains through the weekend and into early next week, but intermittent lulls will occur. By Monday to Wednesday, potentially milder air and risk of a period of sustained heavy rain, but some uncertainty about local details - early December may then vary markedly, signs of a drier window for a time, whilst colder conditions could also soon return.

**Forecast issued at 16:20 on Wednesday, 25 November, 2026**

The Production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by 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.