

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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

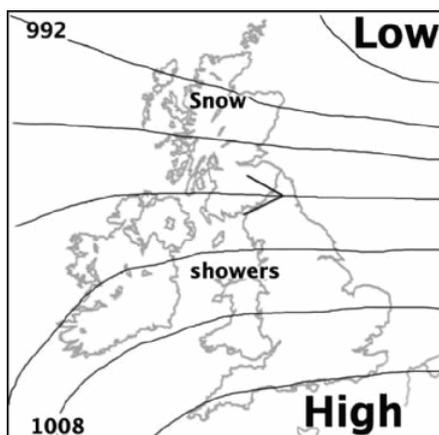


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General Summary for Tuesday, 21 March, 2017



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 21 March, 2017

Very cold showery westerly winds will by dawn have brought fresh snow to lower slopes or valleys, the precipitation heaviest western mountains. Widespread upland gales although through the day will ease. In Wales, winds less strong, but threat gales and snow by dusk.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Snow occasionally. Upland gales will ease afternoon.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 21 March, 2017

How windy? (On the Munros)	Westerly, 40 to 50mph morning. Then, perhaps erratically, dropping below 40mph, perhaps 30mph by dusk.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking often difficult on higher areas. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Snow and hail; mainly showers. Hail and snow showers occasionally. Nevertheless, until mid-afternoon threat over an hour or two of almost constant precipitation. Snow will lie from glens or lower slopes up.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly confined to higher tops Cloud base changing quickly: Rare patches below 600m near precipitation, but often confined above 900 to in afternoon 1100m when breaks likely to higher tops, particularly eastern Cairngorms NP.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% rising to 60% afternoon
Sunshine and air clarity?	Bursts of bright sunshine, particularly afternoon. Visibility frequently excellent, but suddenly appalling in cloud and snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4C. Will feel as cold as minus 18 Celsius directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	Typically 450m, although will vary between showers.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 22 March	Thursday 23 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Low confidence of detail: Northeasterly, ranging between 25 and perhaps 35-40mph. Likely to impede ease of walking on higher area and risk of considerable buffeting and wind chill.	Northeasterly; dropping from 35-45mph after dawn to 25-35mph by sunset. Widespread considerable buffeting on higher areas in morning, but conditions will improve.
How wet?	Snow on and off Snow on and off, although northern and eastern Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath may have snow frequently throughout the day. Snow will lie from glens up.	Occasional snow Patches of snow or flurries, although the snow may persist for a few hours, most likely northern and eastern Cairngorms NP. Increasingly on lower slopes rain, and by mid-afternoon little more than flurries higher slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	Very extensive and low Blanket cloud likely to shroud much of Cairngorms NP above 450 to 700m, lowest base northern and eastern areas. However, breaks likely toward 900m summits accessed north of Glen Garry and particularly toward Ben Alder.	Covering most summits all day Cloud likely to shroud the hills extensively from dawn, forming lower slopes northern and eastern Cairngorms NP and perhaps Monadhliath. Slowly the base will tend to lift; by mid-afternoon from Ben Alder to summits accessed north of Glen Garry, breaks to 900 or 1000m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%	10%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Occasional sunshine, most widely toward Glen Garry and Ben Alder. The air very clear away from showers, but visibility appalling in snow & cloud.	Sunshine here and there mainly Ben Alder to areas accessed north of Glen Garry afternoon where visibility will become excellent. Elsewhere, fog widespread higher areas: appalling visibility in cloud and snow.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-4C 500m; terrain widely frozen, although lower slopes thawing during day.	-3C morning; will rise slowly through day. 600m, rising to 750m.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 22 March, 2017**

Cold conditions with snow on many mountains mid-week. A major change to dry and by the weekend much warmer weather will occur as a large area of high pressure then builds across Scotlan. Temporarily around Friday there may be a little rain on the northern NW Highlands. Overall though, dry for several days on all mountain areas. Temperatures will become very warm for March, particularly across the Scottish Highlands, although with frequently cloudless skies, night frost will occur in valleys.

Forecast issued at 13:28 on Monday, 20 March, 2017

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through the Mountaineering Council of 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 Geoff Monk & Associates, 2017.