

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

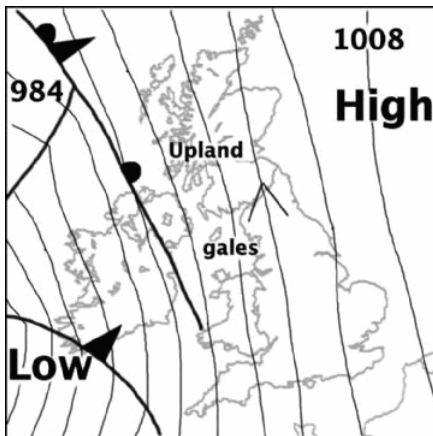
Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.



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General Summary for Wednesday, 14 March, 2018



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 14 March, 2018

Widespread upland gales.
 Extensively cloudy but much of the cloud well above the summits.
 Here and there a little rain.
 Thaw of lying snow, except highest summits Scottish Highlands.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Upland gales, local sudden gusts lower slopes. Rain unlikely, many summits cloud free.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 14 March, 2018

How windy? (On the Munros)	South or southeasterly; in the range 40-60mph. Generally strongest afternoon. Will increase rapidly with height, although expect sudden gusts some lower slopes northwest of major ridges and summits.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking widely very difficult on higher areas, in particularly through some passes and cols. Significant, sometimes sudden buffeting some lower slopes. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Rain unlikely Here and there briefly a few spots of rain, refrozen rain or snow flurries.
Cloud on the hills?	Many summits cloud free Many mountains often free of cloud, although here and there higher summits may be capped in cloud. Summits in Deeside, particularly south Deeside may be persistently foggy above about 800m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	70%, but 30% south Deeside
Sunshine and air clarity?	Pockets of sun, but extensive high level cloud. Visibility good, but marked haze.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C rising to 1 or 2C. Will feel as cold as minus 15 Celsius directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	500 to 750m at dawn; will rise to 1050m.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 15 March	Friday 16 March
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeasterly 50 to 70mph. Local sudden gusts reaching lower slopes through cols and NW of major ridges and summits. Widely very difficult walking on higher areas, and also intermittently lower slopes mainly NW of major ridges and summits. Severe wind chill.	Easterly in the range 40 to 60mph. Sudden gusts reaching some lower slopes west of major ridges. Difficult walking and significant wind chill where exposed on the hills. Sudden buffeting even on some lower slopes.
How wet?	Snow, mostly E/S Cairngorms NP Occasional snow, or rain below 400-650m, but increasingly frequent S & E Cairngorms NP and Ben Alder. Toward A9 in Aviemore area, the precipitation rare. Very little if any Monadhliath.	Snow increasingly frequent eastwards. Snow most of daylight south Deeside and north of Glen Garry; risk whiteout. Elsewhere, snow on and off, but progressively westwards, lighter and less frequent. Little if any Monadhliath. Rain lower slopes morning - will turn to snow.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive; widely very low Blanket of fog over North Sea will envelop much of region all day. Base of the cloud 500 to 700m south Deeside, north of Glen Garry and west toward Ben Alder. Elsewhere, base 750-900m, although may clear Monadhliath intermittently.	Extensive, especially E/S Cairngorms NP Persistent fog above 500-700m S Deeside and summits accessed north of Glen Garry. Elsewhere, typical cloud base 900m, but cloud mostly above the summits Monadhliath and perhaps above 1050m Ben Alder.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%	20%
Sunshine and air clarity?	Sunshine unlikely Very hazy at best - widely foggy even lower summits.	Sunshine rarely near and west of A9. Very hazy lower slopes and extensive fog higher areas.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-1C to -3C, coldest easternmost summits. 650 to 800m	0 to -2C dropping from east to -3 to -5C. Progressively dropping from east from 700-900m at dawn to 200-400m before dusk.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 15 March, 2018**

Turning progressively colder toward and through the weekend. Extensive low cloud and rain, increasingly turning to snow concentrated more eastern mountains toward the weekend (considerable snowfall SE highlands). By the weekend, the snow lying on lower slopes, but very little will fall on western mountains.

Widespread upland gales will ease over the weekend, initially over the Scottish Highlands, to give a period of cold dry weather early next week.

Forecast issued at 7:28 on Wednesday, 14 March, 2018

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, 2018.