MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

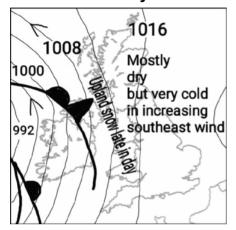
Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.



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General Summary for Wednesday, 6 December, 2023



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 6 December, 2023

After a hard frost, mostly dry and bright, but feeling increasingly bitterly cold as southeasterly winds strengthen and cloud thicken through the day ahead of a front, which will bring and increasing risk of upland snowfall, in across western mountains toward evening, and then spreading to all parts overnight.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Bitter chill in strengthening southeast winds. Snow setting in overnight.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 6 December, 2023

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly, strengthening through day from 20-30mph after dawn to 30 to perhaps 45mph before dusk.	
Effect of wind on you?	Walking increasingly difficult, in places on lower slopes, and feeling bitterly cold as wind chill becomes significant.	
How wet? (Precipitation and its	Precipitation unlikely Dry all daylight, but into evening and overnight, widespread snow with whiteout will push	
impact)	in across the area.	
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive toward southeast, breaks in northwest.	
	Generally persistent cloud above 600m, possibly lower Lochnagar. Near and west of Cairngorm ski-centre and across Monadhliath, most cloud above 900m and perhaps often clearing Monahdliath.	
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% southeast, 70% in northwest.	
Sunshine?	Sunshine here and there, mainly near and west of A9.	
Air clarity (below cloud)	y (below Visibility excellent although increasingly hazy.	
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C. Will feel as cold as minus 16C directly in the wind.	
Freezing Level	Almost all terrain frozen.	

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Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 7 December	Friday 8 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Very turbulent conditions developing. Southeasterly winds; lifting through day to 50 to 80mph Be prepared for increasingly very difficult conditions, as turbulent and very powerful winds accelerate over the mountains.	East to southeasterly 15 to 25mph, locally 30mph at first, but tending to ease through the day. Be prepared for considerable wind chill in the strongest breezes, although tending to ease through the day.
How wet?	Spells of snow or refrozen rain	Rain, snow tops, fizzling out.
(Precipitation and its impact)	Spells of snow. Level to which snow falls varying, to lower slopes in some areas, but upper slopes elsewhere, with some hills seeing refrozen rain.	Areas of rain, or above 1000m snow, on and off for a time, but tending to fizzle out into the afternoon to leave the area mostly dry.
Cloud on the hills?	Extenisve	Fairly extensive
	Cloud widely covering the hills from lower or mid slopes upwards.	Cloud covering the hills fairly extensively, perhaps down to lower slopes across hills accessible from Deeside, and near Drumochter. Best breaks Monadhliath.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast. Poor or very poor visibility, near zero in snow.	Mostly dull, but some patchy sun perhaps at times breaking through Monadhliath. Visibility at times good or very good, but poor and murky where in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	Around -3C, will tend to rise to between -2C and plus 1C More like -20C in the wind.	Around 1C, but feeling closer to -10C initially in the strongest winds before they ease.
Freezing Level	400-500m, lifting to 600-1000m, very varied across area.	Gradual thaw to upper slopes, with freezing level around 1100m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 7 December, 2023

Unsettled conditions will prevail over the next week to 10 days, with periods of upland gales or severe gales with precipitation frequent, mostly rain, although intermittently snow Scottish Highlands, more rarely elsewhere. Driest conditions (relative to the average) will likely be in the northwest Highlands, given the often backed flow, as the low pressure areas track in.

Forecast issued at 16:28 on Tuesday, 5 December, 2023

The production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by the Scottish Government through Mountaineering 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 Mountain Weather Information Service, 2023.