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.



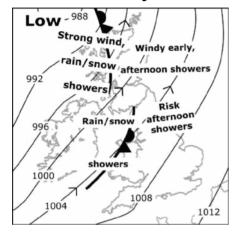
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General Summary for Wednesday, 3 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 3 December, 2025

Widely breezy, strongest northern England and Scotland, early gales over high Munros; easing but staying blustery northwest Scotland. Showery rain onto west coast slopes down to Wales (snow on high terrain) most of the day, some reaching further east afternoon. Greatest chance of dry weather south Pennines.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Blustery, gales over tops early; scattered showery rain/snow

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 3 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	South-southwesterly 30-35mph; gusty over tops before noon up to 45mph. Easing slightly for a few hours from dusk though deteriorating in the later overnight hours.	
Effect of wind on you?	Strenuous walking most of the day in exposure; buffeting gusts will challenge balance on high tops through morning. Significant wind chill and deteriorating overnight.	
How wet?	Some snow showers, mostly south/west	
(Precipitation and its impact)	Scattered light showers onto high and southern Cairngorms and Drumochter, falling as snow flurries above 700-800m though minimal accumulation. Showers more frequent for a time afternoon.	
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly high tops and southern slopes	
	Fog covers the high summits and upper southern slopes, including Monadhliath; lowest bases around Drumochter, down to 600m (or lower afternoon). Mostly just high terrain north of high tops with many slopes out of fog.	
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% to 50% northern Monadhliath	
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Best of sunshine low slopes of northern Cairngorms and Monadhliath, largely overcast elsewhere. Excellent visibility though turning very poor in snow.	
Cloudy	Exocheric visibility though turning very poor in onew.	
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or 1C. Feeling like -13C in direct strongest wind.	
Freezing Level	900-1000m	

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Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 4 December	Friday 5 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 30-35mph, typically strongest east and early, 40mph. May ease central highlands later.	Southerly, shifting southeasterly, 30-35mph. Rising to 45-55mph afternoon, further deteriorating into night.
Effect of wind on you?	Strenuous walking in exposure through morning, perhaps most of the day east; an easing trend west. Feeling chilly.	Comfortable walking affected from dawn, deteriorating to difficult conditions into and overnight. Significant wind chill.
How wet?	Patchy rain/snow south and east	Patchy sleet/snow south and east
(Precipitation and its impact)	Patchy rain/upland snow drifts onto southern Cairngorms and around Ben Alder; more frequent Deeside, may set in for periods. Largely dry northern slopes of Cairngorms and Monadhliath.	A few patches of sleet/snow, mostly south Cairngorm slopes and Deeside. Rain (snow on high terrain) sets in widely after dark.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly tops and south aspects, lowest east	South and east slopes often shrouded
	High Cairngorms largely shrouded with banks down southern slopes, lowest Deeside where bases will reach 600-700m, lower in precipitation; some variability. Patchy but broken cloud will drift around northern slopes, best clear periods northern Monadhliath.	Fairly persistent banks of cloud from Deeside to Drumochter and south Monadhliath, bases between 500-700m. Northern slopes often clear though a few patches will drift onto eastern areas.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%; 60% north Monadhliath	20% high tops and south, 60% northern hills
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A few sunny breaks northernmost slopes, little sun elsewhere. Very good visibility, some haze Deeside.	Some morning sun in the north, becoming widely overcast. Very good visibility out of cloud, particularly north.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or 1C with some variability, typically coolest central highlands. Feeling like -10C or cooler in direct wind.	0C; will rise a few degrees in the late overnight hours. Feeling like -15C in wind.
Freezing Level	900-1100m, lowest near Ben Alder; may vary.	Poorly defined, 600-800m though frosts at lower elevations, including in glens. Rising overnight.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 4 December, 2025

Low pressure circulating to the west and north will dominate the weather for the next 7 to 10 days, bringing generally unsettled weather. A brief period of slack pressure on Thursday into Friday will ease winds for a time though patchy rain will linger in several areas. Strong southwesterly winds return over the weekend bringing cloud and rain to many mountains, most persistent on southwestern slopes. Temperatures and freezing level will vary, but staying chilly with highest terrain likely near or below 0C. Several low pressure systems with then pass through next week, brining frequent periods of cloud, rain, and strong wind, likely gale force on high terrain at times. Occasional windows of dry, brighter weather will occur, best chance east.

Forecast issued at 16:10 on Tuesday, 2 December, 2025

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, 2025.