MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

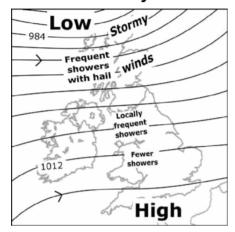
Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.



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General Summary for Wednesday, 10 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 10 December, 2025

Storm-force winds continue over Scottish mountains, beware of storm damage and blocked routes. Gales remain severe over high terrain in northern England and tops in north Wales. Showery rain, hail and on higher tops snow in the Highlands, near-constant in the west. Bands of showers northern England, fewer for Wales.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Storm-force upland winds. Rain most frequent SW areas.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 10 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 55 to 70mph, often 80mph higher tops particularly Cairngorm plateau, gusts here may exceed 100mph mainly up to dawn, but may re-strengthen somewhat during afternoon.		
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult walking conditions from mid elevations upward, general mobility very challenging in exposure, severe over higher mountains; significant wind chill.		
How wet?	Showers mostly west, snow tops		
(Precipitation and its impact)	Showery precipitation most common toward Drumochter and Ben Alder, falling as snow above 1000m mainly morning, possible hail.		
Cloud on the hills?	Frequently on tops		
	Cloud base constantly changing, but often capping higher slopes, particularly toward western Cairngorms and west of A9.		
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%		
Sunshine?	Occasional sun mostly north and east.		
Air clarity (below cloud)	Slight haze, visibility reduced further around showers.		
How Cold? (at 900m)	2 or 3C, rising slightly into evening-night. Wind chill feeling near to -15C.		
Freezing Level	1100 to 1200m, lifting up to higher summits or just above by dusk onward.		

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Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 11 December	Friday 12 December
How windy? (On the Munros)	South-southwesterly 40 to 60mph, some uncertainty of duration of peak speed, but risk 70mph higher Cairngorms.	Southwesterly 15-20mph from dawn, stronger pre-dawn. Strengthening gradually, 35-45mph over tops by dark.
Effect of wind on you?	Widely arduous, but likely more difficult or severe conditions ongoing on higher mountains.	Fairly small in the morning through walking increasingly strenuous with wind chill as the day goes.
How wet?	Little or no rain until later	Morning rain passes east, dry afternoon
(Precipitation and its impact)	Spots of rain in the wind at times, but amounting to little, toward east more often dry all day. During afternoon through to dusk, some steadier rain may develop from west.	Rain before dawn with snow on the high tops passes to the east, clearing most areas soon after sunrise. Rain lingers longer in the east, then no rain afternoon.
Cloud on the hills?	Mostly southern areas	Isolating largely to the high Cairngorms
	Banks of cloud on some slopes, most common Drumochter around to some areas accessed from Braemar, may cling over tops. Good breaks northward. Lowering in west if rain arrives later.	High Cairngorms in cloud from dawn with some ragged patches lower down, these soon dissipating. Much of the cloud will clear though caps will drift over high Cairngorms at times, a few lower banks possible on southern slopes.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	50%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A little sun mostly toward north. Slight haze possible, but mostly good visibility.	Often sunny on northern and lower southern slopes. Excellent visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	4C, may start to drop into evening or night. Feeling near -10C in the wind.	2 or 3C, lowering to 1C; staying slightly warmer for a time east hills. Feeling like -13C in strongest wind.
Freezing Level	Above the summits	1200m at dawn, gradually lowering to 900-1000m.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 11 December, 2025

Staying unsettled as southwesterly winds prevail and low pressure systems pass to the northwest of Scotland; sustained gales over the mountains, severe or stormy for periods. Temperatures only just below freezing intermittently on higher Scottish tops, even here will experience spells above freezing with thawing, any lying snow patchy, but beware some icy surfaces on the very highest tops where some refreezing occurs. Driest in eastern areas on Thursday, otherwise rainfall will be frequent and heavy, sometimes showery with hail. Expect wet ground conditions and further flooding of streams and some rivers.

Forecast issued at 16:05 on Tuesday, 9 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.