

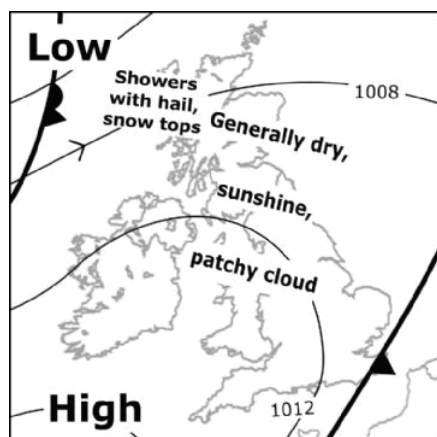
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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, 16 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 16 December, 2025

Showery in western Scotland, with hail, snow on higher mountains; fewer showers eastwards, more sun and higher cloud breaks. Strongest winds in NW Highlands, up to gale force tops. England and Wales largely dry and bright, patchy cloud western tops.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Blustery winds over hills. Largely dry, cloud breaks best N/E.

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 16 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 25 to 35mph, strongest north Cairngorms and Monadhliath. Strengthening onward into night to gales, further into night reaching 50-70mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Blustery and starting to affect comfortable walking and balance on exposed higher terrain, considerable wind chill. Deteriorating into night.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Local showers west Occasional brief showers mostly toward Ben Alder, falling as snow flurries above 800-900m, chance of hail. Substantially dry much of Cairngorms NP.
Cloud on the hills?	Patches some slopes, clearer north/east Patchy cloud banks likely to drift over some higher slopes, mostly above 800-900m in the southwestern Cairngorms to Ben Alder, but good breaks likely. More often clear to tops further east and north.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30% Ben Alder area, up to 70% N/E Cairngorms.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sunshine most frequent north/east, glimpses elsewhere. Visibility excellent out of cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 to 1C. Feeling like -10C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	900 to 1000m, beware icy surfaces on tops. Slight frost sheltered glens in morning.

	Wednesday 17 December	Thursday 18 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	South-southwesterly 50 to 60mph, often 70mph higher Cairngorms, powerful gusts in places downslope to north. Challenging conditions over the mountains, walking difficult in exposure, sudden buffeting to some mid-slopes.	South to southwesterly 40 to 60mph, powerful gusts downslope from northern Cairngorms corries. Ongoing arduous conditions over higher terrain, walking often difficult in exposure, significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Rain and some hill snow, mostly south Rain and initially snow above 700-900m from before dawn, turning to rain during morning toward higher slopes, heaviest southern Cairngorms NP, some heavy; less toward north. Later becoming showery.	Risk of rain developing Patchy showers, snow flurries above 900m, but often dry for several hours at least. Risk of rain moving in from southwest during day, may set in heavy.
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive higher areas Shrouding most higher terrain all day, from mid-slopes up southern Cairngorms around to Drumochter. Mostly higher tops northward, but rarely above summits.	Most persistent south Varied cloud banks, often covering southern Cairngorms NP above 800m, higher and better breaks northward.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Overcast and murky south. Better visibility below cloud and if drier locally north.	Some sun and very good visibility mostly north, varied high cloud. Mistier southern hills, reducing to poor if in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	0C rising to 3 or 4C in morning, then lowering again from dusk. Feeling like -12 to -15C directly in the Varying, 800-1000m around dawn, then rising above highest summits; then into night dropping to 1100-1200m.	2 or 3C. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -15C on tops. 1100 to 1200m, tending to rise a little during daytime, then lowering into night.

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 17 December, 2025

An unsettled southwesterly weather pattern continues mid-late this week. On Wednesday, another system sweeps in from the Atlantic bringing further rain and gales. Showery conditions then persist in western Scotland, with hail and snow on high tops. Scottish mountains often near or below freezing above 900m, only brief thawing higher up. Meanwhile, England and Wales stay mild midweek with more heavy rain likely into Thursday, then lowering to freezing on high tops for periods from Friday. A change of weather pattern is likely in the run up to Christmas, as high pressure builds northward, bringing drier weather, fog and frost more common.

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.