

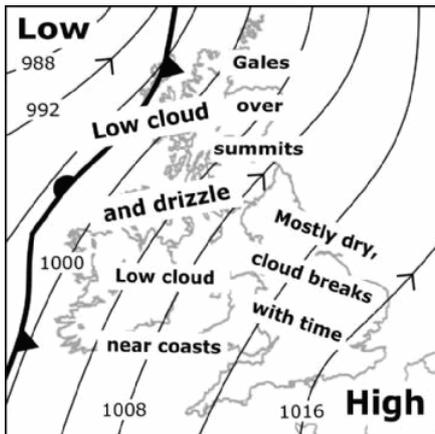
# Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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, 24 February, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 24 February, 2026**

Widely windy, gales over high terrain and more widely Scottish Highlands. Most rain in northwest Scotland with extensive coastal cloud, some drizzle on other high northwestern terrain with low cloud, most persistent on south/west aspects. Largely dry central and east areas, early low cloud, sun breaks with time.

### Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Very windy in exposure; summit drizzle, high south slopes too

## Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 24 February, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Southwesterly 35 to 40mph, though gusty, particularly over high Cairngorms to the north, speeds reaching 45mph+ here.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Strenuous walking over the mountains, gusts over high terrain will make maintaining balance difficult at times. Significant wind chill despite milder air.</b>
<b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b>	<b>Some drizzle south and west</b> Some drizzle affecting high slopes from Ben Alder across the Cairngorm plateau, mainly focused on southern aspects, dry periods likely too. Northern slopes likely stay dry. Wet underfoot where snow melts.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Fairly extensive higher areas and south</b> Covering most higher terrain, lowest cloud base near Drumochter, 600 to 800m, higher northward with some breaks to upper slopes north and east of Ben Macdui. Some ragged patches cling to the lower slopes/corries in the north in the morning.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</b>	Largely cloudy, some brighter skies with sun through high cloud north of Cairngorms where visibility good. Hazier south, misty around some hills.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	3 or 4C, though some slopes to the northeast of Ben Macdui may reach 5C. In exposure to strongest wind, feeling like -8C.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Above all summits with thawing to upper slopes, though icy surfaces remain on high tops with local refrozen snow patches.

## Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 25 February	Thursday 26 February
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Southwesterly 25-35mph; gusty, including to lower slopes.	Southwesterly 30-45mph, some variability in this range and notable gusts on high terrain.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Walking at times strenuous and feeling chilly. Notable buffeting affecting stability, including to middle elevations.</b>	<b>Walking at least strenuous and often arduous with considerable buffeting in exposure and significant wind chill.</b>
<b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b>	<b>Rain on-and-off</b> Periods of rain affect most mountains on-and-off throughout the day. Drizzly in cloud on high terrain as well. Northern Cairngorm slopes may only see spotty light rain at least for a time.	<b>Pulses of rain/snow, dry periods</b> Bands of rain sweep west-to-east, snow falling above 900-1000m, dry periods between the rain, northern Cairngorm plateau sees the lightest precipitation.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Fairly extensive, higher bases north</b>  Extensive cloud from middle slopes upward along the southern Cairngorms and much of the Monadhliath hills, reaching the lower slopes during rain. North and east of Ben Macdui may see breaks up towards 800m	<b>Variable, clear summits during dry periods</b>  During pulses of rain, cloud shrouds much of the high Cairngorm plateau, the lowest bases reaching 800m towards central highlands during heaviest rain. Dry periods see cloud clearing, likely to the summits.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	A few brighter moments towards the northeast, where visibility locally good. Otherwise overcast and dull with poor visibility.	Variable cloud, likely bright with bursts of sunshine between pulses of rain. Very good visibility, though very poor if in snow.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	5C; only small change with added height. Locally to 6C northern Cairngorm slopes. Feeling as cold as -5C in direct wind.	2C, some local variability by a degree. Feeling like -10 to -15C in direct wind.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	Above the summits.	1100m, variable, may lower for a time around midday but also lifting to the high summits later, then lowering overnight.

## Planning Outlook

### All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 25 February, 2026

West to southwesterly winds prevail from mid-week into the weekend as areas of low pressure move toward northwest Scotland; regular rainfall here, most frequent and heavy over western mountains. Bands of rain from the west also affecting England and Wales. Milder temperatures from mid-week with freezing levels above all summits for a few days, substantial thawing to the summits in England and Wales, some high slope thawing in Scotland too. Extensive gales, only a brief easing on Wednesday, then soon unsettled again with cooler temperatures returning, showery west with bands of rain passing east, some snow on Scottish Munros. Some drier, brighter weather is possible over the weekend, though interruptions by bands of rain are likely with low confidence in detail.

### Forecast issued at 15:58 on Monday, 23 February, 2026

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, 2026.