

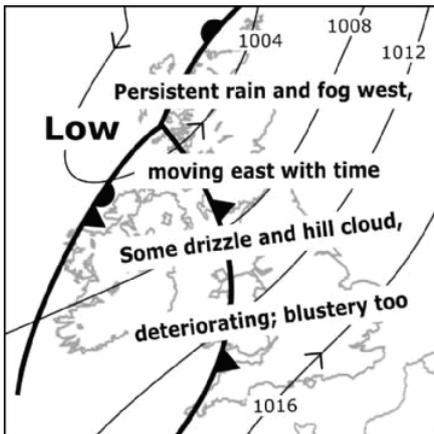
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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



**Tiso is Aviemore's specialist for Outdoor clothing, footwear, camping, cycling, skiing & equipment.
Cafe, expert boot fitting, bike & ski servicing & equipment hire available - Visit www.tiso.com**

General Summary for Wednesday, 25 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 25 February, 2026

Mild for the time of year; freezing levels above all summits, snow still lying on high Munros but continuing to thaw to the summits. Windy, strongest near Irish Sea and south Scotland with buffeting gusts. Rain and extensive hill cloud in west Scotland, passing east and into England and Wales with time.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Fog and drizzle high tops and south/west; blustery

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 25 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 25-35mph; gusty, including to middle slopes.
Effect of wind on you?	Walking at times strenuous and feeling cool in exposure. Notable buffeting affecting stability, including to middle elevations.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Drizzle high tops, some patchy rain later Often drizzly on the high Cairngorm plateau in cloud, some drizzle reaching further downslope to the south and west, near Drumochter and high Monadhliath tops. With time, some patchy rain begins to drift from the west. Northern slopes receive the least rain.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, higher bases north of Cairngorm plateau Extensive cloud from middle slopes upward along the southern Cairngorm plateau and much of the Monadhliath hills, reaching the lower slopes during rain. Variable north/east of Ben Macdui breaks up towards 900m, but also lower banks passing here.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	A few brighter moments towards the northeast, where visibility locally good. Otherwise overcast and dull with poor visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m)	5C; only small change with added height. Locally 6C on slopes north and east of Ben Macdui. Lowering several degrees overnight. Feeling as cold as -5C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	Above the summits during daylight with thaws to high terrain, though snow coverage still fairly widespread on highest Munros.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 26 February	Friday 27 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 30-35mph from dawn, strengthening with time, reaching 45-55mph, possibly stronger on high tops. Walking at least strenuous and often arduous with considerable buffeting in exposure and significant wind chill.	Low confidence: generally westerly 15-30mph, notable variability, strengthening later; possibly lower speeds for a time. Effects may be locally fairly small but trending towards impeding effects with a notable chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Pulses of rain/snow, dry periods Bands of showery rain sweep west-to-east, snow falling above 900-1000m, or higher. Dry periods between the rain, though a rising frequency in the west later.	Some rain, increasingly as snow Periods of rain are likely, snow to the high tops in the morning, the snowfall level lowering with time, a risk of a broader area of rain too but also dry periods will happen. Any heavy falls likely only brief.
Cloud on the hills?	Variable, clear summits during dry periods 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.	Mostly high tops with breaks, variably lower Cloud mostly isolated to the high Cairngorm plateau, summits breaks possible with some variable banks drifting lower too; a risk of more extensive high terrain cloud at times, greatest risk east.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	50%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Variable cloud, likely bright with bursts of sunshine between pulses of rain. Very good visibility, though very poor if in snow.	Mostly cloudy, a few bright periods, which may increase in frequency. Very good visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	2C, some local variability by a degree, more widely 3C for a time. Feeling like -10 to -15C in direct wind. 1100m, some variability, likely lifting for a few hours, but then lowering overnight.	+1 or +2C from dawn, a lowering trend but timing uncertain, to -1 or -2C by night. Feeling near -8C if strong wind occurs. Likely just high terrain from dawn, exact level uncertain, but a lowering trend with time, towards 600-800m by nighttime.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 26 February, 2026

Thursday will be windy with a swathe of rain affecting all areas at some point. A low pressure core is likely to affect the country on Friday, but detail is highly uncertain: there is a risk of rain and strong wind for central and southern areas, a general cooling trend. Snow returning to the Scottish Highlands, the snowfall level lowering into nighttime. A fast-moving ridge of high pressure leads into Saturday, then a return to west-southwesterly wind with bands of rain passing west to east through the weekend into the following week.

Mixed conditions are indicated in the following week, with low and high pressure competing for dominance: freezing levels will vary, high Scottish terrain often at or below freezing, the level occasionally lifting to and above tops.

Forecast issued at 16:54 on Tuesday, 24 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.