

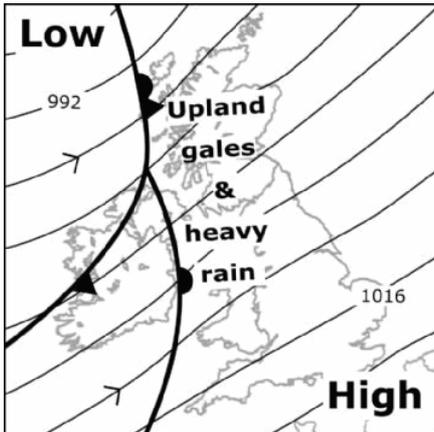
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Thursday, 26 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 26 February, 2026

Gale-force southwesterlies, strengthening to be severe on higher mountains. Rain increasingly persistent from the west, some heavier falls setting in for periods combined with lowering cloud over the hills. Near freezing on higher Scottish tops, where some snow falls for a time.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Upland gales, severe high tops. Rain becomes persistent.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 26 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 40 to 50mph, strengthening into middle of day to 60mph, gusts 70mph higher mountains onward through afternoon.
Effect of wind on you?	Difficult conditions over the mountains, any mobility challenging on exposed terrain into middle of day, gusts could knock you over. Significant wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Pulses of rain, snow high terrain; wetter middle of day. Bands of showery rain sweep west-to-east, snow falling above 900-1000m for a time in morning, then mostly rain. Drier at times in north/east in morning. More persistent rain develops from west with time, some heavier bursts.
Cloud on the hills?	Variable, lowering during rain During pulses of rain, cloud shrouds much of the high Cairngorm plateau, the lowest bases reaching 800m towards Drumochter during heaviest rain. Dry periods see cloud clearing, briefly to the summits mainly northeastern areas.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%, dropping to 20% southwest.
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Variable cloud, likely bright with some sun through high cloud mainly morning. Very good visibility, though very poor in precipitation.
How Cold? (at 900m)	2C, some local variability by a degree, more widely 3C for a time. Feeling like -12 to -15C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	Near freezing above 1100-1200m for a time up to middle of day, then lifting above tops; lowering again overnight to 1100m.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Friday 27 February	Saturday 28 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Westerly 25 to 35mph, strongest wind north, speed may vary during day locally. Blustery wind impedes comfortable walking particularly higher Cairngorms with marked wind chill and some buffeting.	Southerly, strengthening during day from 15-20mph or less, to 35-40mph afternoon, risk later 50mph from dusk. Fairly small early in day, but increasingly blustery, later afternoon affecting comfortable walking.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Scattered showers Often dry, but occasional showers, mostly north and western areas, falling as snow above 800m, later lowering.	Precipitation unlikely during day Rare if any brief flurries. Onward into night, some rain preceded by hill snow may move in from west.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Mostly high tops with breaks Cloud mostly confined to the high Cairngorm plateau, with breaks above the tops at times, best in east. 50%	Mostly little May drift onto some higher southern slopes at times, but often clear most northern areas. 70%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mix of cloud and occasional sun. Very good visibility.	Mostly sunny, some patchy cloud south. High cloud may start to develop from west later. Visibility excellent.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	+1C from dawn, a lowering trend during day to -1C, or -2C by night. Feeling near -10C directly in the wind. 1000 to 1200m in morning, lowering trend toward 800m, or lower after dark.	-1 or -2C. As wind increases, feeling like -10C, risk nearer -15C by dusk. 700 to 800m, plus frost some sheltered lower areas early morning.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 27 February, 2026

A changeable southwesterly regime continues through the weekend into early next week. Colder for a time with a drop of freezing level Friday into Saturday allowing some refreezing of higher mountain terrain mainly in Scotland, the snowpack on high mountains consolidating following recent thawing. Milder air and thawing returns into Sunday, accompanied by rain and upland gales. During next week, higher pressure is expected to develop around the British Isles, bringing quieter weather, drier for most with lighter winds. Some fronts may continue to graze northwest Scotland with rain and stronger winds locally for a few more days. Temperatures tending to be on the milder side during early March, but some frosts into valleys at times.

Forecast issued at 16:27 on Wednesday, 25 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.