

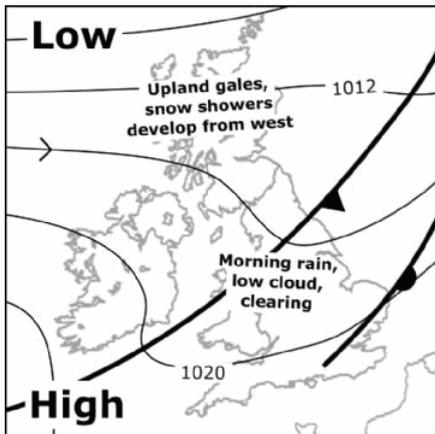
# Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Friday, 27 March, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 27 March, 2026**

Wind strengthens across Scottish mountains to gale-force, significant chill factor. A dry morning central-eastern Highlands, but snow showers in the west develop widely and become heavier with hail. Early rain clears southeastward over England, cloud lifts and breaks; slower to improve southward across Wales.

### Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Increasingly upland gales, hail and snow showers into afternoon.

## Detailed Forecast for Friday, 27 March, 2026

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>              | West to southwesterly, 25-35mph from dawn, trending towards higher speeds with time, 40-50mph midday into afternoon, stronger squally gusts in showers. By evening-night, widely 60-70mph on high terrain.  |
| <b>Effect of wind on you?</b>                  | <b>Walking increasingly strenuous in exposure, becoming more difficult into afternoon with significant wind chill, powerful gusts knocking you off balance.</b>   |
| <b>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</b> | <b>Afternoon snow showers, mostly west</b><br>Patchy overnight rain fades before dawn. Dry most of morning. Showers arrive from the west, snow to 600m, most in Monadhliath & Drumochter area, heavier afternoon, a scattering of showers extend eastward, later hail.  |
| <b>Cloud on the hills?</b>                     | <b>Mostly high western terrain, often broken</b><br>Some ragged patches of cloud at several elevations at dawn but these dissipating after sunrise. Banks of cloud occasionally drift over the high tops, most often west during showers, as low as 800-900m afternoon. |
| <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>            | <b>70%, lowering to 50% west afternoon</b>  |
| <b>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</b>     | Frequent bright sunshine, turning to a patchwork afternoon, most cloud west. Very good visibility, though suddenly poor in showers.   |
| <b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>                     | -1C early, sunny slopes may briefly rise a degree; lowering later, to -3C into night. Feeling like -13C to later -17C in direct wind as it strengthens.   |
| <b>Freezing Level</b>                          | Lowering from overnight, 800m at dawn, lowering to 600-700m through the day.  |

## Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

|  | <b>Saturday 28 March</b>  | <b>Sunday 29 March</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b><br><b>Effect of wind on you?</b> | Westerly 45 to 60mph, strongest over higher Cairngorms. A brief lessening by evening, then increasing again overnight.<br><b>Challenging mobility on higher mountains, difficult conditions with gusts knocking you over.</b><br><b>Significant-to-severe wind chill.</b> | Southwest at first, soon westerly, 70-80mph dawn into morning, then near 50mph, sudden squally gusts.<br><b>Severe conditions for a time, remaining difficult over the mountains all day, mobility often challenging. Severe wind chill.</b> |
| <b>How wet?</b><br>(Precipitation and its impact)                  | <b>Hail and snow showers</b><br>Showers spreading from the west in the morning, mostly areas near and west of the A9, hail and snow falling to lower elevations. Scattered showers extend eastward, tending to ease from west during afternoon.                           | <b>Rain, snow, then showery hail</b><br>A swathe of rain moving in from west around dawn, starting as snow on high terrain. A more intense band moving through in morning, abruptly turning back to snow to 600m, then showers with hail.    |
| <b>Cloud on the hills?</b>   | <b>Patches over tops, lifting higher</b><br><br>Varied cloud capping higher slopes in the morning above 800-1000m, lowest around showers near the A9. Lifting above higher slopes increasingly often into afternoon.  | <b>Fairly extensive, then varied on tops</b><br><br>Covering higher terrain fairly widely above 800-1000m early in day, locally lower toward west. Then rising and more variable above 900m with breaks to tops.                             |
| <b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>                                | <b>30% rising to 60%</b>  | <b>40%</b>   |
| <b>Sunshine?</b><br>Air clarity (below cloud)                      | Patchwork of cloud and sun.<br>Visibility often very good, but reduced at times to briefly very poor in showers.  | Bursts of sun develop, best in east.<br>Visibility changing quickly, very poor in rain, appalling at least temporarily in snow, intermittently very good.  |
| <b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b><br><br><b>Freezing Level</b>            | -3C rising to 0C.<br>Wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C.<br><br>600m in morning, plus frost in sheltered glens around dawn, rising to 900m afternoon.  | +1 or 2C for a time, dropping to -2C later.<br>Wind chill feeling like -15C, nearer -20C on highest terrain.<br><br>Briefly may rise just above freezing to upper slopes in morning, then soon lowering again, to 700m afternoon.            |

**Planning Outlook****All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 28 March, 2026**

Changeable westerlies prevail onward into early next week, continuing gales over most high terrain. Below freezing on Scottish mountains above 700-800m into Monday with snow showers; higher freezing level further south, above the tops in Wales with mostly drizzly rain here. Milder air lifts above freezing to all tops into Tuesday with low cloud, drizzle and rain, most persistent west-northwest Scotland. Mixed conditions likely continue, but some windows of better weather mid-late in the week - temperatures vary above and just below freezing on Scottish tops. Potential for cold conditions again early April, but drier conditions possibly more common by then.

**Forecast issued at 15:10 on Thursday, 26 March, 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.