

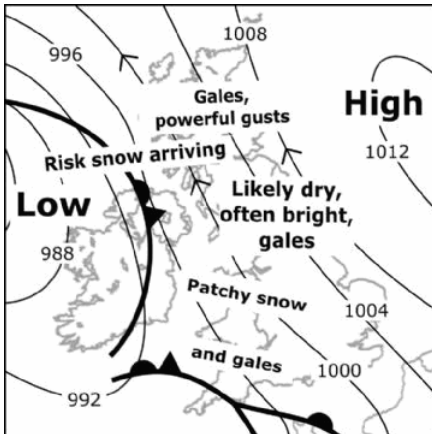
Lake District

The entire Lake District National Park, taking in all major summits, including Scafell, Helvellyn, Skiddaw, the Langdales and Old Man of Coniston.



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General Summary for Wednesday, 18 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 18 February, 2026

Cold with widespread gales in exposure; powerful gusts and severe wind chill. North and west Scotland often dry and free of cloud; an increasing risk of snow south with time, possibly east as well. English hills largely dry, hill cloud mostly isolated to high Pennines. Cloudier Wales with snow arriving from the south.

Headline for Lake District

Gales, powerful gusts, severe chill factor; most fells clear

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 18 February, 2026

How windy? (On the summits)	Southeasterly 40-45mph, at times stronger with powerful gusts in high exposure and elevated passes, may approach 55mph.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking and severe wind chill; stability constantly affected on high terrain in buffeting gusts; strongest gusts may knock you off your feet.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Precipitation unlikely A remote risk of some light snow on slopes nearest the Irish Sea late in the day.
Cloud on the hills?	Little cloud expected A few caps may graze the summits of Scafell group and Coniston, but most fells stay clear of cloud.
Chance of cloud free summits?	90%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Likely sunny but weakened by high cloud, trending towards thicker cloud in the west with time. Very good visibility.
How Cold? (at 750m)	-3C from dawn, many slopes rising a degree. Feeling as cold as -18C in strongest wind.
Freezing Level	Terrain widely frozen from dawn, thaws up to 400-500m during daylight, then refreezing overnight.

Lake District - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 19 February	Friday 20 February
How windy? (On the summits) Effect of wind on you?	East-southeasterly 35-40mph and gusty; a gradual southerly trend with time and trending towards lighter speeds. Walking arduous to start the day, effects easing but walking remains strenuous with buffeting and significant wind chill.	South-southwesterly 35-40mph, trending towards higher speeds, gusty 45mph at least, shifting SW'ly. Challenging conditions with buffeting and significant wind chill; maintaining stability requires constant effort.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Any precipitation unlikely	Rain on and off Periods of rain come and go from the west through the day, falling as snow early, at first down to middle slopes. Best of breaks in the rain towards Helvellyn; may stay damp on western fells between rain.
Cloud on the hills?	Cloud unlikely	Variable but fairly extensive Cloud shrouds high terrain with bases to middle slopes most or all day to the west of highest tops. Filling in more widely during periods of rain, but breaks towards high tops possible too during cessation in rain.
Chance of cloud free summits?	90%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Often sunny but weakened by high cloud, may become clearer with time. Very good visibility.	Mostly cloudy but some bright/sunny breaks will come and go, best east. Variable visibility, very good when out of cloud and rain.
How Cold? (at 750m) Freezing Level	-2C from dawn, lifting slightly, to -1C but local variability is likely. Feeling like -12C in direct wind. 200-300m, lifting to 500-600m, though higher thaws possible towards northern Lakeland.	0C from dawn, lifting to 3 or 4C. Feeling like -5 to -10C in direct wind. 700-800m from dawn, some lower slopes frozen as well, rising with time above the summits.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 19 February, 2026

Much terrain in England and Scotland remains frozen as the weekend approaches. However, freezing level will be less well defined on western slopes as stable downslope flow may warm and thaw frozen ground up to middle elevations, particularly in Wales and England. Friday into the weekend sees a switch to southwesterly winds, bringing milder conditions - lifting above freezing to tops in England and Wales, and generally higher freezing levels in Scotland; periods of thawing to Munro summits will occur but also further snowfall on higher terrain during the day-to-day variability of precipitation and freezing levels. Often cloudy with periods of rain further south, most often affecting western and southern hills where cloud will be lowest and at times drizzly in the south. Often windy with upland gales.

Forecast issued at 15:59 on Tuesday, 17 February, 2026

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.