

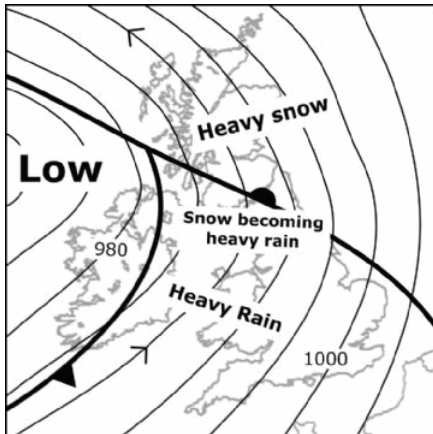
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Saturday, 23 November, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 23 November, 2024

Severe weather widely with storm-force upland winds; heavy snow over the Highlands giving sustained blizzard conditions to lower elevations. A rapid switch from snow to rain up to high tops for northern England, already by dawn in Wales - here prolonged heavy rain with flooding likely.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Stormy; heavy snow & whiteout, but rapid thaw starts into evening.

Detailed Forecast for Saturday, 23 November, 2024

<p>How windy? (On the Munros)</p> <p>Effect of wind on you?</p>	<p>Southeasterly 60 to 85mph; ferocious gusts reaching lower slopes, particularly turbulent north/west of Cairngorms. By evening, speeds briefly easing, but increasing again into night, turning southerly.</p> <p>Severe conditions, controlled mobility impossible over higher terrain regardless of experience. Difficult even on lower hills, gusts may knock you over.</p>
<p>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</p>	<p>Heavy snow much of daylight; thaw and rain into night.</p> <p>Dry just at dawn toward north, but soon extensive snow moving in from the south, heaviest south and eastern hills; substantial accumulation with drifting. Turning to sleet only lowest terrain. By the evening, fading to become dry for a time, then periods of rain to highest tops into the night.</p>
<p>Cloud on the hills?</p> <p>Chance of cloud free Munros?</p>	<p>Hills covered extensively</p> <p>Hills fully covered, very likely all day. Just at first, local cloud breaks in the north and east, but soon lowering. Highest bases near Strathspey, at times 700m or above.</p> <p>10%, best early morning Lecht, Glenmore</p>
<p>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</p>	<p>Overcast, zero visibility, whiteout.</p> <p>Locally only briefly brighter at the start of the day toward northeast.</p>
<p>How Cold? (at 900m)</p> <p>Freezing Level</p>	<p>Rising from -5C in morning, to +2C by late afternoon, or higher after dark.</p> <p>Variable, in morning all terrain frozen, rising erratically afternoon, eventually above freezing to highest tops by early evening.</p>

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Sunday 24 November	Monday 25 November
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 45 to 50mph. At times on the higher Cairngorms reaching 70mph. Walking challenging, treacherous and likely affecting stability in gusts. Significant wind chill.	South to southwesterly, switching westerly; 45 to 60mph, at times 70mph higher areas, risk 80mph highest Cairngorms. Difficult conditions across the mountains, severe where exposed on higher areas. Significant wind chill even on mid-slopes.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Dry after light morning rain Light rain in the morning will clear east, leading to mostly dry conditions through the afternoon with occasional light showers. Northeast areas likely dry all day. Showers on highest peaks falling as snow.	Showery, snow on tops Showery precipitation spreading from the west, of snow on the Munros, turning to rain toward higher elevations. Showers may merge to be frequent or persistent.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, cloud breaks north Potential for afternoon occasional breaks on the northern slopes. Otherwise mountain tops likely within cloud.	Varied, but covering tops most of day Cloud base rapidly changing, but often shrouding the mountains above 900 to 1000m, or 700m at times in showers toward and west of the A9.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40%	20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sunshine in and out with good visibility.	Glimpses of sun mostly eastern areas. Visibility at times good, but reduced to poor during showers.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	2 or 3C, slightly warmer around dawn. Dropping slightly during day. Feeling like -10C in wind. Above the summits at first, dropping to 1200m during the morning and towards 1000m into the evening.	1 to 3C. Wind chill feeling like -12 to -17C. 1000m in morning, lifting to 1200m or slightly higher afternoon.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Sunday, 24 November, 2024

A powerful area of low pressure continues to influence all areas Sunday into Monday, bringing sustained gales from lower hills upward, storm-force on higher mountains. After a rapid period of thaw in all areas late Saturday, by Sunday-Monday the Scottish high tops are back just below freezing point. Frequent showery rain, or snow on the Munros, most persistent in the west. Into midweek, higher pressure tries to expand over Britain bringing drier conditions, with temperatures nearer the seasonal average compared to the current very cold spell. Periods of rain and milder southerly air later in the week - above freezing to all tops. Early December shows signs of chillier northerlies returning.

Forecast issued at 16:00 on Friday, 22 November, 2024

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, 2024.