

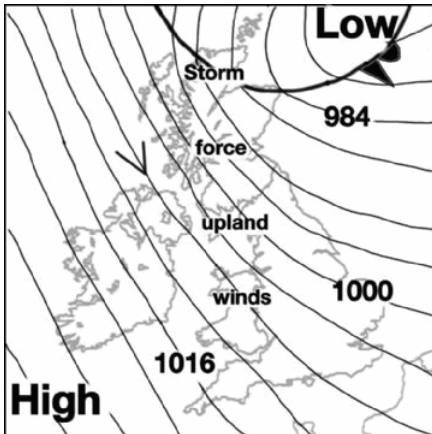
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Sunday, 22 December, 2024



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 22 December, 2024

Very severe conditions due to widespread storm force northwesterly winds across the mountains. Frequent snow showers will come in off the sea, extending well inland and in some areas merging to give almost constant snow and whiteout for a few hours.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Storm force upland wind. Frequent snow; whiteout.

Detailed Forecast for Sunday, 22 December, 2024

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northwesterly 55 to 75mph; particularly gusty near precipitation.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking on lower slopes, whilst higher up severe wind chill and any mobility challenging, particularly near precipitation.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Frequent hail and snow Snow showers, sometimes one after another, with risk of the precipitation more or less constant over a couple of hours, giving whiteout. From Ben Alder to southern Cairngorms NP: fewer showers, some dry periods.
Cloud on the hills?	Very extensive across the mountains; cloud base varying Near precipitation cloud sometimes below 500m Monadhliath east to Cairngorms and Lochnagar, but breaks to 750m, perhaps 900m. Higher cloud base Ben Alder to southern Cairngorms NP, where mostly 600 to 1000m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Glimpses of sunshine, mainly Ben Alder east to southern Cairngorms NP. Very varied visibility, appalling or near zero in snow/blowing snow.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C, slight rise through day. Will feel as cold as minus 19C directly in the wind.
Freezing Level	600m; will rise marginally through daylight.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Monday 23 December	Tuesday 24 December
<p>How windy? (On the Munros)</p> <p>Effect of wind on you?</p>	<p>West later southwesterly; a lull to around 20mph morning, then strengthening toward 35 or by dusk 40mph.</p> <p>Mostly small; but anticipate a change in afternoon to considerable wind chill and more strenuous walking.</p>	<p>Southwesterly 50 to 60mph.</p> <p>Very difficult conditions where exposed on higher areas; significant wind chill and walking strenuous; balance/foot placement not easy.</p>
<p>How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)</p>	<p>Risk rain later in day</p> <p>Rain, or temporarily snow or refrozen rain above 600m, spreading east afternoon - probably not reaching east of A9 until about dusk.</p>	<p>Rain, mainly west of A9</p> <p>Raining on and off west of A9. Progressively less wet east across Cairngorms NP; rarely raining near and east of Braemar.</p>
<p>Cloud on the hills?</p> <p>Chance of cloud free Munros?</p>	<p>Confined to higher tops; highest cloud base south of Cairngorms</p> <p>Cloud lifting to above 900 to 1100m for a few hours, and in Cairngorms NP may lift above 1200m. But risk deterioration as cloud fills in above 600-800m in precipitation toward dusk.</p> <p>40%</p>	<p>Blanket of cloud across the mountains.</p> <p>Cloud base widely 500 to 700m, although breaks to 900, perhaps 1050m on summits accessible from Deeside.</p> <p>Less than 10%</p>
<p>Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)</p>	<p>Little or no sunshine as cloud thickens from west. Visibility excellent.</p>	<p>Sunshine here and there lower slopes, most likely Deeside Poor visibility in rain, mostly very good or excellent Deeside.</p>
<p>How Cold? (at 900m)</p> <p>Freezing Level</p>	<p>-2C rising to 0 to 2C toward or after dusk. Will feel as cold as minus 7C directly in the wind.</p> <p>700m, starting to transition to above the summits toward evening.</p>	<p>7C. Will feel as cold as minus 9C where exposed to the wind Above the summits.</p>

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Monday, 23 December, 2024

A change in the weather pattern from Tuesday as high pressure progressively envelops Wales and England. Here (and also in S Scotland), extensively dry and the and progressively dropping, initially across Wales. Mild - although frost in valleys some nights. Still windy Scottish Highlands, here very mild with lying snow substantially melting. Rain frequent NW Highlands, and less so W Highlands. Further east little or no rain.

Forecast issued at 12:03 on Saturday, 21 December, 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.