MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.

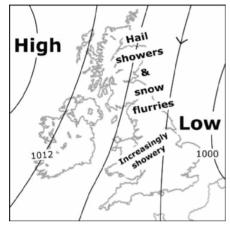


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General Summary for Wednesday, 12 March, 2025



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 12 March, 2025

Northerly winds will feel bitterly cold across the mountains. Showers running inland from north-facing coasts in the morning, developing more widely inland through the daytime, falling as hail and snow often toward lower slopes, some locally heavier showers particularly Pennine areas afternoon.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Snow and hail at times frequent, especially north. Cold wind.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 12 March, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Northerly typically 25mph, but 30 to 35mph east from Cairngorm plateau. Particularly gusty near precipitation.	
Effect of wind on you?	Considerable wind chill. Higher up widely impeding ease of walking and in gusts balance difficult.	
How wet?	Frequent hail and snow showers	
(Precipitation and its	Succession of hail and snow showers.	
impact)	In Monadhliath, Cairngorms and Deeside the precipitation almost constant for periods with considerable accumulation of snow and whiteout.	
Cloud on the hills?	Extensive; lowest cloud base north/east	
	Cloud base varying: Generally patches below 500m near precipitation and often extensive above 800m Monadhliath and Cairngorms to Deeside. Highest base near/east form Ben Alder where breaks to 1000m.	
Chance of cloud free Munros?	10%, to 30% Drumochter.	
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of bright sunshine, mainly toward southwest in Drumochter area. The air very clear, but expect appalling visibility in snow.	
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C; tending to rise slowly through daylight. Wind chill feeling like -10C, nearer -15C higher eastern tops.	
Freezing Level	500m. Frost some valleys after dawn.	

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Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 13 March	Friday 14 March
How windy? (On the Munros)	Northerly 15 or 20mph; gusty near precipitation.	North-northeasterly 15-25mph. Notable gustiness in the north.
Effect of wind on you?	Mostly small	Fairly small, some inconvenient gusts.
How wet?	Hail and snow showers	Snow and hail showers
(Precipitation and its impact)	Cairngorms and Deeside: Hail and snow showers, sometimes frequent. Elsewhere: occasional hail or snow, mostly flurries - mainly or only afternoon.	Brief spells of snow/hail onto Cairngorm plateau and north. Isolated wintry showers south. Some overnight snow leaving a fresh covering in places.
Cloud on the hills?	Intermittently lifting off higher summits	Cloud banks north, often clear south
	North Cairngorms: Cloud below 600m near precipitation and otherwise frequent above 800m, though most higher tops occasionally clearing. Elsewhere: cloud rare below 600m and intermittently clearing to above 900m.	Frequent cloud banks on the north Cairngorm plateau with bases near 700m. Cloud banks come and go Deeside. Peaks often clear south, bases rarely reaching below 1000m.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% north to 50% elsewhere	40% north, 70% south
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Intermittent bright sun. The air very clear, but very poor or appalling visibility in precipitation.	Patchwork of sun north, frequent in the south. Excellent visibility, poor spells in showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-3C; rising marginally through day.	-3C, rising a degree or two south of Cairngorm plateau. Little chance north slopes.
Freezing Level	500m; tending to rise to 700m more southern ranges through day. Frost many glens post dawn.	Widespread frost in the morning. Approaching 700m south of Cairngorm NP.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 13 March, 2025

Staying cold all week with frost overnight to lower slopes and valleys, then during the daytimes the freezing level lifting onto higher slopes. Showers of snow and hail becoming fewer and well scattered as higher pressure expands in from the north. The wind speed also lessening. A largely fine weekend ahead with light winds, sunshine, broken cloud, and very clear crisp air. Some showers may run into northern Scotland on stronger winds here. Next week, a shift back to milder southeasterlies, with some showery rain developing at times.

Forecast issued at 15:12 on Tuesday, 11 March, 2025

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, 2025.