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.

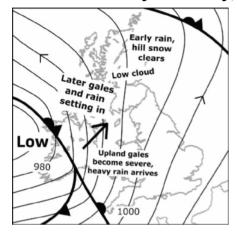


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General Summary for Friday, 5 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 5 December, 2025

South-southeasterly winds strengthen, reaching gale-force afternoon many areas, sooner Wales, here becoming severe. Some rain / hill snow NE Scotland fades, patchy rain west coasts, otherwise dry, then rain sweeps in from southwest later, snow inland mountains into evening. Best cloud breaks NW Scotland.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Gusty wind eases; gales later. A little early snow, low cloud south.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 5 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly, 30-35mph, gusty in places early in day, dropping to 25mph or less for a few hours middle of day. Rising to 45-55mph toward and beyond dusk, further deteriorating into night to 60-70mph.		
Effect of wind on you?	Comfortable walking affected from dawn, sudden buffeting gusts in places, easing for a few hours, but then deteriorating to difficult conditions into and overnight. Significant wind chill early and later.		
How wet?	Patchy sleet/snow south and east in morning; snow/rain into night		
(Precipitation and its impact)	A few patches of sleet/snow, mostly south Cairngorm slopes and Deeside in the morning, fading out.		
	Rain (snow on high terrain, falling below 800m for a time) sets in widely after dark.		
Cloud on the hills? South and east slopes often shrouded			
	Fairly persistent banks of cloud from Deeside to Drumochter and south Monadhliath, bases between 500-700m. Northern slopes often clear though a few patches will drift onto eastern areas.		
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20% high tops and south, 60% northern hills		
Sunshine?	Some patchy sun in the north, high cloud thickening to cover the sky.		
Air clarity (below cloud)	Very good visibility out of cloud, particularly north, mistier southern hills.		
How Cold? (at 900m)	0C; will rise a few degrees in the late overnight hours.		
	Wind chill effect will vary, but early and late -10C to near -15C highest tops.		
Freezing Level	Poorly defined, 600-800m, though frost at lower elevations, including in glens. Rising overnight variably to upper slopes.		

MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 6 December	Sunday 7 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeasterly 15 to 25mph, gusty in places mainly around higher Cairngorms and northern corries, risk local 30-35mph. May be fairly small most areas, but possibly more blustery in places and suddenly gusty not just on the tops.	Very uncertain: South to southeasterly 20 to 30mph, perhaps less. Small risk increasing further south/eastern areas. Fairly small at times, but expect blustery and gusty conditions around higher mountains, chance worsening further.
How wet?	Patchy rain	Risk a little rain mainly south
(Precipitation and its impact)	Rain on and off, most frequent toward south and east Cairngorms NP, may be often damp all day; sleet highest tops. Patchier toward Strathspey, may be often dry toward Monadhliath.	Patchy rain mostly southern Cairngorms NP, more often dry north. Chance of more widely escaping drier.
Cloud on the hills?	Fairly extensive, highest north	Fairly extensive, lowest south
	Covering the mountains most likely all day, to mid-elevations southern areas from Drumochter around to Deeside, banks on some lower slopes. Higher cloud base northwest of Cairngorms, breaks to 900m.	Covering higher mountains most or all day, to mid-elevations toward southern Cairngorms, some higher breaks in north.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	20%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Rare glimpses of sun mainly Strathspey. Misty south and eastern areas, better visibility toward Monadhliath, good below cloud.	Largely cloudy, some brief glimpses of weak sun north of Cairngorms. Visibility good where dry, reducing in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	3C. Wind chill feeling like -5C risk near -10C locally if exposed to stronger speeds.	4C, small variation with height. Feeling like -5C or possibly colder if exposed to stronger wind.
Freezing Level	1300m.	Above freezing to highest tops.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 6 December, 2025

Generally unsettled through the weekend and into next week with areas of low pressure circulating near to the British Isles. Day-to-day detail will be uncertain even in short-range as complex systems move around slowly - a series of frontal systems bringing spells of rain and some high-level snow, mixed with showers with hail mostly near western coasts. Temperatures often on the milder side compared to recently, with typically only higher tops in the Highlands intermittently just below freezing point, expect periods of thawing up to these tops. Wind speeds will also vary, often south to southwesterlies, at times reaching gale force on tops, but intermittent lulls.

Forecast issued at 15:25 on Thursday, 4 December, 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.