MOUNTAIN WEATHER INFORMATION SERVICE

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

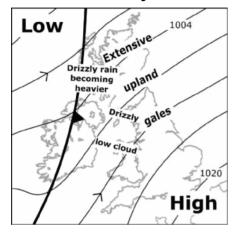
Cairngorms National Park and Monadhliath. Also includes the Ben Alder area hills between Loch Ericht and Loch Laggan.



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General Summary for Thursday, 11 December, 2025



British Mountain Summary: Based on forecast chart for noon 11 December, 2025

Gale force winds across most hills and mountains, severe gales high Scottish tops particularly morning in west, powerful gusts downslope in places. Low cloud and some drizzly rain west, mostly dry east/northeast. More persistent rain develops for western Scotland afternoon onward.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Upland gales, severe high tops. Patchy rain moving in later.

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 11 December, 2025

How windy? (On the Munros)	South-southwesterly 45 to 60mph, up to 70mph at times higher Cairngorms, some moderating of speeds during afternoon. Lowering further onward into night.	
Effect of wind on you?	Widely arduous walking over the hills, but more difficult conditions in places on higher mountains, some strong gusts downslope. Significant wind chill.	
How wet?	Little or no rain until later	
(Precipitation and its impact)	Spots of rain in the wind at times, but amounting to little, toward east more often dry all day.	
	During afternoon through to dusk, some steadier rain develops from west.	
Cloud on the hills?	Covering many tops, lowest south/west, breaks north	
	Banks of cloud over higher slopes, lowest Drumochter around to areas accessed from Braemar, but clinging over most of Cairngorms. Best breaks northward. Lowering in west in rain later.	
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50% dropping to 20% later	
Sunshine?	A little sun mostly toward north in morning.	
Air clarity (below cloud)	Slight haze possible, but mostly good visibility below cloud, reducing in rain toward southwest.	
How Cold? (at 900m)	4C, slight drop into night to 2C.	
	Feeling near -10C in the wind.	
Freezing Level	Above the summits, then lowering to 1100-1200m onward into night.	

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Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Friday 12 December	Saturday 13 December
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southwesterly 20-25mph from dawn, strengthening during day to 35-45mph over tops. Walking increasingly strenuous, later arduous over the mountains. Wind chill becoming considerable.	Southwesterly, strengthening during daytime from 40-50mph to 70-80mph, risk stronger gusts toward evening. Challenging conditions from mid-elevations upward, increasingly any mobility difficult, significant wind chill.
How wet?	Morning rain passes east, dry afternoon	Rain developing, heavier later west
(Precipitation and its impact)	Rain before dawn with snow on the high tops passes to the east, clearing most areas soon after sunrise. Rain lingers longer in the east, then no rain afternoon.	The morning may escape substantially dry, particularly eastern areas, some spots in the wind develop from west, then into afternoon rain becoming more persistent, heavier later Drumochter area.
Cloud on the hills?	Isolating largely to the high Cairngorms	Increasingly extensive, lowering
	High Cairngorms in cloud from dawn with some ragged patches lower down, these soon dissipating. Much of the cloud will clear though caps will drift over high Cairngorms at times, a few lower banks possible on southern slopes.	Varied banks of cloud mostly toward west and south Cairngorms in morning, patches over high tops, but clearer northeastward. With time, tending to fill in across all high terrain, lowering to mid-slopes south/west.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Often sunny on northern and lower southern slopes. Excellent visibility.	Largely cloudy, high cloud thickening. Visibility good in morning, reducing later, poor if in rain.
How Cold? (at 900m)	2 or 3C, lowering to 1C; staying slightly warmer for a time east hills. Feeling like -13C in strongest wind.	1C rising steadily to later reach 5C. Wind chill feeling like -10 to -15C.
Freezing Level	1200m at dawn, gradually lowering to 900-1000m.	1000 to 1200m up to dawn, gradually rising, above all summits with time; possible slight frost some glens at first.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 12 December, 2025

Staying unsettled into the weekend and beyond as southwesterly winds prevail and low pressure systems pass to the northwest of Scotland; sustained gales over the mountains, severe or stormy for periods. Temperatures only just below freezing intermittently on higher Scottish tops, even here will experience spells above freezing with thawing, any lying snow patchy, but beware some icy surfaces on the very highest tops where some refreezing occurs. Rainfall will be frequent and heavy for periods, sometimes showery with hail. Expect very wet ground conditions and further flooding of streams and some rivers.

Forecast issued at 16:27 on Wednesday, 10 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.