

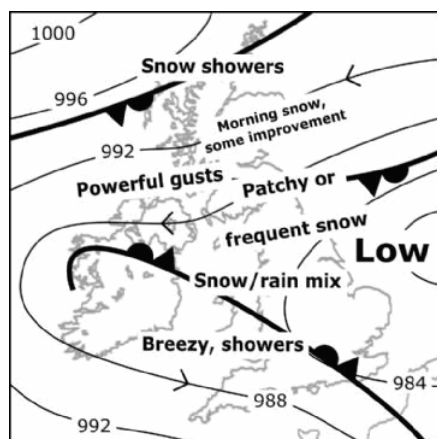
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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



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General Summary for Thursday, 12 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 12 February, 2026

Very cold in Scotland with strong wind. Snow in the central/south highlands, some improvement from the north. Blustery too in north England, cloudy with patchy morning snow, later more frequent. South Pennines and north Wales see rain and snow with lighter wind. Blustery with patchy rain south Wales.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Bitterly cold and windy; cloud and snow showers north areas

Detailed Forecast for Thursday, 12 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	East-northeasterly 30-40mph, trending northeasterly and easing, 20-30mph, though may remain gusty over high tops.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking with severe wind chill early, slowly easing with time, though always blustery in exposure.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Morning snow, breaking to showers north Morning snow, most over the high Cairngorms and eastern hills/Deeside. The snow soon breaks into showers from the north, some reaching towards Strathspey/Monadhliath, occasionally slipping to southern slopes.
Cloud on the hills?	Lifting to high terrain/northern slopes Fairly extensive across most hills down to middle slopes from dawn, soon lifting and becoming more broken, mostly lingering on the Cairngorm plateau and northern slopes, some bases to middle slopes in snow.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	30%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Some glimpses of weak sun possible later but mostly cloudy. Visibility becoming very good where away from snow showers.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-4 or -5C (to -8C on highest summits). Temperature will drop overnight. Feeling like -20C or colder in strongest direct wind.
Freezing Level	Frost to glen level likely widespread from dawn.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Friday 13 February	Saturday 14 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Generally northerly, 15-30mph, some variability in speed and direction, gusty near showers. Fairly small in places, but often blustery with strenuous walking in high exposure with significant wind chill.	West-northwesterly 10-15mph, shifting southwesterly and strengthening to a gusty 25-35mph later, deteriorating overnight. Fairly small well into the day, but the gusty breeze becoming uncomfortable later.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Some snow showers from the north Snow showers drift inland from the north, mostly affecting the Cairngorm plateau and northern slopes. Southern slopes stay largely dry.	No precipitation expected during daylight After nightfall, snow arrives from the west, gradually spreading widely.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Cloud banks on tops and high northern slopes Cloud banks often clinging to the northern slopes, mostly 900m or higher, a few breaks but may drift lower too during a snow shower. South of the Cairngorm plateau and towards Drumochter largely clear. 50%	Little or no cloud Odd patches on high tops possible later in the day. 90%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Patchwork of sunshine on high northern slopes, more consistent to the south. Excellent visibility.	Extensive sunshine with excellent visibility. Late in the day, some high cloud moves in from the west.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-5 or -6C (to -9C Ben Macdui summit at dawn), rising a degree or two in sun. Feeling as cold as -20C in strongest wind. Terrain widely frozen, though sun-exposed glens and low slopes may thaw.	-4 or -5C; little change with added height. All terrain frozen all day, though some sun-exposed low slopes may see a light thawing.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Friday, 13 February, 2026

Colder for all areas during the transition into the weekend, mountain terrain frozen to increasingly lower elevations - soonest toward the north and east of Scotland. A widespread frost early on Saturday. Northeasterly wind will be dominant - the distribution of snow showers shifting with time from eastern hills to more north-facing mountains, particularly Scotland. Brighter than recently with sunshine and clearer hills later Friday and Saturday.

Gales with heavy snow (rain to increasingly higher elevations) overnight into Sunday brings a return to unsettled weather for the following week - wet and windy periods come and go, freezing levels rising (high Scotland terrain stays frozen), then lowering again during periods of northwesterly wind.

Forecast issued at 16:09 on Wednesday, 11 February, 2026

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, 2026.