

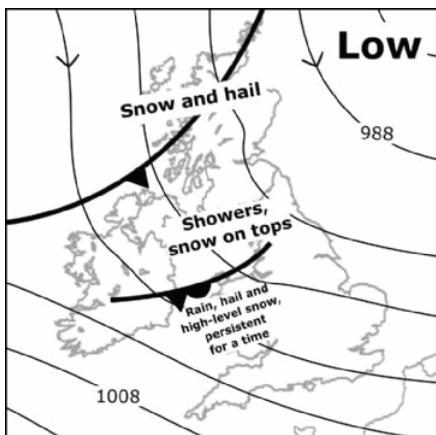
# Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Monday, 16 February, 2026



### British Mountain Summary:

**Based on forecast chart for noon 16 February, 2026**

Snow over northwestern mountains in Scotland will tend to extend further into Lochaber and Cairngorms by afternoon as NW'ly winds strengthen, some hail mixed in. Strong westerlies for England, gale-force on Welsh mountains, heavy showers merging into longer periods rain, snow confined to higher tops.

### Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Increasingly windy and snow develops from northwest afternoon.

## Detailed Forecast for Monday, 16 February, 2026

<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Northwesterly 20mph in morning, or less for a time. Increasing during afternoon to 30-35mph, or 40mph up to dusk higher areas. Then after dark during evening, rapid increase to 60mph, gusts 70mph.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Fairly small early in day, becoming increasingly blustery, affecting comfortable walking more with time during afternoon. Wind chill becoming significant. Deteriorating after dark to more severe conditions later evening.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Patchy snow, then snow more widely north/west afternoon.</b> Scattered showers of snow and hail in the morning, mostly west of the A9. Into afternoon, more frequent snow develops from northwest, more persistent for a time Monadhliath to Ben Alder, later further into north/western Cairngorms, increasingly falling to lower slopes.
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Extensive; highest cloud base toward southeast</b> Cloud base varying, mostly above 800 to 1000m in the morning, some local lower patches for a time, best breaks higher up toward east and south. Lowering in precipitation, to 600-800m, particularly Monadhliath afternoon.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional sunshine mainly east of Drumochter to Deeside in morning. Very varied visibility; excellent south and east for several hours, but becoming appalling in snow later north/west areas.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-2C, dropping toward -4C by late afternoon. Directly in the wind feeling like -15C into afternoon, colder after dark.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	700m, but also frost in some glens in morning, most widely eastern areas. Dropping during afternoon toward 400-500m up to dusk.

## Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February
<b>How windy? (On the Munros)</b>	Northerly 30 to 40mph early morning, risk stronger up to dawn, but dropping, to 20mph, or less during afternoon.	Southeasterly 20-25mph. Very gusty, changes in direction and not just high terrain.
<b>Effect of wind on you?</b>	<b>Prepare for significant wind chill and challenging walking in exposure early in day, but improving with time.</b>	<b>Uncomfortable wind all day with considerable wind chill - chaotic gusts at many heights will affect stability.</b>
<b>How wet?</b> (Precipitation and its impact)	<b>Precipitation not expected</b>	<b>Precipitation unlikely</b>
<b>Cloud on the hills?</b>	<b>Becoming confined to higher areas and increasingly clearing</b>  Cloud fairly extensive in the morning higher Cairngorms and Deeside but patchy elsewhere.  By afternoon patches above 750 to 900m, but increasingly only fragments, mostly confined above 1150m.	<b>Likely little</b>  Banks may drift over the high tops of the Cairngorm plateau but the hills substantially free of cloud.
<b>Chance of cloud free Munros?</b>	<b>70% by afternoon</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Sunshine?</b> Air clarity (below cloud)	Bright sunshine increasingly. Excellent visibility.	Mostly sunny, some high cloud around. Excellent visibility.
<b>How Cold? (at 900m)</b>	-5C. Early in day, feeling like -15C directly in the wind, near -20C high tops, easing.	-4 or -5C. Little or no change with added height. Feeling like -15 to -18C in strongest wind.
<b>Freezing Level</b>	300m but most terrain frozen: partial thawing lowest particularly sunlit slopes.	Terrain likely widely frozen, some light thaws on sun-exposed low slopes.

**Planning Outlook****All mountain areas of Britain from Tuesday, 17 February, 2026**

Much terrain frozen into midweek, frost into valleys and glens. Uncertain extent of strengthening winds by Wednesday, and possible snow moving into Wales. Late in the week and through next weekend, a switch to southwesterly winds is expected, bringing a change to milder conditions - lifting above freezing to tops in England and Wales, and generally higher freezing levels in Scotland; periods of thawing likely over the mountains, though some further snowfall at times on higher Munros. Rain most frequent over western hills. Generally windy with upland gales.

**Forecast issued at 15:30 on Sunday, 15 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.