

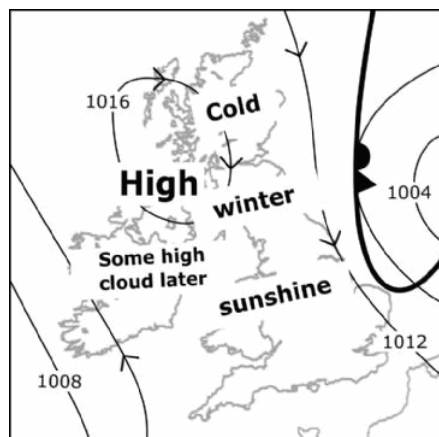
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Tuesday, 17 February, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 17 February, 2026

Early snow showers in northern Scotland and north Wales, these easing to dry and sunny conditions across the country. Lying snow remains on most slopes above 700-800m, locally lower. A blustery morning, particularly eastern areas where powerful gusts will reach gale force, but easing to fairly small effects widely.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Cold winter sunshine; early snow showers north and windy

Detailed Forecast for Tuesday, 17 February, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Northerly 30 to 40mph early morning, stronger before dawn and staying strong in the east for a time, powerful downslope gusts to the south. Steadily easing to 15-20mph, perhaps less, and shifting NE'ly. Prepare for significant wind chill and challenging walking in exposure early in day, but gradually improving with time to fairly small effects.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Odd snow showers north, fading A few snow showers affect the northern Cairngorm slopes in the early hours, largely confined to eastern areas, these fading for substantially dry conditions.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Becoming confined to higher areas and increasingly clearing 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. 70% by afternoon
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bright sunshine increasingly. Excellent visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-5 or -6C to start the day, rising slightly, locally to -4C. Early in day, feeling like -15C directly in the wind, near -20C high tops, easing. Terrain widely frozen; partial thawing on low sunlit slopes, but refreezing again after sunset.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Wednesday 18 February	Thursday 19 February
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Southeasterly 20-30mph. Very gusty, and not just on high terrain. Breezy in exposure all day with considerable wind chill - always gusty with buffeting to middle slopes.	Generally southerly, some variability, 35-45mph, strong gusts, approaching 55mph. Walking arduous with severe wind chill; buffeting in exposure making it challenging to stay on your feet.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Precipitation unlikely	Precipitation unlikely A small chance of some snow approaching the central highlands late in the day but likely entirely dry.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Little expected Patchy banks may drift over the high tops of the Cairngorm plateau from Deeside but the hills often free of cloud. 80%	Cloud banks near Deeside Cloud banks cling to high slopes near Deeside, high tops of Cairngorm plateau may often be above the cloud layer but the wind pushing ragged patches towards the tops as well. 70%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Mostly sunny, some high cloud around. Excellent visibility.	Often sunny but weakened by high cloud. Very good visibility.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-4 or -5C. Only little change with added height. Feeling like -15 to -18C in strongest wind. Terrain likely widely frozen, some light thaws on sun-exposed low slopes.	-3 or -2C, some local variability. Widely frozen from dawn, thaws to 300-400m, locally higher northern slopes and rising further into night.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Wednesday, 18 February, 2026

Much terrain frozen midweek, frost into valleys and glens. Strengthening wind on Wednesday with considerable gustiness, gales likely in Wales; possible snow moving into Wales as well, which may move further north but detail is uncertain. 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 to Munro summits, though some further snowfall at times on higher Munros during periods of cooler northwesterly wind. Rain most frequent over western hills. Generally windy with upland gales.

Forecast issued at 15:52 on Monday, 16 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.