

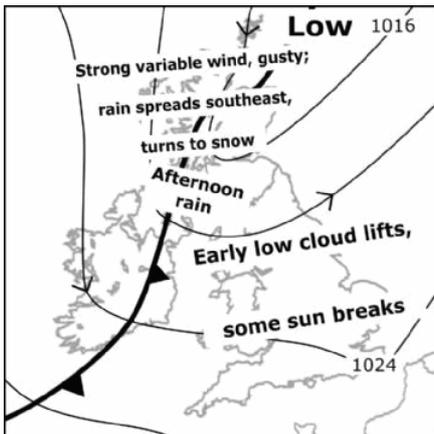
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Wednesday, 1 April, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 1 April, 2026

Rain spreads across Scottish Highlands from the northwest, turning to snow as temperature sharply drops. Strong, variable wind here with gale-force gusts. Early hill cloud England and Wales lifts, best breaks east for some sun glimpses. Patchy rain into Snowdonia, Lakeland, and N Pennines late in the day.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Rain sets in and turns to snow; gales, gusty, and variable

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 1 April, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southwesterly 35 to 45mph early, stronger gusts for a time over high eastern hills to 50mph. A sudden, sharp change to northerly wind afternoon, a brief lull, but then restrengthening to similar speeds.
Effect of wind on you?	Arduous walking conditions with buffeting gusts in exposure for much of the day, significant wind chill. Highly variable for a period, but likely remaining at least strenuous, balance nearly constantly challenged.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Heavy rain developing, turns to snow afternoon Scattered drizzly rain in the west early. Rain arrives from the west around midday, spreading widely with heavy falls through afternoon, increasingly turning to snow, reaching the lower slopes by evening.
Cloud on the hills?	Becoming extensive, soonest west Covering higher slopes from Cairngorm plateau westwards most or all day above 800-1000m, though breaks well east in the early morning. Cloud soon sets in extensively to lower slopes Monadhliath to Drumochter, likely southern Cairngorms as well, and widely extensive through afternoon.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	40% east in the morning, lowering to less than 10%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Largely cloudy, local brighter moments east of Ben Macdui in the morning. Visibility increasingly poor as rain sets in, becoming very poor in snow, possible whiteout conditions later in the day on high terrain over snow cover.
How Cold? (at 900m)	4 or 5C through morning, mildest northern Cairngorm slopes. Through afternoon, sudden sharp drop on northern slopes to -2C, slower to drop on southern slopes but a sharp drop here later too, -3C widely by night.
Freezing Level	Above summits well into morning, lowering onto the tops as noon approaches, rapidly lowering to 700m northern slopes, then more widely to 600m afternoon.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 2 April	Friday 3 April
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Variable 10mph or less in the morning, turning southerly and strengthening, 15-25mph, some gustiness. Mostly small, but beginning to feel blustery in exposure as the afternoon goes.	Variable, generally southwesterly 35-50mph with powerful gusts, but may be more variable and lighter for periods. Challenging conditions likely on the hills, balance will be difficult and feeling chilly. Some variability is probable.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Substantially dry A few odd snow flurries in the northeast Cairngorms early, but otherwise a dry day. Afternoon into evening, rain arrives around Drumochter area, snow above 500-600m, spreading more widely overnight.	Often snowing/raining, particularly west Periods of snow and rain, most frequent Drumochter and Monadhliath, snow to 400m but to higher slopes for a time. May merge into broader areas of rain that extend east. Best chance dry windows northern Cairngorms.
Cloud on the hills? Chance of cloud free Munros?	Variable, mostly high terrain with breaks Cloud banks above 900-1000m, some lower banks in the morning. With time, cloud lifts, perhaps well broken for several hours, then lowering in the west through afternoon, perhaps to 700-800m Drumochter late in the day. 60%	Fairly extensive, may break somewhat A blanket of cloud shrouds most hills to the middle slopes, the bases most consistently low around Drumochter and Monadhliath, at times to lower slopes in rain. The highest bases on northern Cairngorms, some chance of breaking above 1000m briefly here. 20%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Bursts of sunshine, likely more extensive for a time. Very good visibility.	Mostly overcast and dull with poor visibility, but a few glimpses of sun possible to the north and east where visibility will be good.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-3C lifting to -1C or 0C. Likely a widespread frost at dawn. Thaws up to 700-800m perhaps locally higher northern Cairngorms.	0 to -2C to start, likely rising, up to +3 or 4C though timing/detail very uncertain. Feeling like -10 to -13C in direct wind. 600-800m from overnight, likely lifting for a period, to or above the summits, lowering again later; timing and detail uncertain.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 2 April, 2026

A brief lull in unsettled weather on Thursday with mostly dry, sunny conditions and lighter wind. Atlantic weather patterns and west-southwesterly winds follow behind on Friday and into the Easter weekend, but day-to-day detail is uncertain. Temperature and wind will be variable, periods of gales and possibly often cold over the mountains with snow and hail showers at times to lower elevations at least in Scotland, sometimes more widely. Precipitation generally most frequent west and northwest, though bands of heavy rain will sweep east at times. Some brief windows of drier and brighter conditions, as well as milder days in England and Wales, occasionally milder Scotland too, but soon followed by more Atlantic low pressure.

Forecast issued at 16:22 on Tuesday, 31 March, 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.