

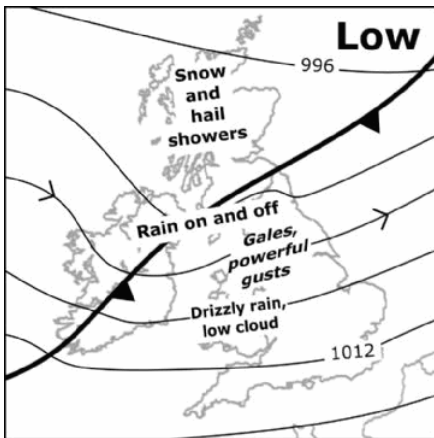
Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

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 Friday, 3 April, 2026



British Mountain Summary:

Based on forecast chart for noon 3 April, 2026

Cold with showery snow in the Highlands, also hail in north. Varied winds, blustery in northern Scotland, moderating for a time central Highlands. In England & Wales, a swathe of gales likely affects the mountains, but still some uncertainty about the northward extent; rain and drizzle, plus low cloud covering many hills.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Chilly, varied wind. Scattered snow showers.

Detailed Forecast for Friday, 3 April, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	West-southwesterly, overnight gales ease by dawn, then typically in range 25 to 35mph during day, gusty around precipitation. Possible a lull below 20mph for a few hours in middle of day.
Effect of wind on you?	Blustery with considerable wind chill, some buffeting gusts, making walking uncomfortable in exposure over higher terrain. May be smaller effects for a time.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow showers, most widely afternoon Areas of showery snow, occasional hail, most common western areas in the morning, whilst north and east drier for a few hours. Possibility of more frequent to persistent snow developing, turning to rain up to 600-700m south.
Cloud on the hills?	Varied over tops, best breaks north/east Patchy cloud banks mostly above 900-1000m, lifting to higher tops or above, breaks best toward north and east. Cloud varying around showers, some patches to 700-800m. Chance of filling in over tops if snow is frequent.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	50%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Occasional sun, best north and east of Cairngorms in the morning. Visibility very good where dry, but at least briefly very poor in snow and cloud, possible local temporary whiteout.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 or -1C most of the day, though starting near +2C toward east. Feeling like -10 to -13C in direct wind.
Freezing Level	1000-1200m from overnight into dawn, lowering from west by morning to 800-900m, though rising slightly higher in east in the afternoon.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Saturday 4 April	Sunday 5 April
How windy? (On the Munros) Effect of wind on you?	Westerly 25-35mph at first, easing S-SE'ly up to noon, then rapid increase afternoon to 50mph, by evening 60-80mph+. Blustery start, lessening for a time, but then deteriorating, later any mobility increasingly difficult, soonest in south.	Stormy conditions overnight lessen toward dawn, but still near 70mph at first, then westerly 40 to 55mph, squally gusts. Frequent buffeting, walking challenging on higher exposed terrain. Possibly still severe at first. Severe wind chill.
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	Snow and rain developing, setting in Largely dry likely all morning, perhaps an odd snow flurry. During afternoon, hill snow developing from south, becoming persistent - for a time later rain up to tops, then abruptly snow level dropping again late in day or after dark.	Snow then showery hail Risk of constant snow to lower elevations from dawn into early morning. Becoming showery, clusters of heavy bursts with hail and snow, later rain below 500m. Risk isolated thunder & lightning.
Cloud on the hills?	Little for many hours Patchy cloud around some slopes, but the mountains remain substantially clear onward into afternoon. Later as precipitation develops, cloud lowering over the hills, soonest in south.	Varying on high tops Cloud banks frequently moving across upper slopes, mostly above 900-1000m, briefly lower in precipitation. At times clearing higher up, most often in east.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	80%	40%
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Weak sun through high cloud giving way to more overcast skies into afternoon. Visibility very good, then reducing, to be later very poor, or appalling in snow.	Bursts of bright sunshine and very good visibility, but briefly suddenly appalling in cloud and snow or hail.
How Cold? (at 900m) Freezing Level	-3C, rising later to +1C or briefly higher, then dropping again into night. Feeling like -15C in early wind, then even colder later. Frost in many glens from dawn, 600m mid-morning, rising afternoon, later briefly toward high tops, then 600m into night.	-4C rising toward 0C afternoon. Feeling like -15 to -18C in the wind. 400-500m from dawn, rising to 800-900m afternoon.

Planning Outlook**All mountain areas of Britain from Saturday, 4 April, 2026**

A storm system moves across Britain over the Easter weekend, bringing severe conditions increasingly widely - severe gales over the mountains advancing northwards into Scotland by later Saturday daytime. Rain and hill snow also sweeps northward - a substantial snowfall develops particularly in northern Scotland later Saturday. Colder for all by Sunday with all mountains sub-zero, above 600-700m in Scotland, 800m in England and Wales - hail and snow showers with gales bringing severe chill factor. Milder southerlies develop for Monday, dry for most, but risk of gales especially in the west. A changeable weather regime is expected to continue next week, possibly turning chillier again later in the week.

Forecast issued at 15:45 on Thursday, 2 April, 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.