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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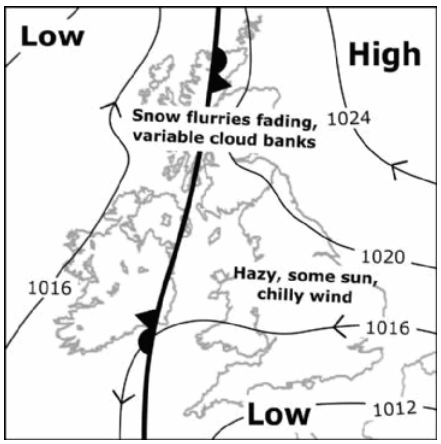
General Summary for Wednesday, 25 November, 2026



British Mountain Summary:
Based on forecast chart for noon 25 November, 2026

Early morning snow in the central Highlands will fade to flurries, becoming largely dry. Locally strong SE'ly wind for eastern Scotland, much less wind further west. England & Wales generally dry, with some weak sun, but hazy views and a cold wind.

Headline for Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath

Windy and very gusty in places; patchy snow flurries.

Detailed Forecast for Wednesday, 25 November, 2026

How windy? (On the Munros)	Southeasterly 25 to 35mph, mostly strongest toward north/east Cairngorms, where gusts 40-50mph particularly morning; speeds may vary toward the A9 corridor during day, some gusty areas on downslopes toward north.
Effect of wind on you?	**Blustery over high terrain with significant chill factor, in places strong gusts not just on the tops affecting balance, making walking challenging at times.**
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	**Snow flurries becoming less** Remnants of overnight snow most persistent toward south, fading to occasional light snow, becoming patchier areas and becoming less with time during the day. Odd showers possible in east. Considerable fresh lying snow particularly southern mountains.
Cloud on the hills?	**Covering many hills, higher northwest** Fairly extensive cloud across the Munros, with lower banks toward south and eastern Cairngorms. Higher cloud base and breaks to upper slopes toward Monadhliath.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	**30%, to local 60% northwest.**
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Little if any weak sun due to layers of high cloud. Visibility often very good Strathspey area, but hazier southern Cairngorms.
How Cold? (at 900m)	0 to -2C, local variations and small changes with height in places. Feeling like -12 to -15C if in stronger wind.
Freezing Level	Poorly defined with much upland terrain frozen above 600m, but some slopes to 800m or higher in the north may be just above freezing.

Cairngorms NP and Monadhliath - Looking Ahead

	Thursday 26 November	Friday 27 November
How windy? (On the Munros)	South-southeasterly 35 to 50mph, strengthening during day, gusts 60mph by afternoon; 70-80mph into night.	Southerly 60-70mph at dawn possibly into early morning, easing to 25-35mph, perhaps dropping much less.
Effect of wind on you?	**Challenging walking conditions, becoming difficult on high terrain, powerful downslope gusts. Significant then severe wind chill.**	**May well become fairly small, but beware severe conditions from overnight still beyond dawn; prepare for marked chill.**
How wet? (Precipitation and its impact)	**Largely dry day** Brief snow flurries possible toward the southeast Cairngorms during the day. Into night, risk of snow developing from the west.	**Risk prolonged snow, patchier north** Snow from before dawn falling to lower elevations, the most constant heavier falls over southern Cairngorms NP, may persist much of day, fading later from west.
Cloud on the hills?	**Most persistent south, breaks north** Cloud banks likely to roll across most high terrain, lowest bases in south Cairngorms to 800m; further north the cloud may substantially break, best Monadhliath.	**Extensive** Shrouding high terrain widely, from some lower elevations upward in southern areas; higher bases toward north, local breaks.
Chance of cloud free Munros?	**40%**	**20%**
Sunshine? Air clarity (below cloud)	Sun likely to weaken as a veil of high cloud thickens from the west. Visibility very good.	Overcast and dull. Poor visibility widely, or whiteout over hills in snow and cloud.
How Cold? (at 900m)	-2C. Feeling like -15C to later nearer -20C directly in the wind on high tops.	-2C. Risk of wind chill feeling like -15 to -20C at least in the morning.
Freezing Level	Much terrain frozen, thawing only on sunlit lower slopes up to 500m.	500-600m, but much lower terrain may be at least partly frozen.

Planning Outlook

All mountain areas of Britain from Thursday, 26 November, 2026

Atlantic fronts bump into cold air across Britain by late Thursday into Friday , resulting in further hill snow, particularly substantial in southern Scottish Highlands. Strong to gale force south to southwesterlies prevail into the weekend, but a cold body of air across Britain will be slow to warm up, leaving many mountains frozen especially inland across Scotland and northern England; lying snow staying in place across the hills and some further flurries over hills at times, locally more persistent rain and hill snow; driest northern Scotland. Wales tending to become milder sooner over the weekend . Early next week, southwesterly gales are likely, milder for all at times with rain.

Forecast issued at 15:53 on Tuesday, 24 November, 2026

The Production of the Scottish forecasts is fully funded by 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.