

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 03 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Sunday 04 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Friday 02 Feb 2024 at 10:13

Confidence: High confidence for unsettled and windy conditions to continue through the next few days. Lower confidence for the details of heavier rain, especially from Tuesday, so keep up to date with the forecast.

Headline for Saturday 03 Feb 2024: Windy and cold conditions. Dry and bright.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 03 Feb 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
							
Fog	Fog	Fog	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
60%	60%	40%	20%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Saturday 03 Feb 2024

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle in the early hours, this soon clearing south in the morning. The rest of the day will be dry and bright with sunny intervals then staying dry through the evening. Very windy on the tops.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% in the early hours then soon becoming 80% in the morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive low cloud in the early hours above 400m, mainly in the west. The cloud will soon lift and break up in the morning then visibility will be good for the rest of the day.

Forecast for Saturday 03 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	40/51 W	37/47 W	34/44 W	30/39 W	31/41 W	31/40 W	31/41 W	33/43 W	33/44 W
600	32/44 W	30/42 W	27/36 W	24/34 W	27/38 W	25/35 W	25/36 W	26/38 W	27/40 W
300	12/36 W	13/35 W	11/29 W	11/28 W	13/31 W	12/30 W	11/29 W	12/31 W	13/32 W
Valley	12/30 SW	11/29 W	10/25 W	10/24 W	14/29 W	12/27 W	11/26 W	13/29 W	14/30 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	5/-1	5/-2	3/-4	1/-6	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7	0/-7	0/-8
600	7/1	6/0	5/-1	4/-2	4/-3	3/-3	3/-3	3/-4	2/-4
300	8/5	8/5	7/4	6/2	6/2	6/2	5/2	5/1	5/1
Valley	9/7	9/6	9/6	8/5	8/5	8/5	8/5	7/4	7/4
Freezing Level*	1700m	1500m	1400m	1000m	900m	900m	1000m	900m	1000m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Meteorologist's View

Windy conditions with gusts of 50mph on high ridges and summits giving difficult walking conditions.

Forecast for Sunday 04 Feb 2024

Weather: Dry overnight but turning cloudy. Outbreaks of rain or drizzle arriving soon after dawn becoming persistent and occasionally heavy. Very strong winds combined with rain and low cloud giving difficult and drenching conditions to be out in.

Maximum wind: West or Southwest 30mph gusts 45mph, increasing to 40mph gusts 60mph during morning.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% overnight, soon becoming 10% or less.

Low cloud and visibility: Patchy low cloud and fog overnight becoming extensive above 300 or 400m in the morning, but perhaps lifting higher at times in the east. Poor visibility for much of the day in rain or drizzle.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 7C rising to 11C.
At 800m: Plus 2C rising to 5C.
Freezing level: 900m overnight, rising above summits by morning.

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 2 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:55 Full report: The thaw continues – it was plus 4 degrees C and raining on the summit at midday. The majority of the Lakeland fells are now clear of snow and ice; even the compacted ice on popular routes has thawed – none being encountered today. Similarly, the summit plateau's covering of ice has also thawed. The snow that does remain lies above 850m in sheltered spots and hollows with the vast majority above 900m on predominantly north and especially east facing slopes. As such, these snowbanks are avoidable and present no obstacle to walkers. Probably the only exception to this in the entire Lake District is at the exit to Swirral Edge where there is a bank of steep, deep, unavoidable snow. There are deep steps cut into it but it was icy today so, although only a short section, an ice axe remains strongly recommended to safely negotiate it, especially in descent, with microspikes/crampons providing additional security since where this snow is located is not a place to slip without the means to stop yourself. Conversely, by exiting Striding Edge's exit to the south of the normal route it can now be done without setting foot on snow. Despite the milder weather in the valleys, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) at midday was minus 3 degrees C. Therefore, full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. This includes waterproof overtrousers as well as jackets since it was surprising to see people out today without them and, consequently, extremely wet trousers! Their day would have been much more enjoyable with dry legs! With visibility in the cloud today reduced to around 30m at times (although it seemed less with rained on and steamed up glasses!) a map and compass together with the ability to use them are also essential. Temperature: plus 4.3 C, Maximum wind speed 29.9 mph, Wind chill: minus 3.0 C, Average wind speed: 24.4 mph.

Issued at: 1013 on Fri 02 Feb 2024