

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 05 Jan 2024 until 23:59 on Saturday 06 Jan 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 04 Jan 2024 at 10:54

Confidence: Generally high, lower for fog detail over the weekend.

Headline for Friday 05 Jan 2024: Patchy cloud and some sunny spells on Friday, a few afternoon showers.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 05 Jan 2024

Blizzards

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow

No Likelihood

Storm force winds

No Likelihood

Gales

No Likelihood

Severe chill effect

Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility

No 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
							
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Light rain showers	Partly cloudy (night)	Clear night
Precipitation probability							
30%	20%	20%	30%	30%	40%	30%	20%

Forecast for Friday 05 Jan 2024

Weather: Patchy cloud and clear spells through the overnight period. Some sunny spells during the morning but turning generally cloudier into the afternoon with scattered showers, most frequent in the east. Cloud clearing during the evening to leave prolonged clear spells overnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% reducing to 40% during the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Few or scattered cloud base 500-700m through the day. Visibility moderate in showers, poor in hill fog, otherwise good.

Ground Conditions Supplement

Forecast for Friday 05 Jan 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	8/10 W	8/10 NW	12/14 NW	11/13 N	10/13 NW	15/19 NW	18/22 N	18/22 N	17/21 N
600	6/9 W	5/8 W	9/12 NW	7/11 NW	8/11 NW	11/15 NW	13/18 NW	12/17 N	11/16 N
300	3/8 NW	2/7 NW	4/10 NW	3/9 NW	4/10 NW	6/14 NW	6/16 NW	5/15 N	4/13 N
Valley	3/7 W	2/7 N	4/11 N	3/8 NW	3/8 N	5/13 NW	8/18 N	7/16 N	6/15 N

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	0/-4	-0/-4	0/-5	-0/-5	0/-4	-0/-6	-1/-6	-1/-8	-2/-8
600	2/-1	2/-1	2/-2	2/-2	2/-1	2/-2	1/-3	0/-4	-0/-5
300	4/2	4/2	4/2	3/2	4/3	4/2	3/1	2/-0	2/-1
Valley	6/5	6/5	5/4	5/4	6/5	6/4	5/3	4/2	4/2
Freezing Level*	900m	1000m	1000m	900m	900m	900m	800m	800m	700m

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

Meteorologist's View

Feeling cold at height, be prepared with appropriate layers.

Forecast for Saturday 06 Jan 2024

Weather: Largely clear skies overnight into Saturday leading to some fog patches forming in valleys. Sunny through much of the day with light winds but fog risk again increasing into the evening.

Maximum wind: Northerly 5-10 mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90%

Low cloud and visibility: Overnight mist or fog patches leading to poor visibility at times, otherwise good.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1 to plus 4 Celsius
At 800m: Minus 2 to zero Celsius
Freezing level: 600-800m

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 4 January 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:30 Full report: Ground conditions on Thursday were incredibly similar to Wednesday albeit with slightly less snow as there has been a noticeable thaw especially below 900m. That said the majority of the Lakeland fells and paths up to, and including, summit level are clear of snow and ice. The remaining snow lies above 800m, with the vast majority above 900m, in sheltered spots and hollows and especially on steep north and east facing slopes. Where undisturbed, the snow was soft and slowly thawing. However, on some popular routes it has been compacted into hard snow and ice creating treacherous conditions especially on steep and exposed terrain such as on the Helvellyn edges. The crests of both Striding and Swirral Edges consist of bare, wet, greasy rock. Their exits onto the summit plateau, however, are covered with unavoidable snow some of which, especially on Swirral edge, had been compacted. The current forecast is for temperatures to drop overnight which could cause any soft snow to freeze. Thus, although they are only short sections, any walkers attempting the Helvellyn edges on Friday are strongly recommended to carry an ice axe and crampons or microspikes to safely negotiate the snow especially in descent. Where these snow banks are located are not places to slide without the means to stop yourself. The summit plateau was mostly bare, wet ground; however there were also patches of mainly soft snow with some harder snow and ice where it has been compacted. At 12:30, it was snowing on the summit although at that time, it was not settling. Further showers are forecast which could also fall as snow above c800m so walkers out on the highest peaks on Friday should expect, and be prepared, to encounter more snow and ice (should the temperature drop) than described here. Small, weak cornices have formed above steep north and east facing slopes – most noticeably above Helvellyn's east face. There were boot and paw prints in this snow. The cornices are so weak that even a dog could cause them to collapse so please keep your canine friends away from the edge and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the mild valley temperatures, the summit temperature was not far off zero - plus 1 degree C - with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) below at minus 5 degrees C just after midday. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely roam the fells. As mentioned, there is the possibility of more hard snow and ice forming at altitude overnight, so walkers out on the highest peaks on Thursday should consider adding microspikes to their rucksacks. Temperature: plus 1.4 C, Maximum wind speed 15.7 mph, Wind chill: minus 5.0 C, Average wind speed: 13.3 mph

Issued at: 1702 on Thu 04 Jan 2024