

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 08 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 09 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 07 Dec 2021 at 12:11

Confidence: High confidence for a showery outlook on Wednesday with some brighter conditions on Thursday also a good signal for milder air to return on Saturday. Lower confidence in shower amounts and frequency.

Headline for Wednesday 08 Dec 2021: Wintry showers continuing but some brighter weather likely later in the afternoon, very poor visibility at times.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 08 Dec 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
No Likelihood









Severe chill effect
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium 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
							
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Light snow showers	Light snow	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
60%	60%	60%	40%	30%	30%	20%	20%

Forecast for Wednesday 08 Dec 2021

Weather: Showers continuing overnight with frequent snow showers leading to moderate accumulations above 700m. Winds will ease but still a significant chill effect at height. Showers will continue through the morning but will turn sleety below 800m. A few brighter spells will develop during the afternoon but showers continuing.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20% rising to 40% for a time in the afternoon. Lower cloud associated with showers will shroud the fell tops at times.

Visibility: In wintry showers visibility will fall to less than 1km at times with near whiteout conditions, cloud bases will also fall to around 500m accompanying the showers. Outwith showers cloud bases will be more scattered at 800m and visibility will be moderate or good under the cloud.

Forecast for Wednesday 08 Dec 2021

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	40/49 S	32/38 S	26/30 S	22/27 W	18/23 W	22/27 NW	23/29 NW	27/33 NW	26/33 NW
600	32/44 S	25/34 S	21/27 S	17/23 W	15/21 W	16/23 W	18/26 NW	20/28 NW	19/27 NW
300	13/35 S	10/26 S	7/19 S	7/19 W	6/17 W	6/19 NW	7/21 NW	9/24 NW	9/24 NW
Valley	12/31 S	8/22 SE	7/19 SE	8/20 NW	7/17 W	7/19 NW	8/21 NW	9/23 NW	11/25 NW

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	-1/-11	-1/-10	-1/-8	-1/-9	-2/-8	-2/-9	-1/-9	-2/-9	-2/-9
600	0/-8	0/-7	0/-5	0/-6	0/-5	1/-5	1/-6	0/-6	0/-6
300	2/-3	2/-3	2/-1	2/-1	3/-0	3/0	3/-0	3/-1	2/-1
Valley	4/1	4/1	4/2	4/1	5/3	5/3	5/3	5/2	5/1
Freezing Level*	700m	600m	700m	700m	700m	700m	700m	800m	800m

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

Meteorologist's View

Northwesterly winds easing throughout the day but still feeling bitterly cold on the fells.

Forecast for Thursday 09 Dec 2021

Weather: A more settled day than of recent with some bright or sunny spells possible and mainly light winds. A few wintry showers are likely especially during the afternoon. Clouding over later in the afternoon as a band of sleet and rain spread east during the evening, wintry above 800m so mostly falling as sleet or perhaps snow on the higher tops.

Maximum wind: Northwesterly 10-15mph becoming southerly 10mph later.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80% falling to 60% later in the day. Mainly clear fell tops in the morning but scattered cloud forming around showers and also as the front approaches in the evening.

Visibility: Mainly good but dipping in any wintry showers. Patches of cloud around 600m in the morning and afternoon around showers, cloud bases falling to 500m in the evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1 rising to Plus 5 Celsius.

At 800m: Zero

Freezing level: Around 800m

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 7 December

Location: Helvellyn summit at 10:00

Temperature: minus 1.7°C

Maximum wind speed 54.1mph

Wind chill: minus 14°C

Average wind speed: 39.7mph

Full report:

The following conditions were experienced prior to the main impact of Storm Barra. So walkers out on the fells on Wednesday should expect and be prepared to encounter more snow than described here. At the time of writing, the Lake District is under 2 active Yellow weather warnings until midnight tonight (Tuesday) for strong winds and snow.

Although it was snowing almost to valley level, it was only settling above 350m. The snow is being deposited with Storm force SE winds. Consequently snow depth varies considerably from little on windswept areas to waist deep drifts with drifts of 20cm fairly common above 500m. The deepest snow is to be found in sheltered areas and on predominantly N and W facing ground. The snowpack is soft and breaking trail through it was already energy sapping and this will be far worse on Wednesday. Ice and hard snow was encountered both on popular routes where the snow had been compacted and where old snow had a chance to thaw and then freeze overnight. On Monday, the summit plateau was scoured of snow and covered in rime ice and it is highly likely that this will still be the case.

Again, on Monday cornices were observed building on N facing slopes. Given the SE winds, they are likely to be growing with some possible on W facing slopes.

Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, are in winter condition and should only be attempted by those experienced in, and equipped for, winter mountaineering including an ice axe and crampons. Given the amount of snow that has, and is, falling anyone attempting or just traversing steep ground should also have an ability to assess the stability, or otherwise, of the snowpack.

Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass (and the ability to use them) are all essential for anyone going out onto the high fells. Goggles are also highly recommended when confronted with driving snow. Deep snow obscuring landmarks combined with low cloud and driving snow make for extremely poor / nil visibility; thus excellent navigational skills are also essential as is an ability to turn back as the assessor did today!

Issued at: 1211 on Tue 07 Dec 2021