

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 04 Mar 2021 until 23:59 on Friday 05 Mar 2021

Forecast Issued on Thursday 04 Mar 2021 at 02:27

Confidence: High for mainly dry and generally settled conditions, but Medium confidence for cloud amounts and any rain next week.

Headline for Thursday 04 Mar 2021: Some low cloud, mist and fog at first, but becoming brighter in morning. Thicker cloud in afternoon will bring some showery rain or snow, but clearing by the evening.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 04 Mar 2021

Blizzards

No Likelihood

Heavy Snow

No Likelihood

Storm force winds

No Likelihood

Gales

No Likelihood

Severe chill effect

Low Likelihood

Poor visibility

Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

No Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
					
Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow	Dull	Partly cloudy (night)	Clear night
Precipitation probability					
10%	00%	30%	60%	20%	00%

Forecast for Thursday 04 Mar 2021

Weather: A mostly cloudy start with low cloud, patchy mist and fog. Cloud lifting and breaking in the morning, with some bright or perhaps sunny spells developing, but cloud thickening again by the afternoon to bring some showery snow, this falling as rain below 600m, but snow level falling to 300m before clearing in early evening, Clear spells then developing along with a frost.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20% at first, becoming 60% in the morning, but 10% for much of the afternoon. Chance improving to 80% in evening

Visibility: Generally good beneath cloud, but poor or very poor in mist and fog at first. Poor on some of the slopes, with cloud down to 300 to 500m, though cloud top perhaps below summits and this becoming more broken and lifting in morning. Thicker cloud in afternoon down to 400-600m, but clearer skies in evening

Forecast for Thursday 04 Mar 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)				Wind Direction (blowing from)		
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	17/22 NE	22/27 NE	17/23 NE	22/29 NE	21/27 NE	19/25 E	16/21 NE
600	11/15 NE	10/13 NE	14/18 NE	20/27 NE	17/24 NE	14/20 NE	8/12 NE
300	5/13 NE	2/11 NE	5/15 NE	10/22 NE	9/20 NE	6/17 NE	5/12 NE
Valley	7/13 NE	4/11 NE	7/15 NE	13/24 NE	11/21 NE	10/18 NE	9/14 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-10	-2/-10	-1/-8	-2/-10	-3/-11	-4/-12	-4/-11
600	-1/-6	-0/-5	1/-4	1/-6	-1/-7	-2/-8	-3/-7
300	1/-2	2/1	4/2	4/-0	2/-2	-0/-3	-1/-4
Valley	3/-0	4/3	6/4	6/2	4/0	3/-1	2/-2
Freezing Level*	400m	500m	700m	600m	400m	200m	200m

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

Meteorologist's View

Feeling chilly, but mostly light winds, though a significant chill likely over the tops with snow and fresher winds

Forecast for Friday 05 Mar 2021

Weather: Clear spells overnight with a frost and perhaps some freezing fog developing in the dales. Then a chilly, frosty start, but any freezing fog will lift in morning then dry with sunny spells. Clear spells in evening and frost returning.

Maximum wind: East to northwest 15-25mph becoming southeast 10-15mph in afternoon

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80-90%

Visibility: Good or very good, but poor or very poor in early fog and some patchy cloud down to 600m at times

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero to minus 2 C rising to plus 6 or 7 C

At 800m: Minus 4 or minus 5 C

Freezing level: At most levels at first, but around 400m through the afternoon

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 3 March 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:40 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. Ground conditions today were extremely similar to Tuesday owing to another overnight temperature inversion combined today with a cloud inversion. It was minus 3 degrees in a cloudy Glenridding this morning and plus 6 degrees on a sunny summit a couple of hours later. The result of which meant that there were patches of frost and some ice on paths lower down – especially on drainage lines - but none on higher elevations. This valley frost and ice had thawed by the afternoon. However, walkers out on Thursday should expect, and be prepared to encounter, a return to patches of ice and possibly frost in shady and sheltered spots at altitude. The overnight temperature inversion also meant that there was a continuing thaw of the remaining snow albeit at a snail's pace. The thaw is so slow since the remaining snow lies in patches above 850m (with the majority above 900m), in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly steep north and east facing aspects. The snowpack was generally soft and sugary apart from places where it has been compacted. Since it is likely to refreeze overnight, walkers out on Thursday are strongly advised to avoid any snow patches. That stated, the vast majority of the Cumbrian fells and paths are now free from snow. As for the past few days, the only unavoidable, and icy, snow encountered today was at the exit to Swirral Edge. Although it is only a very short section, an ice axe is recommended, especially in descent, as it was hard snow and the footprints in it were similarly icy. Admittedly, you would have to be unlucky to have a serious slide on it, but that's how accidents occur and, especially at the moment, we all need to strongly err on the side of caution. Conversely with careful route choice, Striding Edge and its exit can now be climbed without setting foot on snow with the normal path up its exit now also almost free from snow. The past 3 days have been the exception with a summit windchill above zero. Walkers out on Thursday should expect, and be prepared for, a return to a more normal sub zero summit windchill so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: plus 6.3 C, Maximum wind speed 4.4 mph, Wind chill: plus 4.9 C, Average wind speed: 2.6 mph
Issued at: 02:27 on Thu 04 Mar 2021