



Press Release

28 February 2019

For immediate release

The return of winter

Weekend forecast is for snow to come back in the mountains

The unprecedented warm weather in Scotland's mountains in recent weeks looks set to end – and mountaineering experts are reminding walkers, climbers and skiers that it's time to replace T-shirts with fleeces and make sure they have their 'winter heads' back in place.

The unseasonably high temperatures and lack of snow have meant many hill-goers have abandoned crampons, ice-axes and skis in favour of more summery options such as hill walking, climbing and mountain biking.

However, although the daffodils are just on the cusp of flowering in the lowlands, the weather is set to change back to more usual conditions for the time of year.

Mountain forecasts for the weekend show a dramatic change in the air mass affecting Scotland. Instead of warm air being drawn up from the deep south within a Tropical Maritime air mass, the Jet Stream is dipping south, and Scotland will be influenced by cold air drawn down from the North.

Freezing levels are dropping below summit level from Saturday onwards and snow is forecast.

Mountaineering Scotland's Mountain Safety Adviser, Heather Morning, said: "Combine fresh snow cover with high winds and poor visibility and it's time to switch on that #Thinkwinter awareness again and reinstate those crampons and ice axes essential for safe travel in the winter mountains.

"It's important to consider our mind-set: over the past two weeks it very much felt like winter was behind us, so it would be all too easy to get caught out in the wrong place with the wrong kit.

"Planning is key this weekend to make the most of our return to winter."

Check out the up to the minute info on snow conditions at the sportscotland Avalanche Information Service webpage and combine that information with the latest mountain-specific weather forecast.

You can find avalanche information at www.sais.gov.uk

Mountain weather forecasts can be found at www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecasts and at www.mwis.org.uk

Ends

Notes for editors:

Image: Winter conditions are set to return to Scotland's mountains this weekend. Photo by Wallace Gilbraith.

http://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/media-upload/winter_conditions.jpg

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About Mountaineering Scotland:

- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- Mountaineering Scotland provides training and information to mountain users to promote safety, self-reliance and the enjoyment of our mountain environment.
- The Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 14,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers, funded through a combination of membership subscriptions, non-governmental grants and investment from **sportscotland**, which supports public initiatives and services in mountain safety, mountain training and the development and promotion of mountaineering activities.
- Mountaineering Scotland also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- Mountaineering Scotland landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- Mountaineering Scotland has launched the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression. It offers a dedicated website and a development team, which will introduce young people to climbing at schools, climbing walls and via youth organisations with a range of activities and events, while developing kids clubs and providing specialist support to parents, volunteers and teachers.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the national governing body for sports climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.
- The MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- Mountaineering Scotland, The Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP

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