

Land Area of Gloucestershire

Data & Analysis Team

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Gloucestershire land area

The land area of the UK is mapped by Ordnance Survey (OS) and reported by ONS as the Standard Area Measurements (SAM)¹. Four types of measurements are provided. These are all 'flat' measurements as represented on a map; they do not take into account variations in relief e.g. mountains and valleys:

- Total Extent (this is to mean low water)
- Area to Mean High Water (clipped to the coastline)
- Area of Inland Water (permanent areas of inland water, such as lakes, lochs and reservoirs)
- Area to Mean High Water Excluding Area of Inland Water (Land Area)

ONS recommend:

- If a measurement is required for calculating population density figures the 'Land Area' (Area to Mean High Water Excluding Inland Water) measurements should be used;
- If a measurement is required to describe the extent of the land mass (i.e. in a 'land use' context) then the 'Area to Mean High Water' measurements should be used.

In Gloucestershire there are no Inland Water bodies large enough to be included in this data set and so the *Area to Mean High Water* measurements and the *Area to Mean High Water Excluding Area of Inland Water* are the same.

The Area to Mean High Water measurements for the county and districts administrated by Gloucestershire County Council are shown below.

Standard Area Measurements (SAM) 2016	
Area to Mean High Water (km ²)	
Cheltenham	46.60
Cotswold	1,164.52
Forest of Dean	526.29
Gloucester	40.55
Stroud	460.65
Tewkesbury	414.41
Gloucestershire	2,653.03

Many other publically available statistics, including population, employment, housing etc. are presented at Local Authority (LA) level and therefore can be linked to these areas.

¹ ONS

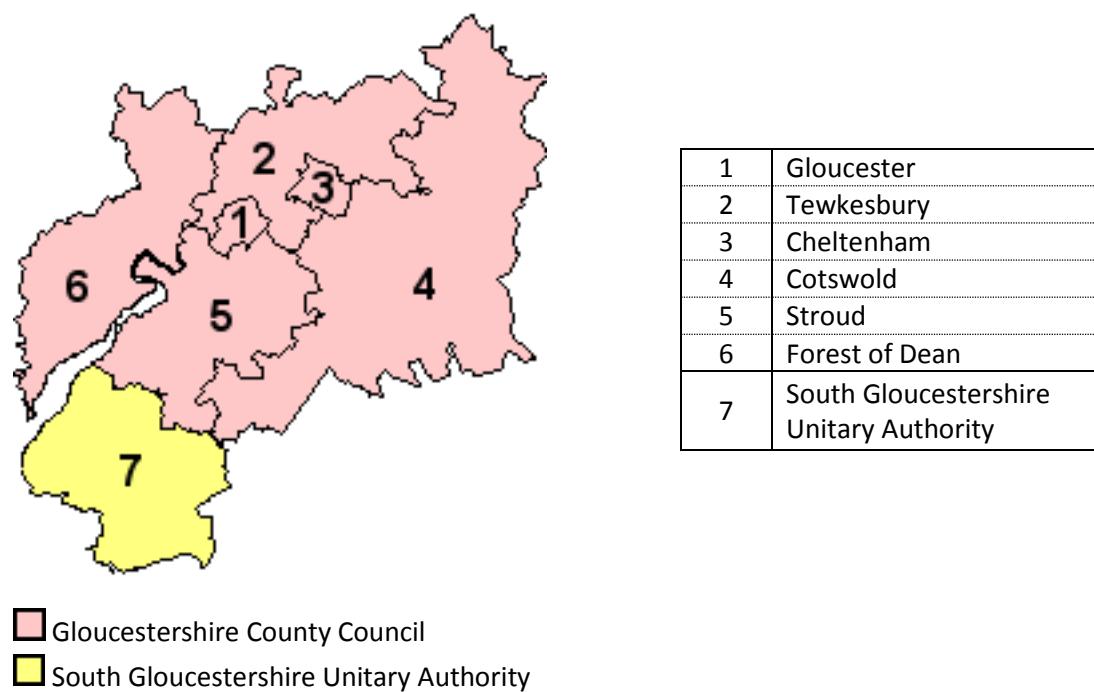
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/geography/geographicalproducts/otherproducts/ukstandardareameasurementssam>

A note on the Ceremonial County of Gloucestershire

Occasionally statistics are reported for the whole of the Ceremonial County of Gloucestershire, which includes both Gloucestershire County Council *and* South Gloucestershire Unitary Authority. Normally when the name 'Gloucestershire' is used it refers to the County Council only, unless otherwise stated.

The ceremonial counties (also referred to as the lieutenancy areas of England) are areas of England to which a Lord Lieutenant is appointed. Upon the abolition of Avon in 1996, the region north of Bristol became the unitary authority area of South Gloucestershire and is part of the Ceremonial County of Gloucestershire. For completeness, the Ceremonial County of Gloucestershire (i.e: the area covered by both Gloucestershire County Council *and* South Glos Unitary Authority) has area 3,150 km².

The map² below shows the extent of the Ceremonial County of Gloucestershire, the pink area represents the areas administrated by Gloucestershire County Council. The area shaded yellow represents the area administrated by South Gloucestershire Unitary Authority and has separate official statistics reported.



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