

Invest in
Gloucestershire



**OPPORTUNITY
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**
THE HOME FOR YOUR BUSINESS

INVEST INNOVATE GROW

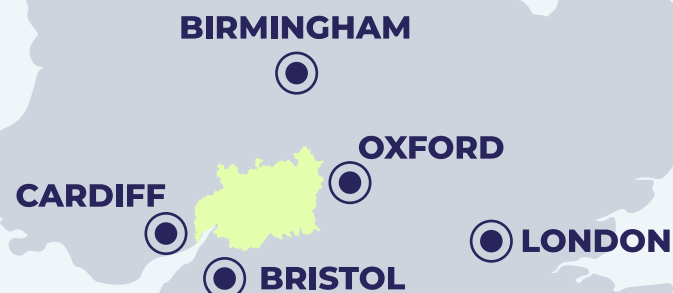
Gloucestershire is the perfect place to live, work and thrive. We've been pushing the boundaries of innovation for over 200 years and plenty of world-class businesses have already found their home within our stunning landscape.

Well connected

Gloucestershire – the perfect gateway to the world. Our county has fantastic transport links, with direct access to major motorways, mainline railway stations, international airports and ports – including two of our own airports for private and business charters.

Distinct districts

Gloucestershire is home to six districts, each with their own strengths and benefits. From the rolling hills of the world-renowned Cotswolds to the bustling urban hub of Gloucester, we have an ideal setting for every organisation.



PEOPLE
659,000

IN EMPLOYMENT
83.8%

PEOPLE HOLD UNDERGRADUATE
DEGREES OR EQUIVALENT
38.3%

BILLION TOTAL GVA
£20.4

REGISTERED BUSINESSES
59,830

INVEST IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

A cultural haven and one of the most picturesque locations in Europe, Gloucestershire is located in the heart of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding National Beauty. We're home to world-renowned festivals, such as the Cheltenham Literature Festival, and host one of the world's most famous racecourses.

With competitive salaries, high-quality commercial space, and access to excellent schools and universities, our county offers a wonderful lifestyle and affordable growth prospects for your business.

And, with world-class events such as The Gold Cup and the Royal International Air Tattoo, alongside modern entertainment complexes and breathtaking rural landscapes, Gloucestershire really is the perfect place to call home.



CASE STUDY



WHY DARKSCOPE CHOSE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AS THEIR UK BASE

“Gloucestershire proved to be a far better fit for us than London, thanks to its vibrant startup scene and thriving culture of innovation. That’s precisely the kind of environment we were looking for.”

Morten Steen Mjels
VP Sales and General Manager – EMEA

INVEST IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

INNOVATION AT OUR HEART

Gloucestershire has a rich history of innovation and a strong foundation in a range of strategic business sectors. Located at the cusp of the South West and just two hours from London, Gloucestershire provides access to the whole of the UK via road, rail and air.



Agri-tech

Gloucestershire proudly houses the UK's largest network of agri-tech SMEs and features two agriculturally focused universities, making us the first choice for prominent agri-tech businesses.

The county is home to two agri-tech incubators – Farm491 and Hartpury Tech Box Park – and businesses have the opportunity to test their products on a working farm. As members of The Gloucestershire Agri-Tech Partnership, we have a strong focus on helping businesses to commercialise new products and services in the sector.



Advanced engineering and manufacturing

Gloucestershire has a long heritage in engineering, with a welcoming environment for companies in precision engineering, aerospace, green tech, and advanced materials.

More than 70% of our AEM businesses are actively engaged in innovation – that's 25% more than the national average, making our county the perfect breeding ground for new ideas and concepts.

ZeroAvia, the zero emission aviation disruptor, opened their facility at Cotswold Airport and have seen rapid growth and significant investment since relocating to Gloucestershire.

We're also pleased to have world-leaders like GE Aviation, Moog and Safran as long-term residents in the county, as well as numerous homegrown precision engineering firms like Spirax-Sarco, Severn Glocon Group and Renishaw headquartered in the county.



Cyber

A true digital powerhouse, Gloucestershire has long been a cradle of cyber innovation, thanks to our longstanding relationship with GCHQ – the country's national cyber security and communications centre.

We have the largest cyber business community in the UK outside of London, and the most concentrated. In the last five years, we've seen cyber job growth of 48% in Gloucestershire, and that's only set to rise.

CyNam, our Department for Science, Innovation and Technology recognised cyber cluster, is helping our rapidly expanding cyber ecosystem to connect and grow. And, with a new angel investment network focused on cyber, defence and national security, along with the upcoming Golden Valley development, we're perfectly placed to ensure cyber businesses flourish.



Life sciences

The University of Gloucestershire is making significant investment into its healthcare and bioscience schools, with facilities that are enabling vital research into human diseases and illnesses, with 'bench to bedside' trials with local hospitals.

Their ambitious Health Innovation Lab project, which will be launched in partnership with the NHS, seeks to deliver cutting-edge digital research and development to improve patient care and drive transformation in the industry. With over 300 life sciences companies currently in the county, Gloucestershire is making huge advances in the sector.



Green energy

Our ambition is to build a better future for generations to come by making Gloucestershire a net zero emissions economy. To do this, we're attracting new investment into the county and supporting existing businesses to focus on greener, more sustainable products and services.

We're coordinating with Western Gateway to develop the infrastructure for alternative and renewable energy businesses, as well as small, modular nuclear reactors.



FIND THE TALENT YOU NEED

We know that people are crucial to your business' success, and we're proud of ours. Gloucestershire has one of the highest rates of employment in the South West, and the highest proportion of employees in export-intensive sectors outside of London.

We help companies find their most important asset – their staff. There is a strong talent pool to recruit from, including our universities, colleges and schools, alongside a network of specialist recruitment agencies. With competitive wages, access to apprentices and more, there's plenty of opportunity for growth.

The Gloucestershire Careers Hub plays a pivotal role in strengthening the county's talent pipeline, directly supporting local businesses. By fostering close collaboration between schools, employers, and training providers, the Hub ensures that young people have the skills and experiences that align with industry needs.

This approach not only enhances the future workforce but also demonstrates that Gloucestershire is committed to nurturing talent, driving innovation, and meeting business needs sustainably.

STUDENTS WITHIN 60 MILES
337,000

FOCUS ON
STEM LEARNING

CYBER COURSES
ACCREDITED
BY THE NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTRE

PEOPLE WORKING IN
DIGITAL FIRMS
11,000+

NCSC-ACCREDITED
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME
(1 OF ONLY 2 IN THE UK)

STUDENTS IN AGRICULTURAL-
RELATED STUDIES
4,000+

Cornerstone employers

The Gloucestershire Cornerstone Employer group works to guide our county's careers strategy and operational plan, ensuring our work with schools and colleges helps to meet future workforce and skills needs.



Academic excellence

A university population of over 11,000 students and close proximity to major research institutions in Oxford, Bath and Bristol make Gloucestershire a sought-after destination for companies looking for highly qualified employees and top-notch R&D facilities. We've put skills development at the top of our strategic agenda, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.



COST EFFECTIVE AND FLEXIBLE WORKSPACES

Gloucestershire has a rich and significant asset base, with plenty of incubation and soft-landing platforms for businesses in all sectors.

There are a wide range of commercial premises to choose from, potentially with incentives. This includes the opportunity to work in shared space and network with potential collaborators, while our two airports offer airside space for R&D and manufacturing.

Exciting new developments in the county include The Forum, a state-of-the-art digital campus, in the heart of Gloucester. The county will also be home to the upcoming Golden Valley development - a world-class cyber innovation hub - and the Royal Agricultural University's new Innovation Village, which will support industry, food producers, farmers, and landowners in developing sustainable solutions for healthy land and nature, food production, and resilience in rural communities.

Our team can carry out confidential property and site searches and arrange bespoke tours for your business.

LAUNCH NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Gloucestershire provides companies with the ability to test new products and services in various innovation centres, including within our universities and at our airports.

New University of Gloucestershire laboratories allow testing in AI, blockchain and big data analytics, including on closed networks.

Our agri-tech universities manage working commercial farms and a vineyard, giving companies the ability to test in real world conditions.

The airside access our two airports provide gives you the potential to utilise airspace for product testing and validation.



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Invest in Gloucestershire was created with a simple yet ambitious goal in mind – to showcase the best that our county has to offer to the international business community and encourage growth through inward investment.

Our experienced team is on hand to help international companies in their quest to find the right UK base. As each business has specific requirements to fulfil, we ensure all support is tailored to suit, making sure you're completely informed about the local landscape and opportunities available.



ONGOING SUPPORT SERVICES

If you're ready to make Gloucestershire the new home for your business, we're here to support you all the way. The Invest in Gloucestershire team can provide access to a range of services and grant funding, as well as connections to local government and key partners.



We're lucky to have a fantastic array of key partners in Gloucestershire, helping businesses to flourish now while training the next generation for success.



Invest in Gloucestershire partners with the British Government's global Embassy network to highlight the county's strengths. We connect with senior decision-makers through international webinars, overseas visits and tailored delegation tours.

We also work alongside the British Government at trade events at home and abroad, opening doors for Gloucestershire firms to showcase their offerings globally.

For businesses aiming to trade internationally, we link them to export support from the Department for Business and Trade.



As part of Gloucestershire County Council, we can help you access funding and grants that are intended to drive growth within the county such as the Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund. We also have strong links with UK Research & Innovation and can help you navigate their funding process. You can also benefit from attractive tax relief on R&D costs.

A new angel investment network, centred around cyber and cyber security startups, will also be launching in Gloucestershire in the coming months, and the county is home to a strong VC community.

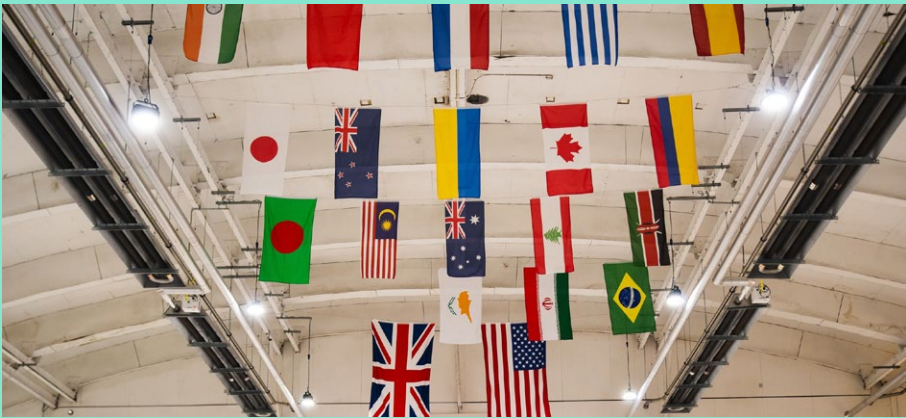
CyNam, our cyber network, is developing our cyber ecosystem through headline events, bootcamps, mentoring and research to ensure that the county continues to grow and thrive in the digital age.

Gloucestershire Engineering Training (GET) delivers world-class engineering training programmes for employers of all size, and is about to launch a new Higher Education facility to equip even more learners with the skills they need to succeed.

The Gloucestershire Agri-Tech Partnership helps foster growth and innovation throughout the UK's agri-tech businesses, alongside those already in the region.

Through the county's Business Group network, business leaders provide expert advice on economic growth decisions, helping the county improve skills, innovation, and reach its economic potential.

Made in Gloucestershire celebrates and supports local food producers and innovators, helping reduce food miles and encourage residents to support the local economy.





WORLD-CLASS BUSINESS SUPPORT

THE GROWTH HUB

The Growth Hub is Gloucestershire's leading source of business support and mentorship, helping thousands of businesses to meet their goals – no matter what stage of the journey they're at.

All of The Growth Hub's core business support is fully funded by the UK Government and strategic partners, offering an unrivalled combination of expert support services. Businesses can take advantage of the following services, at no cost:

- HUB** Expert advice and guidance
- HUB** Dedicated business navigator
- HUB** Fully funded workshops and networking events
- HUB** Access to business planning resources
- HUB** Mentorship and guidance
- HUB** Co-working, meeting rooms and incubation offices

Our Growth Hub is the only one in the country with a network of hubs strategically located throughout each district, meaning businesses are never far from independent, expert advice and support.

GLoucestershire BUSInesses SUPPORTED	TRAINING & NETWORKING EVENTS DELIVERED
16,000	1,500
BUSInesses HELPED TO REACH NET ZERO GOALS	DEDICATED LOCAL HUBS
1,200	5



CASE STUDY

THE ECO-DISTILLERY TAKING GLOUCESTERSHIRE BY STORM

The Boutique Distillery was set up by New Zealand expat Jon Harper, who made the switch from engineer to master distiller. The Growth Hub helped Jon to get to grips with marketing, strategy and his sustainability journey. Through speaking at a Growth Hub event, Jon was able to supply his HAKA Premium Rum at the 2024 British Grand Prix at Silverstone, and he's now on track to grow even further with a new investor and partner on board, and a new 11,000 sq ft distillery on the way.

IN GOOD COMPANY

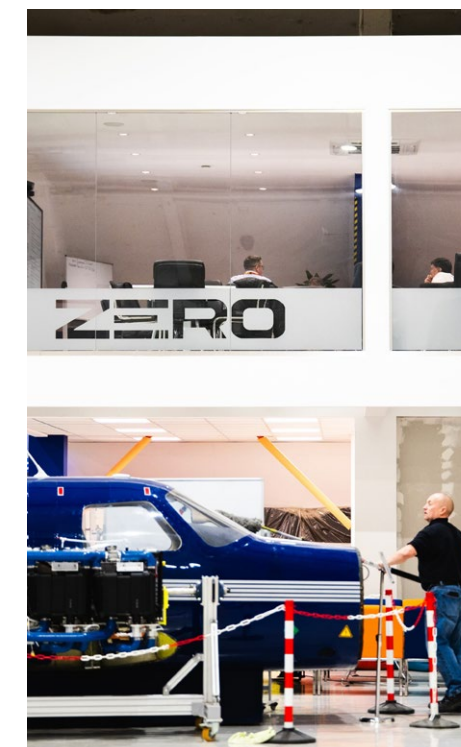


MOOG

We have valued the support from the Invest in Gloucestershire team in sourcing our new facility and their involvement supporting negotiations for the current site, which enabled us to remain in the county and secure the future for our workforce.

The team have continued to maintain a close working relationship with us to ensure the successful construction of the new facility and have been extremely useful in assisting with problem solving on power and highways issues that arose during the development. A resource such as the Invest in Gloucestershire team is extremely important to help retain companies in the county and assist their growth.

Mark Lawton
Aircraft Group General Manager



ZEROAVIA

The energy and enthusiasm from the Invest in Gloucestershire team has been invaluable. Enabling us to navigate the local support structures and setups has been hugely helpful, and they have been fantastic at providing opportunities for us to showcase what ZeroAvia is doing in the UK.

We've been able to expand our office space thanks to grant funding, and we've received excellent support on skills. Through their wider connections, the Invest in Gloucestershire team has helped us to establish good relationships with local universities, technical colleges and schools, allowing us to solve some of the challenges we face in filling roles in a high-growth organisation.

Dominic Weeks
Head of External Affairs and Marketing

Companies supported:

MOOG Darkscope



TR7

hub8





For further information

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Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL