

Population Change in Gloucestershire 2010-20

Data & Analysis Team

Gloucestershire County Council

informgloucestershire@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Contents

Population Change in Gloucestershire Between 2010-20	3
Changes in Population Composition Between 2010-20	4
Dependency Ratios	7
Population Density	9
Population Growth Since 1991	10

Population Change in Gloucestershire Between 2010-20

In 2010 the population of Gloucestershire was 594,097. In the last ten years, the population has grown to 640,450. This represents an increase of 46,553 people, equivalent to 7.84%, and an average increase of 4,655 people each year. Gloucestershire's population growth between 2010-20 was higher than both the South West (7.56%) and England (7.42%).

Table 1. Mid-population Estimates in Gloucestershire and its Districts, 2010-20

Area	2010	2020	Change 2010-20	% Change
Gloucestershire	594,097	640,650	46,553	7.84%
Cheltenham	114,901	116,043	1,142	0.99%
Cotswold	82,614	90,264	7,650	9.26%
Forest of Dean	81,896	87,107	5,211	6.36%
Gloucester	120,660	129,709	9,049	7.50%
Stroud	112,491	120,903	8,412	7.48%
Tewkesbury	81,535	96,624	15,089	18.51%
South West	5,261,270	5,659,143	397,873	7.56%
England	52,642,452	56,550,138	3,907,686	7.42%
England and Wales	55,692,423	59,719,724	4,027,301	7.23%
Great Britain	60,954,623	65,185,724	4,231,101	6.94%
United Kingdom	62,759,456	67,081,234	4,321,778	6.89%

District Focus:

- All districts had a higher population in 2020 than in 2010.
- Tewkesbury experienced the highest population growth between 2010-20 at 18.51%, which is 9.25% higher than the next highest district population growth rate of 9.26% in Cotswold.
- Cheltenham had the lowest growth rate with an increase of 0.99%.

Changes in Population Composition Between 2010-20

The population pyramid in Figure 1. shows the change in the age structure of Gloucestershire's population between 2010-20 as well as the gender balance. Table 2. indicates the percentage change in broad age groups. It can be seen that there has been a reduction in the percentage of the population who are aged between 15-24 and 35-49. However, there has been an increase in the proportion of people for each of the age groups over 50 and an increase in young people aged between 0-14. There has also been an increase in the proportion of people between the ages of 25-34. The population pyramid is indicative of an ageing population due to the increasing proportion of older people.

In 2010, the gender balance was equal to 49.03% males and 50.97% females which had not changed in 2020 (+/-0.01 percentage point).

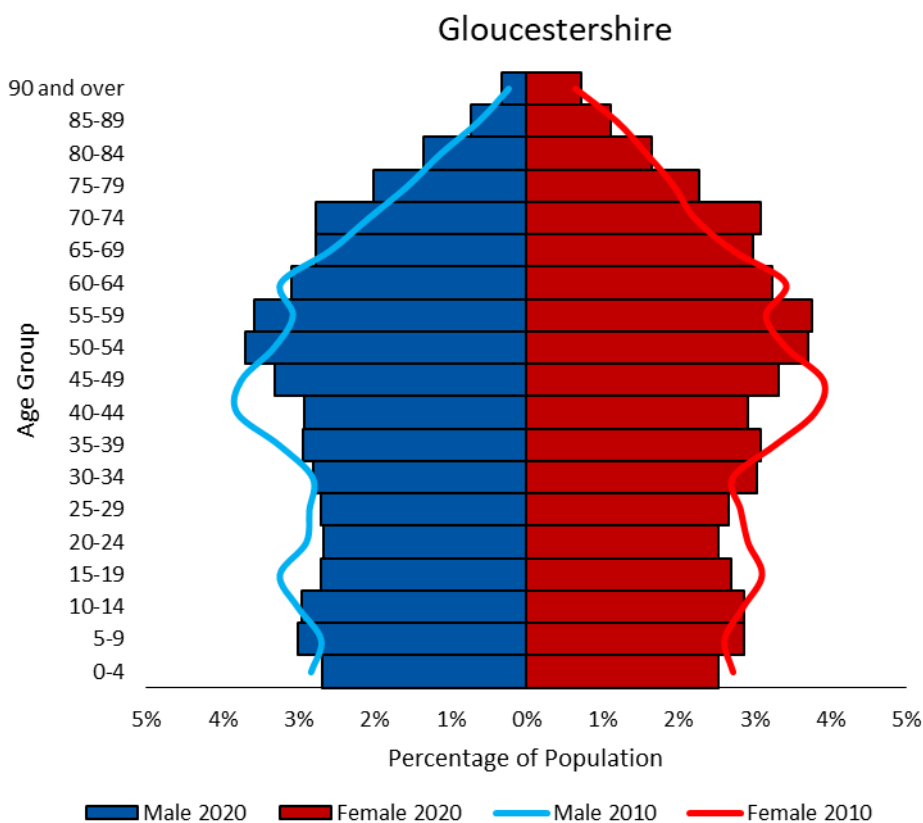


Figure 1. Age Pyramid of Gloucestershire Showing the Changes in Age Groups Between 2010 and 2020

Compared to the South West and England, Gloucestershire saw a greater increase in the over-65 population, with an increase of 26.3% between 2010-20 (South West 24.19% increase, England 22.19% increase). However, Gloucestershire had a smaller increase in the working-age population (3.24%) than

both the South West (3.43%) and England (4.28%). England as a whole had the largest increase in its 0-19 population at 5.24% followed by Gloucestershire (4.23%) and then the South West (3.85%).

Table 2. Percentage Change in Broad Age Groups Between 2010-20 in Gloucestershire and its Districts

	2010			2020			Percentage Change Between 2010-20		
	0-19	20-64	65+	0-19	20-64	65+	0-19	20-64	65 and over
Gloucestershire	137,066	347,105	109,926	142,868	35,8362	139,420	4.23%	3.24%	26.83%
Cheltenham	25,742	69,927	19,232	26,135	66,790	23,118	1.53%	-4.49%	20.21%
Cotswold	17,721	46,647	18,246	18,347	48,259	23,658	3.53%	3.46%	29.66%
Forest of Dean	18,576	46,641	16,679	18,335	47,077	21,695	-1.30%	0.93%	30.07%
Gloucester	30,432	72,422	17,806	31,821	75,762	22,126	4.56%	4.61%	24.26%
Stroud	26,297	64,536	21,658	26,498	66,918	27,487	0.76%	3.69%	26.91%
Tewkesbury	18,298	46,932	16,305	21,732	53,556	21,336	18.77%	14.11%	30.86%
South West	1,190,669	3,047,720	1,022,881	1,236,453	3,152,389	1,270,301	3.85%	3.43%	24.19%
England	12,667,215	31,411,622	8,563,615	13,330,355	32,755,764	10,464,019	5.24%	4.28%	22.19%
United Kingdom	15,054,954	37,441,775	10,262,727	15,658,537	38,914,059	12,508,638	4.01%	3.93%	21.88%

District Focus:

- Tewkesbury experienced an increase in all age groups apart from 15-19 and 40-49-year olds.
- The Forest of Dean is the only district to experience a decrease in the number of young people (-1.30%) whilst Tewkesbury had the largest increase with an 18.77% increase in 0-19-year olds.
- Cheltenham is the only district to have a decrease in the number of working-age people (-4.49%) whereas Tewkesbury had the largest increase in 20-64-year olds with a 14.11% increase.
- All districts had an increase in the number of people over the age of 65, the largest increase was in Tewkesbury with 30.86% and the smallest increase was in Cheltenham which had a 20.21% increase.

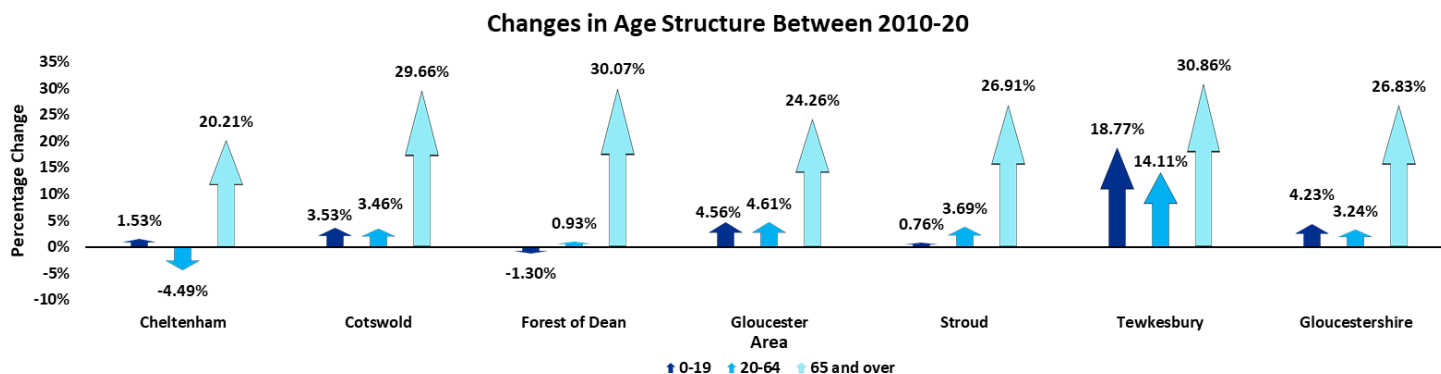


Figure 2. Population Change by Broad Age Group Between 2010-20 in Gloucestershire and its Districts

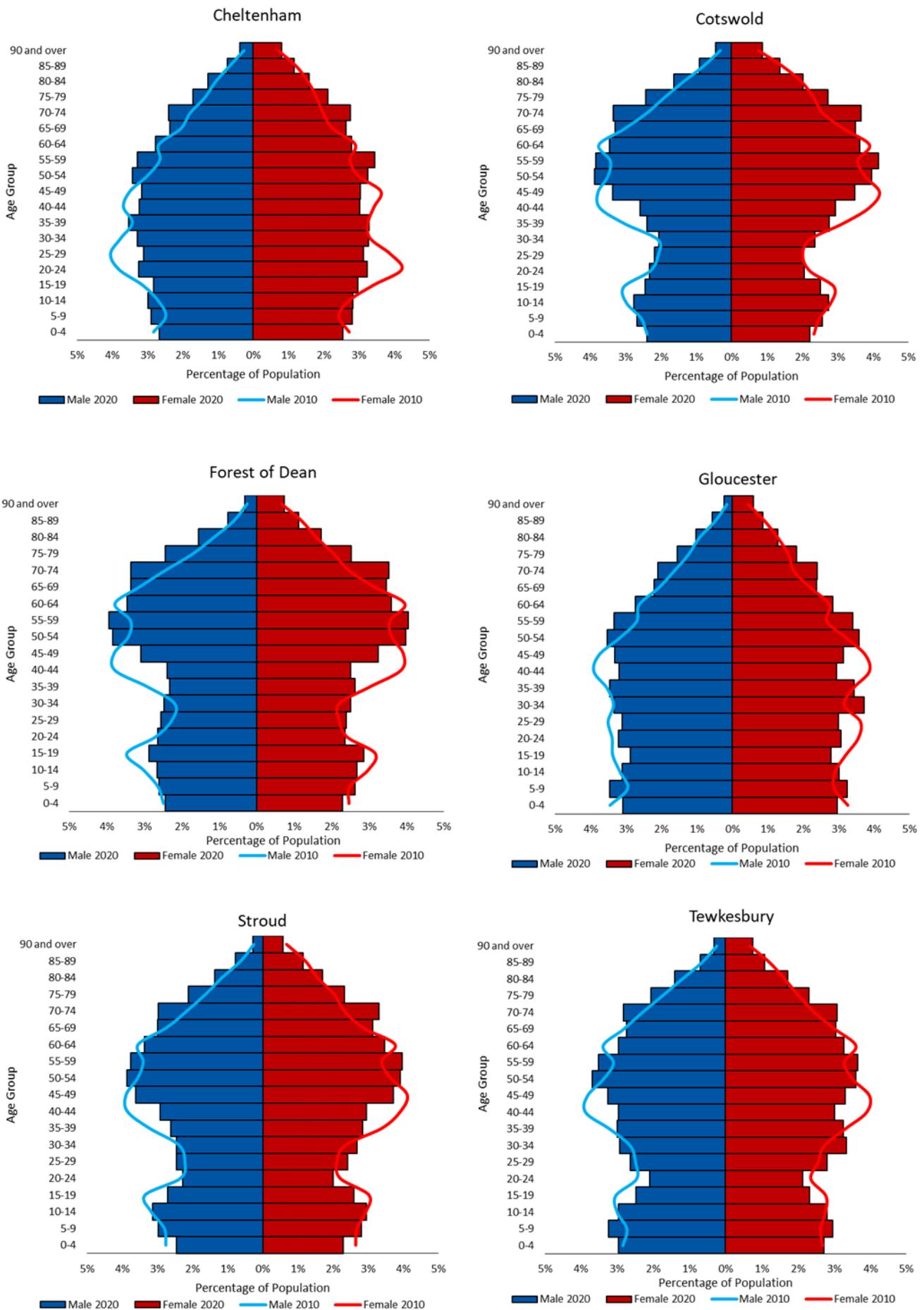


Figure 3. Population Pyramid Change Between 2010 and 2020 in Gloucestershire's Districts

Dependency Ratios

Dependency ratios¹ are a measure that indicates the level of support that needs to be provided by the working population to the youth and older population. A low dependency ratio indicates that there is a sufficient ratio of the working population to the dependent population. In contrast, a high dependency ratio indicates there may be more financial burden on the working population to support the dependent population.

Between 2010-20 Gloucestershire's dependency ratio increased from 0.71 to 0.79. For every 100 people of working age there used to be 71 people dependent on them in 2010. However, in 2020 it had increased to 79 dependents per 100 working-age people. For both years, Gloucestershire had a lower dependency ratio than the South West and a higher dependency ratio than England. By comparing the youth and old-age dependency ratios it can be inferred that the increase in the overall dependency ratio in Gloucestershire, between 2010-20, is driven by an increase in the proportion of old-age dependents.

Table 3. Dependency Ratio Change Between 2010-20 in Gloucestershire and its Districts

	2010			2020		
	Dependency Ratio	Youth Dependency Ratio (0-19)	Old-age Dependency Ratio (65+)	Dependency Ratio	Youth Dependency Ratio (0-19)	Old-age Dependency Ratio (65+)
Gloucestershire	0.71	0.39	0.32	0.79	0.40	0.39
Cheltenham	0.64	0.37	0.28	0.74	0.39	0.35
Cotswold	0.77	0.38	0.39	0.87	0.38	0.49
Forest of Dean	0.76	0.40	0.36	0.85	0.39	0.46
Gloucester	0.67	0.42	0.25	0.71	0.42	0.29
Stroud	0.74	0.41	0.34	0.81	0.40	0.41
Tewkesbury	0.74	0.39	0.35	0.80	0.41	0.40
South West	0.73	0.39	0.34	0.80	0.39	0.40
England	0.68	0.40	0.27	0.73	0.41	0.32
United Kingdom	0.68	0.40	0.27	0.72	0.40	0.32

¹ Dependency ratios only provide a rough indication of the level of support needed to sustain the dependent population and should not be used on its own. As the retirement age increases, the dependency ratio should change.

District Focus:

- Cotswold had the highest dependency ratio in 2010 (0.77) and 2020 (0.87).
- Cheltenham had the lowest dependency ratio in 2010 at 0.64 however, Gloucester had the lowest in 2020 at 0.71.
- Cheltenham and Cotswold had the highest increase in their dependency ratios between 2010-20, which can be attributed to the increase in the old-age dependency ratios. The increase in Cheltenham is likely to be due to a decrease in the working age population and an increase in the older population. However, in Cotswold the increase is likely to be just due to the growth in the over-65 population.

Population Density

In Gloucestershire, the number of people per square kilometre increased from 224 to 242 between 2010-20, an increase of 7.84%. In comparison, the population density in the South West increased by 16 people from 221 to 237 people per square kilometre and in England, it increased by 30 people from 404 to 434 people per square kilometre.

Table 4. Population Density Change Between 2010-20 in Gloucestershire and its Districts

Population Density	Land Area (sq. km)	Population per sq./km		
		2010	2020	% increase 2010-20
Gloucestershire	2,653	224	242	7.84%
Cheltenham	47	2,466	2,490	0.99%
Cotswold	1,165	71	78	9.26%
Forest of Dean	526	156	166	6.36%
Gloucester	41	2,975	3,199	7.50%
Stroud	461	244	263	7.48%
Tewkesbury	414	197	233	18.51%
South West	23,836	221	237	7.56%
England	130,310	404	434	7.42%
United Kingdom	242,741	259	276	6.89%

District Focus:

- Gloucester continued to have the highest population density and had an increase of 224 people per square kilometre between 2010-20, from 2975 to 3199.
- Cotswold continued to have the lowest population density which increased from 71 to 78 people per square kilometre between 2010-20.
- Tewkesbury experienced the highest percentage increase in population density at 18.51% whereas, Cheltenham experienced the lowest increase at 0.99% between 2010-20.
- All districts experienced an increase in population density.

Population Growth Since 1991

Between 1991-2020, the population of Gloucestershire had grown by 19.53%, equivalent to an increase of 104,668 people, (535,982 people in 1991, 640,650 people in 2020). In comparison, the South West had an increase of 20.71% and England had an increase of 18.12%.

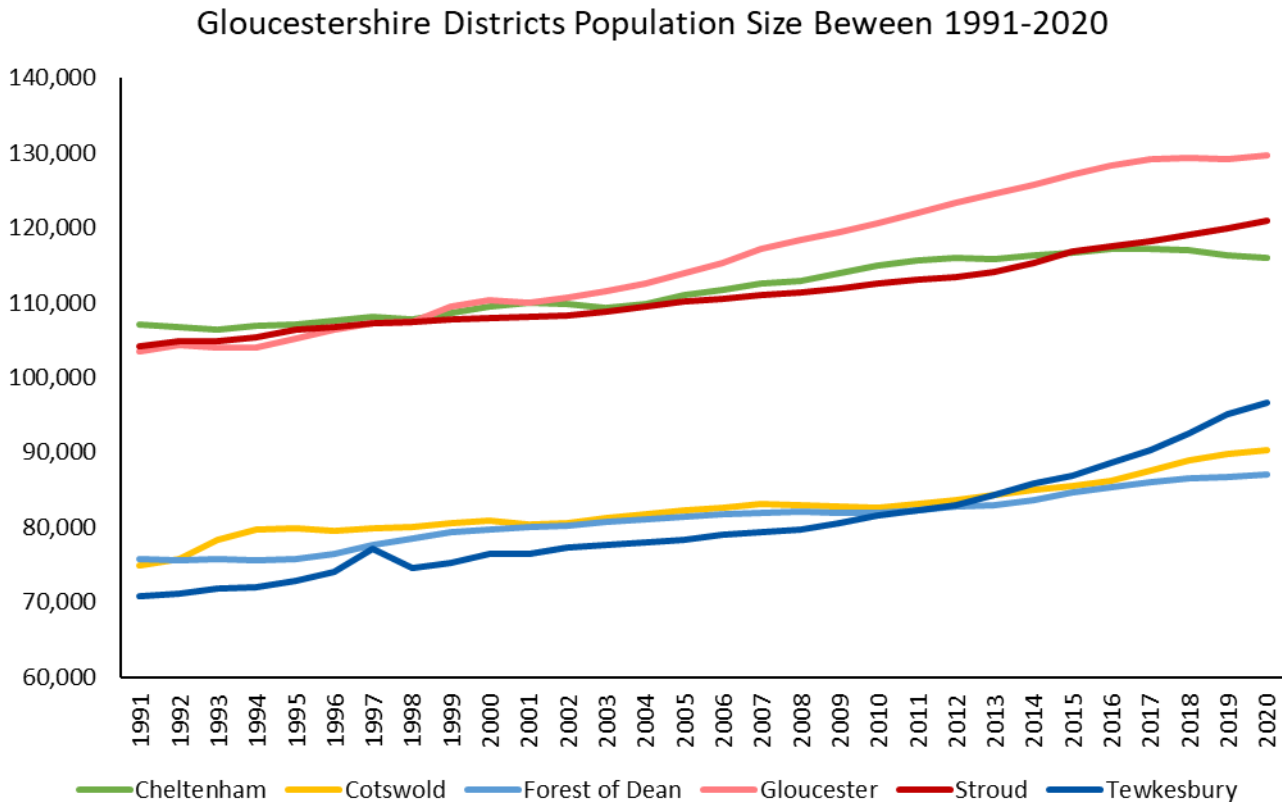


Figure 4. Population Size in Gloucestershire and its Districts Between 1991-20

District Focus:

- In 1991 Cheltenham had the largest population however, by 2020 its population size had been overtaken by Gloucester and Stroud. Cheltenham has experienced year-on-year decreases in its population size since 2016.
- Gloucester became the largest population in 1999 and has stayed that way.
- Until 2011 Tewkesbury had the smallest population out of the six districts however, by 2020 its population had grown to become the 4th largest, overtaking Cotswold and the Forest of Dean.