



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Car Park Comparison

Annex D

Overview

To assess the cost-effectiveness of parking facilities within the Cotswold district, a comprehensive evaluation has been conducted. This involved the collection and analysis of pertinent data from adjacent local authorities' (LA) websites, pertaining to their respective car parks.

The essential data encompassed the following metrics:

- Average parking fees within the district.
- Total count of car parks operating within the district.
- Aggregate number of available parking bays within the district.
- Quantity of designated blue badge bays within the district.
- Number of Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) bays available within the district.
- Count of parent and child bays within the district.

Furthermore, the study also encompassed details concerning cashless parking methods, availability of cost-free parking sessions, and the provision of season tickets.

It is imperative to acknowledge the distinctive characteristics of each local authority, as these differences are crucial in the interpretation of the analysis. Additionally, when the information was not available, it has not been included.



Summary

Authority Name	Authority Type	Size of District in km ²	Population Density per km ² (2021 Census Estimates)	Total Number of Car Parks (with over 10 Spaces)	Total Spaces Listed	Total Blue Badge Spaces Listed	Total EVCP Spaces Listed	Total Parent & Child Spaces Listed	Avg Price to Park for 30 mins (for those that offer it)	Avg Price to Park for 1 Hour (for those that offer it)	Avg Price to Park for 2 Hours (for those that offer it)	Avg Price to Park for 3 Hours (for those that offer it)	Avg Price to Park for 10 Hours (for those that offer it)
Bath and North East Somerset	District	351	559.2	27	3018	115	15	0		£1.47	£2.06	£3.35	£9.04
Bromsgrove	Non-Met District	217	457.1	9	1275	83	0	0	£0.42	£0.84	£1.69	£2.48	£5.14
Cheltenham	Borough	47	2549.3	15	2333	81	0	14		£1.73	£2.76	£3.93	£9.87
Cherwell	District	589	273.5	22	1610	74	74	0	£1.10	£1.78	£2.71	£3.45	£5.00
Cotswold	District	1164	78	20	2374	72	22	2	£0.78	£1.44	£2.65	£3.62	£6.11
Gloucester	City	41	3266.6	14	1973	87	0	44	£0.50	£1.43	£2.78	£3.73	£7.00
South Glos	Unitary	497	584.3	34	2243	158	62	7					£4.00
South Oxfordshire	Non-Met District	679	219.7	14	1257	66	72	0			£1.80	£2.48	£4.26
Stratford upon Avon	District	979	137.8	23	3891	74	28	19	£1.47	£1.47	£2.54	£3.72	£9.95
Stroud	District	461	263	31	2028	39	0	0		£1.10	£2.77	£2.58	£3.00
Swindon	Unitary	230	1014.4	17	3673	95	2	63	£0.45	£1.24	£2.28	£3.62	£31.05
Tewkesbury	Borough	414	229	12	1024	27	0	0		£1.00		£2.13	£3.67
Vale of White Horse	District	579	240.5	13	1302	58	28	0			£1.53	£2.17	£5.53
West Berkshire	Unitary	704	229.3	21	2327	112	13	0		£1.14	£1.83	£3.58	£6.82
Wiltshire	Unitary	3485	156.8	88	8916	303	20	0		£0.87	£1.73	£2.97	£7.05
Worcester	City	33	3121.4	13	2215	81	12	6		£1.17	£2.08	£2.92	£6.15
Wychavon	District	664	199.7	25	2892	126	10	0	£0.50	£1.00	£1.84	£2.55	£3.87
Wyre Forest	District	195	520	19	1832	6	0	0	£0.70	£1.10	£2.20	£3.96	£6.16

Note that this data only refers to the information that is listed. If information not listed on the website then return is Nil. Please see Annex A for breakdown of information not listed.



Summary

The Cotswold District offers value for money in terms of parking rates and facilities compared to several other neighbouring districts. Here are some key points based on the data provided:

- **Affordable Parking Prices:** The average prices for parking in Cotswold are quite reasonable compared to some of the other districts but are higher than others. For example, the average price to park for 1 hour is £1.44, which is lower than the average prices in some other districts like Bath and North East Somerset (£1.47), Cheltenham (£1.73), and Cherwell (£1.78).
- **Extended Parking Hours:** Cotswold offers good value in comparison to neighbouring similar districts by providing extended parking hours for the money spent. The average price to park for 10 hours is £6.11, which is competitive compared to neighboring districts like Cheltenham (£9.87) and Stratford upon Avon (£9.95).
- **Blue Badge and EV Charging Facilities:** Cotswold provides accessible and environmentally friendly parking options. It has a number of Blue Badge spaces (72) and EV charging spaces (22), catering to the needs of disabled individuals and electric vehicle users, however Cotswold does not rank the highest in either of these categories.
- **Parent & Child Spaces:** Cotswold offers 2 designated Parent & Child parking spaces with further spaces being marked at the Brewery Car Park in Cirencester. If Cotswold were to offer more well-located Parent & Child spaces, this would create a more welcoming and accommodating environment for families, ultimately enhancing the overall value for money for visitors and residents.
- **Moderate District Size:** Despite being a relatively large district (1164 km²), Cotswold has 2.6 spaces per 1000 of the district population whereas the other authorities on average had 1.54 spaces per 1000 of the population.
- **Competitive District Comparison:** When compared to other neighbouring districts with similar facilities (total spaces, number of car parks, Blue Badge spaces, EVCP spaces etc.), Cotswold stands out with its lower parking rates and satisfactory amenities.
- **Balanced Offering:** Cotswold strikes a balance between pricing and services by providing a range of parking durations at affordable rates. This is evident from the pricing for various time periods (e.g., £1.44 for 1 hour, £2.65 for 2 hours, and £3.62 for 3 hours).
- **Car parking pricing fees** are reviewed and set to ensure the effective movement of customers/tourists, manage traffic flows and aid the availability of car parking spaces.

Overall, Cotswold offers a favourable combination of affordable pricing, diverse parking facilities, and accessible options, making it an attractive choice for both local residents and visitors who are looking for value for money when it comes to parking.



Comparisons

- The average size of the districts is 629 km², whereas Cotswold district covers an area of 1164 km². This indicates potential variations in urbanisation and population density among different authorities, with Cotswold being relatively larger. The lack of public transport networks and the size of the district increases the reliance on car parking spaces in order to enable customers and residents to move between towns and villages easily.
- Overall, the average number of car parks with over 10 spaces is 23, while Cotswold district has 20 such car parks. This suggests differences in parking infrastructure and planning.
- The average number of total parking spaces per 1000 of the population within each district is 1.54 with Cotswold at 2.6 but it is important to note that the reasoning behind provision of parking varies across districts and Cotswold has many visiting tourists.
- On average, each authority provides 92 Blue Badge (disabled parking) spaces, compared to 72 such spaces in Cotswold district. This points to potentially better accessibility provisions.
- The average number of Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) spaces listed in the first set of authorities is 20, slightly less than the 22 spaces in Cotswold district. This suggests a comparable effort in promoting electric vehicle adoption.
- Across various parking durations, neighbouring authorities generally maintain lower average prices compared to Cotswold district. For instance, the average prices for parking durations of 1-3 hours are all higher at Cotswold. Whereas 30 minute stays are similar and 10 hour stays are better value at Cotswold.
- Across all of the authorities analysed, there are 107 car parks that are free of charge at ten of the authorities. South Glos offering the highest number of free car parks at 33 and Wyre Forest offering one. The median number of free car parks offered at these 10 districts is 4, with Cotswold having three.

These insights provide an overview of the differences between the average characteristics of the neighbouring authorities and Cotswold district. It's important to note that these averages might be influenced by various factors, including local policies, economic conditions, and parking demand within each authority or district.

	AVERAGE ACROSS ALL AUTHORITIES	CDC	DIFFERENCE
Size of District in km²	629	1164	535
Total Number of Car Parks with over 10 Spaces	23	20	-3
Total Spaces Listed	2566	2374	-192
Percentage of Blue Badge Spaces Listed	3.72%	3.03%	-0.69%
Total EVCP Spaces Listed	20	22	2
Avg Price to Park for 30 mins (for those that offer it, not inc FOC)	£0.80	£0.78	£0.02
Avg Price to Park for 1 Hour (for those that offer it, not inc FOC)	£1.19	£1.44	£0.25
Avg Price to Park for 2 Hours (for those that offer it, not inc FOC)	£2.09	£2.65	£0.56
Avg Price to Park for 3 Hours (for those that offer it, not inc FOC)	£3.16	£3.62	£0.46
Avg Price to Park for 10 Hours (for those that offer it, not inc FOC)	£8.10	£6.11	-£1.99

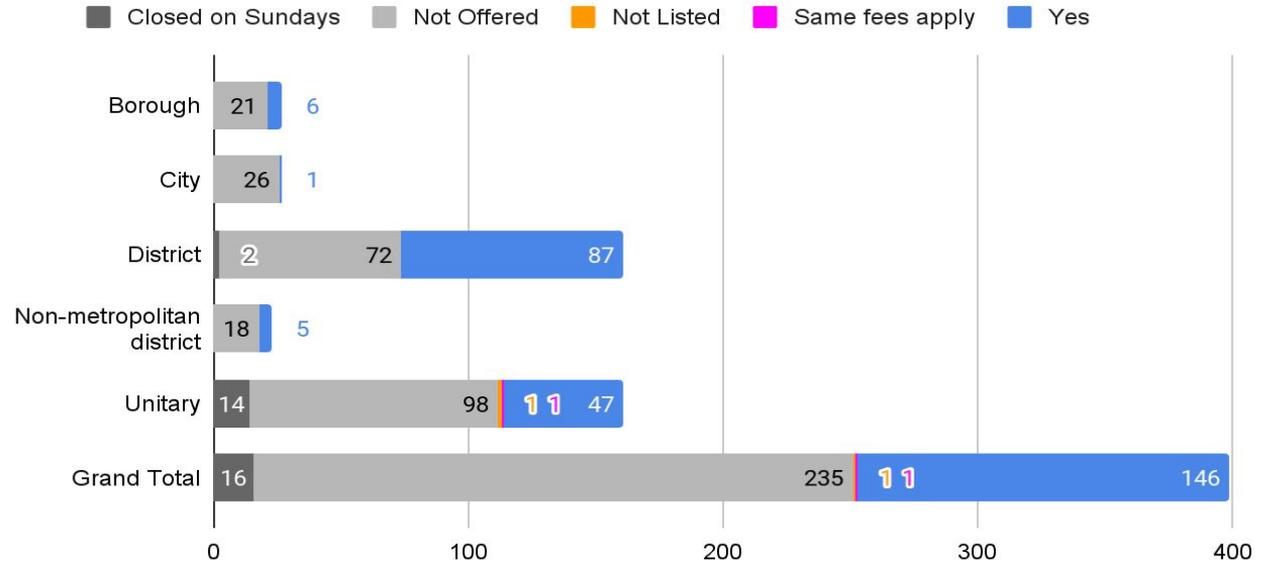


Parking on Sundays

Cotswold offers free parking on Sundays at 16 of the 20 car parks.

The chart to the right shows a breakdown of neighbouring authorities split by authority type.

Number of car parks offering Free Parking on Sundays in Car Parks with over 10 Spaces (CDC not included)

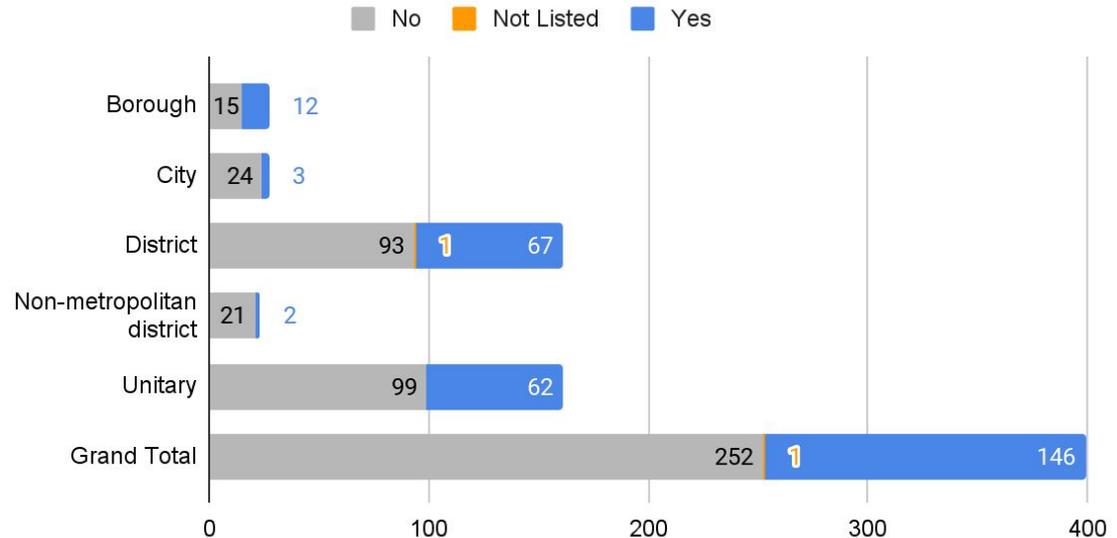


Season Ticket Availability

Cotswold offers season tickets at 14 of the 20 car parks.

The chart to the right shows a breakdown of neighbouring authorities split by authority type.

Number of Car Parks offering Season Tickets in car parks with over 10 spaces (CDC not included)

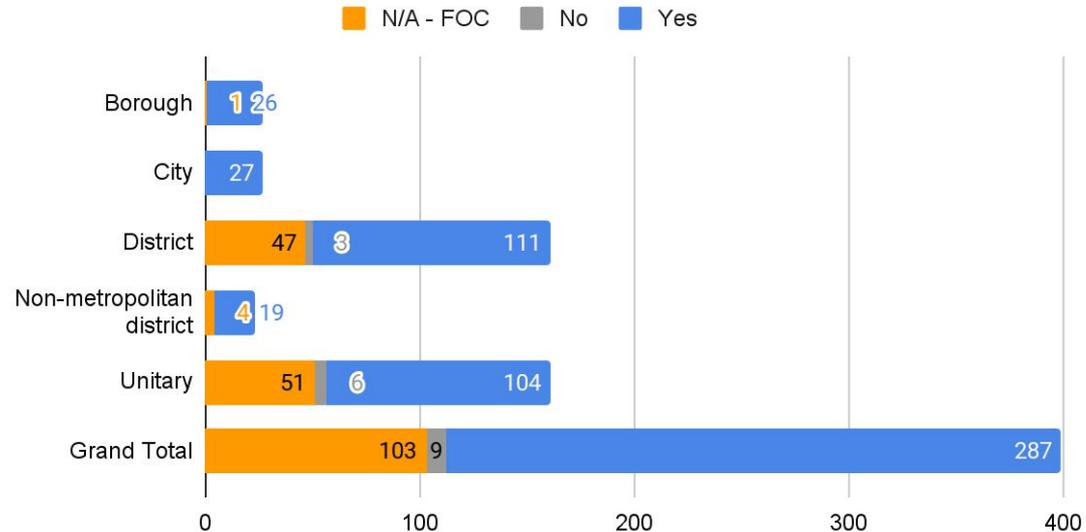


Cashless Parking

Cotswold offers cashless parking at 16 of the 20 car parks. The other 4 car parks are free of charge (FOC)

The chart to the right shows a breakdown of neighbouring authorities split by authority type.

Number of car parks offering Cashless Parking in Car Parks with over 10 Spaces (CDC not included)



Annex A - Not Listed Breakdown by Authority

- Bath & North East Somerset:
 - Number of EVCP spaces for one car park - information is not available on council website
 - Number of Parent & Child spaces for one car park - information is not available on council website
- Wyre Forest:
 - Number of blue badge spaces at 16 car parks - information is not available on council website
- Cheltenham
 - Number of EVCP spaces for two car parks - information is not available on council website
- Gloucester
 - Number of EVCP spaces for two car parks - information is not available on council website
- Vale of White Horse:
 - Number of Parent & Child spaces for one car park - information is not available on council website
- Wiltshire
 - Number of spaces for coach parking - information is not available on council website

