

Gloucestershire Tech Week 2026

2026 THEME – MISSION DRIVEN

ALL-ACCESS PASS £30

DAY PASS £10

MON 12	Day 01 • Heritage	Jet Age Museum
TUE 13	Day 02 • Resilience & Sovereignty	Hub8 MX, Cheltenham
WED 14	Day 03 • Curiosity	Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire
THU 15	Day 04 • [Artificial] Intelligence	Patch, The Forum, Gloucester
FRI 16	Day 05 • Opportunity	Gloucester

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Everything in the programme comes back to seven national challenges drawn from the UK's National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence Review: withstanding disruption; building and keeping critical technology in UK hands; building world-class technology; innovating faster; growing the skills and talent; making security everyone's business; and being fit for a new kind of conflict.

Timings are indicative and may be subject to slight change. Speakers will be confirmed in due course. Powered by CyNam. Full details and booking at glostechweek.co.uk.

DAY 01 • MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2026

Heritage

Jet Age Museum, Gloucester • Celebrating the legacy of innovation that defines Gloucestershire, and the thread that connects it to today.

[BOOK MONDAY DAY PASS £10 →](#) [ALL-ACCESS PASS £30 →](#)

09:00 – 09:15

Registration

Arrive, settle in and get ready for the week ahead.

09:15 – 09:45

Welcome

Every mission starts with a why. We open the week by setting out what brings us together, what lies ahead, and why this is a defining moment for the county.

09:45 – 10:15

Opening Keynote

Special guest TBC. A day rooted in heritage begins by looking forward, as our opening keynote sets the tone for the week ahead.

10:15 – 11:15

The Stories of Founders Who Dared

Every company starts with someone willing to take the leap. These are honest, personal stories from technical experts who dared to build something of their own, and what it really took.

11:15 – 11:45

Coffee Break

Refuel, reconnect and pick up the conversations sparked on stage.

11:45 – 12:15

Aviation Technologies, Past, Present and Future

Gloucestershire has always looked to the skies. This conversation covers the ambition, setbacks and breakthroughs behind generations of flight, and what they can teach the innovators of tomorrow.

12:15 – 13:15

Greater Than the Sum: Where Gloucestershire's Strengths Meet

Real progress rarely happens in isolation. This session explores what becomes possible when the county's strengths come together, and what that could mean for the places, people and communities that make up Gloucestershire.

13:15 – 14:15

The Challenge Wall: A Community-Led Networking Lunch

Lunch with a purpose. Bring the challenge you're grappling with, find the people ready to help solve it, and leave with new connections, not just new ideas.

14:15 – 14:45

Spotlight: Advanced Manufacturing

Great ideas only matter if someone can make them real. This spotlight celebrates the makers turning world-class innovation into the things the world depends on.

14:45 – 15:45

The Future is Ours

The next generation takes the mic. Young voices speak on ambition, technology and the future they want to build, for Gloucestershire, the UK and beyond.

15:45 – 16:00

Comfort Break

A short pause before the final sessions of the day.

16:00 – 16:30

Spotlight: National Security

Security has always been part of Gloucestershire's story. This spotlight explores the county's role in keeping the nation safe, and why that mission matters more than ever in a changing world.

16:30 – 17:00

Future of Technology in Agriculture and Land-Use

The future of technology isn't only found in labs and cities. This closing talk looks to the land itself, exploring how innovation can support sustainable farming, healthier landscapes and a more resilient rural economy.

ALSO ON – SEPARATE TICKET

12:00 – 15:00 • Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham

The Undersea War

CyNam are proud to support this event at The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival. Elisabeth Braw and Bojan Pancevski, in conversation with Julia Wheeler, on whether control of the deep sea is the next geopolitical frontline. Ticket includes VIP Networking Lounge access and afternoon tea from 12:00, with the talk at 14:00. Hosted by Origin8tive.

16:00 – 18:45 • Hub8 MX, Cheltenham

Ready or Not: How to prepare for a fundraising or exit in Technology, Cyber and Defence scale-ups

Expert speakers from InfiniteCFO, Momentum Corporate Finance and Wiggin LLP unpack what transaction readiness actually looks like, grounded in real deals rather than theory, and what's different about the crucial sectors of Cyber and Defence. Hosted by InfiniteCFO.

17:30 – 20:00 • Ocho, Cheltenham

Cyber Made Human Live

Violet and Partners have teamed up with CyNam for an exclusive edition of Cyber Made Human Live. Host Alice Violet is joined by Brian Lewis, CEO of Origin8tive, for a candid conversation exploring the human side of cyber and technology. Places are deliberately limited.

Resilience & Sovereignty

Hub8 MX, Cheltenham · A day at the sharp end of security, resilience and sovereignty.

BOOK TUESDAY DAY PASS £10 → ALL-ACCESS PASS £30 →

09:00 – 09:15

Registration

Arrive, grab a refreshment and settle in for a day at the sharp end of security, resilience and sovereignty.

09:15 – 09:45

A Guide to Security, Resilience and Sovereignty

Three closely related ideas, too often conflated. Each carries a different weight in government, the boardroom and everyday life. This opening session draws the lines between them and finds Gloucestershire's place on the map.

09:45 – 10:45

Global Tensions, Local Consequences

The distance between a distant flashpoint and a local balance sheet has never been shorter. This session follows the thread from an increasingly contested world to the technology we rely on, the economy we share and the businesses on our doorstep.

10:45 – 11:30

Why Defence Needs SMEs

With threats evolving and investment rising, the defence sector needs the speed, specialism and ingenuity that smaller firms do best. Why SMEs have become so critical to national security, what still holds them back, and what the opening door means. In collaboration with Business Insights.

11:30 – 11:45

Coffee Break

A pause between sessions and a chance to continue the conversation.

11:45 – 12:15

The Migration to Post-Quantum Cryptography

A new era of cryptography is already taking shape, and is redrawing the security landscape. What the shift demands of organisations, and why preparation cannot wait for the threat to arrive.

12:15 – 13:15

2026 Trends & Patterns in Cyber

Some threats are new. Many are old tricks in new clothes. This session reads between the lines of the year's cyber incidents to reveal what is changing, what keeps recurring, and what it all signals for the year ahead.

13:15 – 14:00

Lunch

Food, conversation and the chance to meet the people behind the ideas.

14:00 – 14:30

Spotlight: Space and Cyber

Far above us, a largely unseen infrastructure keeps modern life running, and it is increasingly exposed. This spotlight charts where one of security's most remarkable frontiers stands today, and why its resilience is felt so close to home.

14:30 – 15:15

Data Sovereignty: Taking Back Control

Where does data actually live, who can reach it, and what happens when that access is suddenly withdrawn? This session lays bare the risks and considerations businesses need to make.

15:15 – 15:30

Comfort Break

A short interval before the day's final sessions.

15:30 – 16:00

Defend Your Digital Identity

While attention fixes on the most visible threats, identity remains the quiet weak point of cyber resilience. Through real-world examples, this session reveals how easily it is exploited, and the practical steps that keep it secure.

16:00 – 17:00

From Opportunity to Action

National security is not the preserve of government and the largest contractors. It belongs to businesses, universities, investors, educators and individuals alike. The day closes by asking the question that matters most: how does opportunity become action? In collaboration with Business Insights.

ALSO ON – SEPARATE TICKET

11:00 – 13:00 • Hub8 MX, Cheltenham

CyNam & Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade Roundtable

A curated roundtable exploring a practical question: as world-class technology capability lands in the county, how do everyday businesses tap into it to grow and stay resilient? A focused conversation bringing together the businesses who could benefit, the experts who can help, and the partners shaping the county's future.

14:30 – 15:30 • Hub8 MX, Cheltenham

Ctrl+Z: What Happens When Cyber Goes Wrong

Not prevention, but what happens after something goes wrong, told as a real-time story. A fictional but painfully realistic cyber incident hits a Gloucestershire tech company; at each decision point the audience votes and the legal and commercial consequences are revealed. Hosted by HCR Law.

17:30 – 21:00 • Patch, The Forum, Gloucester

Tech Tribe Gloucester: Cyber Security for MSPs & IT Service Providers

An evening of peer networking, knowledge sharing and discussion for Gloucestershire's MSPs, IT service providers and technology channel professionals, with guest speakers on current cyber security challenges plus the regular roundtable session.

DAY 03 · WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2026

Curiosity

FuturePark, Park Campus, University of Gloucestershire · New ideas, new talent, and the research and collaboration behind them.

[BOOK WEDNESDAY DAY PASS £10 →](#) [ALL-ACCESS PASS £30 →](#)

09:00 – 09:15

Registration

Arrive, take a coffee and settle in for a day devoted to curiosity.

09:15 – 10:15

The Entrepreneur Within

Entrepreneurship is too often seen as the domain of startup founders. In truth, it thrives in lecture halls, community groups, government departments and global corporations alike. What it really means to think and act entrepreneurially, wherever you happen to work. Event partner: Wynne-Jones.

10:15 – 11:15

Why Businesses Should Prioritise Neuroinclusion

Awareness is growing, but action is lagging behind. This session moves past the buzzwords to ask the honest questions, and to explore what neuroinclusion really looks like in practice.

11:15 – 11:45

Coffee Break

A pause between sessions and a chance to continue the conversation.

11:45 – 12:45

Approaches to Innovation

Innovation is often spoken of as a destination. This session is about the journey: the cultural shifts, the methods and the messy realities of daring to do things differently.

12:45 – 13:45

Community Lunch

Food, conversation and the chance to meet the people behind the ideas.

13:45 – 14:15

The Science of High-Performing Teams

Drawing on the neuroscience of how people work, communicate and perform together, this session reveals what sets the best teams apart, and the lessons any organisation can put to work.

14:15 – 15:00

Making Social Value Real

Social value is now a core expectation, yet the gap between intent and delivery remains wide. Often dismissed as complex or only for large organisations, it is far more achievable than it seems. How to make it part of everyday work, whatever your size.

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee Break

A short interval before the day's final session.

15:30 – 17:00

Question Time

The questions are set by the CyNam community, and the answers come from the panel and the audience. The day closes with a lively, topical debate where every voice in the room has a stake.

ALSO ON – SEPARATE TICKET

08:30 – 11:00 • Mirari, 8 Imperial
Square, Cheltenham

Breaking into Cyber Security

"I'm not technical enough for cyber security." "I'm too old to start my career again." "I want to change careers after having children." If any of these sound familiar, this fringe event hosted by Origin8tive is for you. Separate ticket required.

[Artificial] Intelligence

Patch, The Forum, Gloucester · A day examining the technology reshaping how we live and work.

BOOK THURSDAY DAY PASS £10 → ALL-ACCESS PASS £30 →

09:00 – 09:15

Registration

Arrive, take a coffee and settle in for a day exploring intelligence, artificial and otherwise.

09:15 – 09:45

Opening Keynote

Our day sponsor Zaizi opens proceedings, setting the scene for a day spent examining the technology reshaping how we live and work.

09:45 – 10:45

Power, Politics and AI

No technology arrives in a vacuum, and AI is no exception. It is being built inside existing systems of power and politics, shaped by them and increasingly reshaping them in return. What that means for who holds influence in the years ahead.

10:45 – 11:15

Coffee Break

A pause between sessions and a chance to continue the conversation.

11:15 – 11:45

Fireside Chat: AI Security

AI is moving faster than the defences built around it. A candid conversation on what it takes to keep AI systems secure, the new risks the technology brings, and where the real vulnerabilities lie.

11:45 – 12:30

The Security Gap in AI-Generated Code

More and more of the world's code is now written by AI, and a blind spot is growing alongside it. This session looks for the vulnerabilities hiding in plain sight and asks what developers and organisations must do before they surface.

12:45 – 13:30

Lunch

Food, conversation and the chance to meet the people behind the ideas.

13:30 – 14:00

AI for Good: Local Success Stories

For all the talk of risk, AI is already changing lives for the better, and some of the best examples are right here. Local stories of technology put to genuinely good use, and what they reveal about the difference AI can make when applied with care.

14:00 – 14:30

AI Research Showcase Spotlight

Some of the most promising uses of AI are being pioneered on our doorstep. This spotlight shines a light on the research and ideas pushing the technology forward, and what they could mean for the world around us.

14:30 – 15:30

AI & Ethics

In the rush to adopt AI, some questions are too easily skipped. From the impact on people and jobs to the environmental cost, this session confronts the ethical considerations no organisation can afford to overlook.

15:30 – 15:45

Comfort Break

A short interval before the day's final sessions.

15:45 – 16:45

AI and the Skills Landscape

It is easy to cast AI as something that happens to the workforce. In reality, people decide how it is built, adopted and used. What that means for the skills we need and the careers of tomorrow.

16:45 – 17:00

Closing Keynote

Special guest TBC. The day closes with a keynote that draws its threads together and looks to what comes next.

ALSO ON – SEPARATE TICKET

10:00 – 12:00 • Patch, Gloucester

Copilot 101: The basics of learning Copilot for charities

A practical introduction to Microsoft Copilot for charities that want to save time and work more efficiently. No experience needed, and nothing to buy. Led by Graham Hoskings, Senior AI Business Solutions Engineer at Microsoft. Organised by Tech4Good South West.

13:30 – 14:30 • Patch, Gloucester

AI Ate My Contract: A Survival Guide to Doing Deals in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Practical, no-jargon guidance on the commercial and contractual issues every tech business needs to get right, including who owns what AI creates and how to handle IP when your product trains on or generates content. Hosted by HCR Law.

14:30 – 15:30 • Patch, Gloucester

Vibe Coding Workshop

A hands-on workshop on the new way to build with AI. Describe what you want, and watch it come to life, no deep coding background required. Hosted by The Ideas Agency.

17:00 – 18:00 • Hub8 MX, Cheltenham

Building AI-based Products: Cheltenham Data Science, Machine Learning and AI Meetup

Three short tech talks from Gloucestershire AI companies. Chaired by Prof Gaven Smith, with talks from Simon Smith (Ripjar), James Campbell (Nimbus) and Mark Adams (TrustGraph), followed by networking with the speakers.

DAY 05 · FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026

Opportunity

Gloucester · The week closes on what comes next, and who it is for.

09:00 – 15:30

EmPower 2026

A high-energy, hands-on introduction to the world of tech and cyber for young people. There's a special focus on opening doors for those who too often don't see themselves in it.

ALSO ON – SEPARATE TICKET

12:00 – 14:00 · HCR Law, Cheltenham

How Not to Lose Your Company in 10 Steps

A light-hearted but genuinely practical countdown of the ten most common ways founders accidentally give away control of, or sink, their own company. Each step is delivered with a real-world story (anonymised) and a one-line takeaway. Hosted by HCR Law.

BEYOND THE WEEK

The seven national challenges will not be solved in five days. Twelve ways to act on them after the week ends, from mentoring and building skills to investing and starting something new, are set out at glostechweek.co.uk/beyond-the-week.