CLAIMS

1. An access control method for a car park with the following steps:

   ascertaining a character string on a registration number of a vehicle using an image processing device (4, 6, 8);

   reading a credential using a reading device (12), wherein the credential is assigned to a user of the vehicle and has a feature identifying the user;

   determining whether the feature identifying the user is present in a user database (4); and

   linking the ascertained character string with the feature identifying the user using the user database (4) if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4), in order thus to register the registration number of the vehicle as belonging to the user.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising clearance for entry into the car park if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4).

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising clearance for entry into the car park if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4) and established eligibility criteria are met.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the eligibility criteria include a parking permit assigned to the user, a maximum number of vehicles assigned to

the user, a parking time assigned to the user and/or permitted types of vehicle.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising clearance for entry into the car park if the ascertained character string is assigned to a registered user.

6. The method according to claim 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the clearance for entry comprises the opening of a barrier (14).

7. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the reading of the credential comprises reading out an identification number stored on an RFID card (6), which represents the feature identifying the user, or wherein the reading of the credential comprises the detection of a barcode present on a carrier, wherein the barcode represents the feature identifying the user.

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising blocking entry into the car park if neither the registration number nor the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4).

9. The method according to any one of claims 1-7, further comprising blocking entry into the car park if established eligibility criteria are not met.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the established eligibility criteria include a parking permit assigned to the user, a maximum number of vehicles assigned to the user, a parking time assigned to the user and permitted types of vehicle.

11. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising registration of the registration number in the user database (4) as belonging to the user if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4).

12. An access control system (1) for a car park, wherein entry is controlled by a barrier (14), comprising:

an image processing device (4, 6, 8) for ascertaining a character string on a registration number of a vehicle;

a reading device (12) for reading a credential (9), which is assigned to a user of the vehicle and has a feature identifying the user;

a control unit (2), which is coupled for communication purposes with the image processing device (4, 6, 8) and the reading device (12),

wherein the control unit (2) is designed to determine whether the feature identifying the user is present in a user database (4);

and

wherein the control unit (2) is designed to link the ascertained character string with the feature identifying the user if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4), in order thus to register the registration number of the vehicle as belonging to the user.

13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising a terminal (10), which comprises the reading device (12) and an operator panel (13).

14. The system according to any one of claims 12-13, wherein the image processing device (4, 6, 8) comprises a digital camera (8), a number plate computer (6) and the user database (4).

15. The system according to any one of claims 12-14, wherein the credential is an RFID card (9), on which an identification number is stored, which represents the feature identifying the user, or wherein the credential is a carrier with a barcode present thereon, wherein information coded by the barcode represents the feature identifying the user.

CLAIMS

1. An access control method for a car park with the following steps:

ascertaining a character string on a registration number of a vehicle using an image processing device (4, 6, 8);

reading a credential using a reading device (12), wherein the credential is assigned to a user of the vehicle and has a feature identifying the user;

determining whether the feature identifying the user is present in a user database (4); and

linking the ascertained character string with the feature identifying the user using the user database (4) if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4), in order thus to register the registration number of the vehicle as belonging to the user.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising clearance for entry into the car park if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4).

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising clearance for entry into the car park if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4) and established eligibility criteria are met.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the eligibility criteria include a parking permit assigned to the user, a maximum number of vehicles assigned to

the user, a parking time assigned to the user and/or permitted types of vehicle.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising clearance for entry into the car park if the ascertained character string is assigned to a registered user.

6. The method according to claim 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the clearance for entry comprises the opening of a barrier (14).

7. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the reading of the credential comprises reading out an identification number stored on an RFID card (6), which represents the feature identifying the user, or wherein the reading of the credential comprises the detection of a barcode present on a carrier, wherein the barcode represents the feature identifying the user.

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising blocking entry into the car park if neither the registration number nor the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4).

9. The method according to any one of claims 1-7, further comprising blocking entry into the car park if established eligibility criteria are not met.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the established eligibility criteria include a parking permit assigned to the user, a maximum number of vehicles assigned to the user, a parking time assigned to the user and permitted types of vehicle.

11. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising registration of the registration number in the user database (4) as belonging to the user if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4).

12. An access control system (1) for a car park, wherein entry is controlled by a barrier (14), comprising:

an image processing device (4, 6, 8) for ascertaining a character string on a registration number of a vehicle;

a reading device (12) for reading a credential (9), which is assigned to a user of the vehicle and has a feature identifying the user;

a control unit (2), which is coupled for communication purposes with the image processing device (4, 6, 8) and the reading device (12),

wherein the control unit (2) is designed to determine whether the feature identifying the user is present in a user database (4);

and

wherein the control unit (2) is designed to link the ascertained character string with the feature identifying the user if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database (4), in order thus to register the registration number of the vehicle as belonging to the user.

13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising a terminal (10), which comprises the reading device (12) and an operator panel (13).

14. The system according to any one of claims 12-13, wherein the image processing device (4, 6, 8) comprises a digital camera (8), a number plate computer (6) and the user database (4).

15. The system according to any one of claims 12-14, wherein the credential is an RFID card (9), on which an identification number is stored, which represents the feature identifying the user, or wherein the credential is a carrier with a barcode present thereon, wherein information coded by the barcode represents the feature identifying the user.