CLAIMS

1. An access control method for registering a vehicle contemporaneously with entry of the vehicle into a car park comprising the following steps:
ascertaining a character string on a registration number of a vehicle entering the car park using an image processing device;
reading a credential using a reading device, 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; and
updating the user database to link the ascertained character string with the feature identifying the user if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database , in order to register the ascertained character string to indicate the vehicle as being associated with the user.

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

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

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the one or more eligibility criteria include at least one of a parking permit assigned to the user, a maximum number of vehicles assigned to the user, a parking time assigned to the user or permitted types of vehicle.

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

6. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein the granting clearance for entry comprises the opening of a barrier.

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, 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 displayed registration number nor the feature identifying the user is present in the user database.

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

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the one or more 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. An access control system for registering a vehicle contemporaneously with entry of the vehicle into a car park, wherein entry is controlled by a barrier, the system comprising:
an image processing device for ascertaining a character string corresponding to a registration number of a vehicle entering into the car park;
a reading device for reading a credential ,which is assigned to a user of the vehicle and has a feature identifying the user; and
a control unit ,which is coupled for communication purposes with the image processing device and the reading device , wherein the control unit is designed to determine whether the feature identifying the user is present in a user database ; and
wherein the control unit is designed to update the user database to link the ascertained character string with the feature identifying the user if the feature identifying the user is present in the user database , in order thus to register the ascertained character string to indicate the vehicle as being associated with the user.

12. The system according to claim 11, further comprising a terminal, which comprises the reading device and an operator panel .

13. The system according to claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the image processing device comprises a digital camera, a number plate computer and the user database.

14. The system according to any one of claims 11-13, wherein the credential is an RFID card, 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.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

reading, by a controlled lift installation, the credential and using the read credential to set a destination floor for the user;

determining a story in the car park associated with the user based on the read credential; and

storing in the user database the user's car park story as a temporary destination location associated with the user.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

at a subsequent time, reading the credential and if the temporary destination location associated with the user is present in the user database, transporting the user to the car park story associated with the temporary destination location; and

resetting the temporary destination location associated with the user after the user's vehicle is detected as exiting the car park.

17. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

a controlled lift installation configured to read the credential and using the read credential to set a destination floor for the user;

the control unit further configured to determine a story in the car park associated with the user based on the read credential; and

the control unit further configured to store in the user database the user's car park story as a temporary destination location associated with the user.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

the controlled lift installation further configured to, at a subsequent time, read the credential and if the temporary destination location associated with the user is present in the user database, transporting the user to the car park story associated with the temporary destination location; and

the control unit further configured to reset the temporary destination location associated with the user after the user's vehicle is detected as exiting the car park.