

GUIDANCE ON TEMPORARY CAR PARKS



A guide for landowners in the Mendip Hills AONB for the creation of temporary car parks

GUIDANCE NOTE 3/2021



The Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership anticipate that as, and when COVID19 restrictions are lifted, that there will be a surge in numbers of visitors to the AONB wanting to experience the natural beauty of this protected landscape.

Whilst the Mendip Hills AONB Partnership wish to encourage the use of public transport, and modes of sustainable transport such as cycling, there will inevitably be an increase of visitors driving to the AONB.

Managing the influx of visitors comes with many challenges but also opportunities, e.g. providing a car park at peak visitor periods could provide a landowner with an income and help disperse the large numbers of visitors expected.

This document outlines what you need to know about setting up a temporary car park.

Do I need planning permission to set up a temporary car park?

To set up a car park for a temporary period less than 28 days in any calendar year, you may not need planning permission or a licence, as long as you follow the information here.

Please let your local planning authority know if you are proposing a temporary car park. They can provide further guidance.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/planning>

https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/planning_online

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/planning-building-control>

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/planning>

Things to Consider

Setting up a temporary car park does bring responsibilities and you will need to consider the following - make sure:

- The site is not within the grounds of a building. If it is, please contact your local planning authority
- The site is within easy access of the road

- If the land is designated for conservation importance (e.g. SSSI, SAC, SPA) and/or in an agri-environment scheme agreement you will need to contact your Natural England Land Management Adviser. You can use this map to check <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> for land designations
- Once the temporary use of the car park is over, can the land be returned to the same condition as it was before car parking took place?
- You own or have permission to use the land

Next, you will need to consider:

- Public Liability Insurance cover
- How you will marshal the parking arrangements
- Ensuring those neighbouring the site are aware of your plans
- Which roads visitors will need to access your car park; some road access is likely to be severely restricted
- Whether there is safe access in and out of the site for cars and pedestrians allowing access for emergency vehicles
- Undertaking a Risk Assessment of the site to identify and remedy any health and safety issues

Please be aware:

- That vehicles can significantly damage grass when the ground is wet
- Problematic fluids can leak from vehicles on to grasslands that may affect grazing animals afterwards
- Any new hard surface may require planning permission

For more details on the Mendip Hills AONB please contact us on:

01761 462338, or email mendiphills@somerset.gov.uk
