

Blue Badge Scheme

If you receive the highest rate of mobility component of **DLA** benefit, then you should automatically qualify for a Blue Badge.

If you don't receive it, or are not on the highest rate of mobility component, then you may still register for a Blue Badge via your local Social Services, to assist with parking close to shops and in disabled parking bays etc. This is especially useful when making hospital visits, in being able to park closer to the entrance, or when using large car parks.

The forms may be obtained from your local **Social Services**, but once completed, should be sent to **Hampshire County Council** Head Offices in Winchester, where the scheme is administered.

In addition, other **Council pay and display car parks**, are often free to the disabled. Always check the meter & display board with the rates, but so far, the vast majority of car parks that I have used are free to the disabled.

Current deliberate exceptions that I am aware of are:

Some Central **Havant Council** car parks.

2 Central **Fareham** lifting barrier entry car parks.

New Forest District Council car parks, unless the car is exempt from Road Fund Licence (Car Tax).

Southampton West Quay multi storey car parks.

Those Blue Badge holders living within **Fareham Borough**, may obtain a swipe card from **Fareham Civic Centre**, which allows them free parking. If hiring a mobility scooter from **Fareham Shopmobility** located in the multi storey car park, you can request from them a one time only swipe exit card, which also ensures free parking.

Always display your Blue Badge when occupying a parking space.

The Blue Badge is only to be used when the person to whom it applies, has been transported in the vehicle and has left the vehicle.

For example, the person to whom the Blue Badge applies, can not just sit in the vehicle, in an otherwise prohibited area, whilst somebody else leaves the vehicle to visit a chemist in order to collect a prescription for them. The Blue Badge is a device to increase accessibility for the holder and for nobody else.

Blue Badge Holders may park free of charge and without time limit at parking meters, on street and “pay-and-display” on-street parking. They may also park for up to 3 hours on single and double yellow lines, during times when loading and unloading is permitted except **Portsmouth** and **Southsea** town centres (look for the signs!).

The Blue Badge is not a licence to park anywhere. The restrictions applying to where you must not park are sensible and only courteous to other road users. For a summary of regulations of where one may and may not park, please see the Appendix Blue Badge Regulations Summary at the back of this guide.

The national concessions apply only to on-street parking.

Therefore, it should be noted that local councils and organisations may often have specific variations to their rules and regulations for parking for Blue Badge Holders. Therefore, you are always advised to check the car park display board. For more information and help in Hampshire on the Blue Badge Scheme, contact:

Hampshire County Council,
The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UJ

Tel: 01962 845 117

Fax: n/a

Email:

blue.badge@hants.gov.uk

Web Site:

www.hants.gov.uk

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a. Blue Badge Road Atlas

There is now a UK Road Atlas, customised for Blue Badge Holders, showing all Blue Badge parking locations, as well as local variations in parking regulations and concessions.

It is called the Gowrings Mobility UK Road Atlas and is available for £12.99 + £3.99 p+p from **PIE Enterprises Ltd**,

They accept payment by cheque made payable to **PIE Enterprises**. Alternatively, it may be ordered over the telephone, or online with a credit card.

PIE Enterprises Ltd, The Bridge, 12-16 Clerkenwell Road,
London, EC1M 5PQ.

Tel: 0870 444 5435

Web Site:

www.parkingforbluebadges.com

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b. Online Blue Badge Map

There is a new government launched website that currently has listed on it over 60 towns and cities around the country that provides locations of Blue Badge parking bays.

It is interactive in that it enables the user to enter their postcode or town and it also supplies details of any restrictions or special notices that apply to the parking bays.

Web Site: www.direct.gov.uk/bluebadgemap

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