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Is the Race for Space Replacing the Space Race?

The average British car spends about 80% of the time parked at home, is parked elsewhere for about 16% of the time and is therefore only actually in use, or moving, for the remaining 4% of the time.

However as there were 31.5 million cars registered in Britain at the end of 2018, that 16% adds up to a significant chunk of time that the nation's cars need to be parked.

On average, the RAC says that each person in the country makes some 400 one-way trips per year in a car, and with a population of a little over 60 million, this equates to nearly 25 billion car trips, each one requiring a parking space at one end, or both.

It is estimated that there are between 17,000 and 20,000 non-residential car parks in Great Britain, including those run by councils, commercial parking companies, shops, hospitals, businesses, railway stations and airports.

The vast majority, some 92% of these car parks are at ground level. The rest are multi-storey. Within this total, 42% of parking is free at the point of use (for example, that offered by supermarkets), whilst the balance is pay and display pay on entry or exit, or contract.

The total number of non-residential spaces in Great Britain is estimated at between 3 and 4 million. However, UK drivers spend an average of 44 hours a year searching for parking, at a cost of £733 each in wasted time, fuel and emissions, a total of £23.3 billion across the country.

Businesses and high streets bear the brunt of parking pain, as 40% of motorists reportedly avoid driving to shops due to problems finding parking space. Resolving this issue could provide an important boost for retail businesses.

UK drivers also pay £1.2 billion annually in parking fines. The number of parking tickets issued by car park management firms in Britain hit a record 5.65 million in 2017. The RAC Foundation says the number rose by almost 20% in a year and was far above levels of a decade ago.

It's estimated that councils expect to collect £885 million from parking fees this financial year, with that figure set to rise to £1 billion in 2019/2020.

The Osborne Siderpark car parking solution can help meet demand, reduce wasted time and money and help councils address increasing financial pressure through increasing car parking capacity in an easy and cost-efficient way.

