# Landscape Photography

Keith Truman

24th September 2019

# To be covered

- Some elements of Composition
  - Pete has big presentation on this 24th March 2020
- Importance of Light
- Taking the photo
- Processing
  - More on this 22nd October 2019
- Different types of Landscapes
  - Woodland
  - Cityscapes
  - Rivers and Streams
- Planning a shoot
- Lenses and Filters

Thanks for completing the survey everyone

# Some elements of Composition

- Use of Foreground interest
- Lead in Lines
- Rule of Thirds
- Simplicity

Not covered in detail……

- Camera Orientation
- Symmetry
- Separation

# Foreground Interest

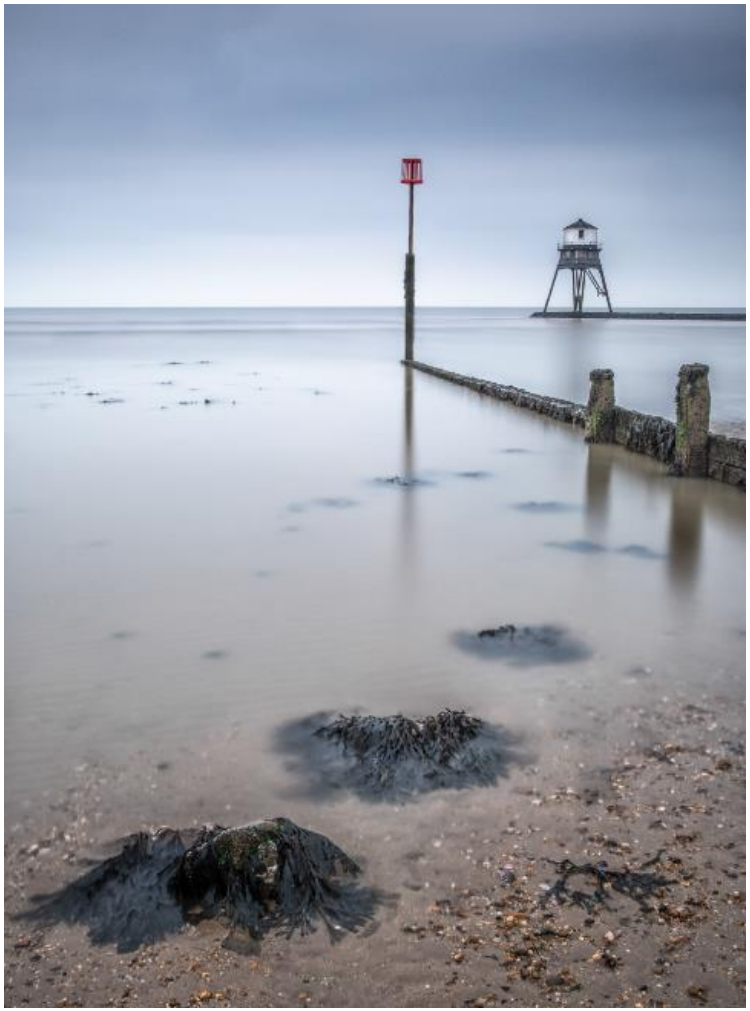
- Creates illusion of depth
- Provides an entry point for the eye
- Foreground does need to complement background to work well
- Shape, size, angle, colour of foreground all help to create a cohesive image
- Big blocks can block the view
- Height of tripod generally important

# Lead in Lines

- Helps composer take viewer into an image
- The eye naturally follows lines to an object
- Lines are everywhere in the landscape
- Importance of placement of lines in the frame

Tones and Textures
Entry Point
Lines

Tones and light
Foreground strengthens the composition



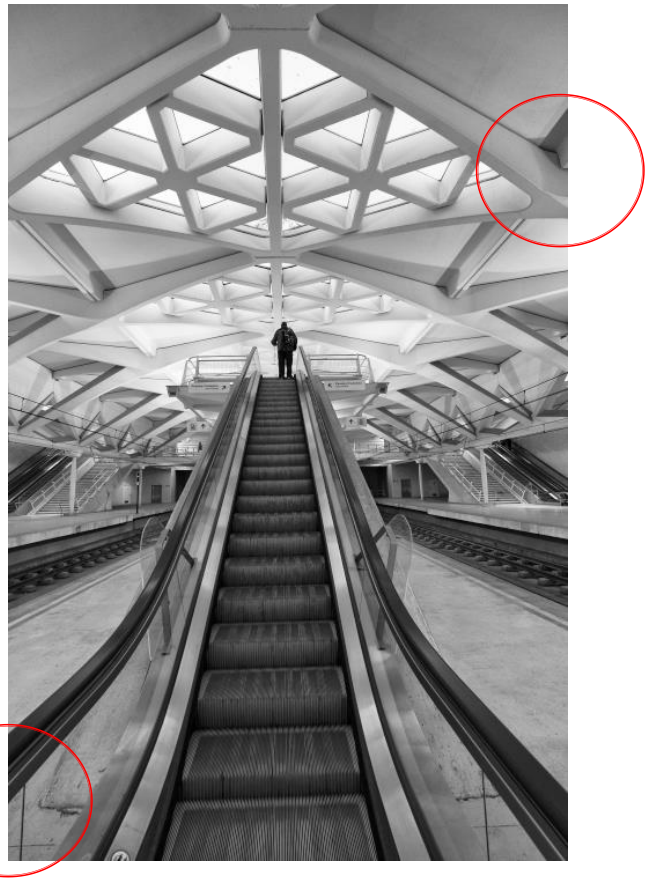
Complementary foreground textures
Lead in lines

Tones
Lead in

Streaks in sand very important

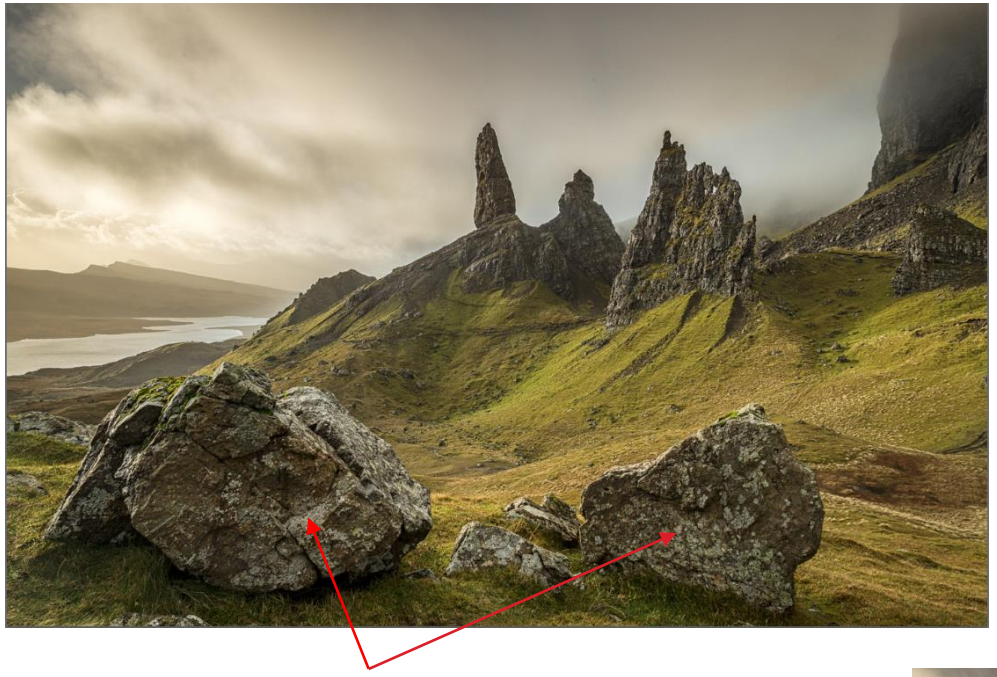
Lines can be curved too

# Crop for Symmetry



Raw

Processed



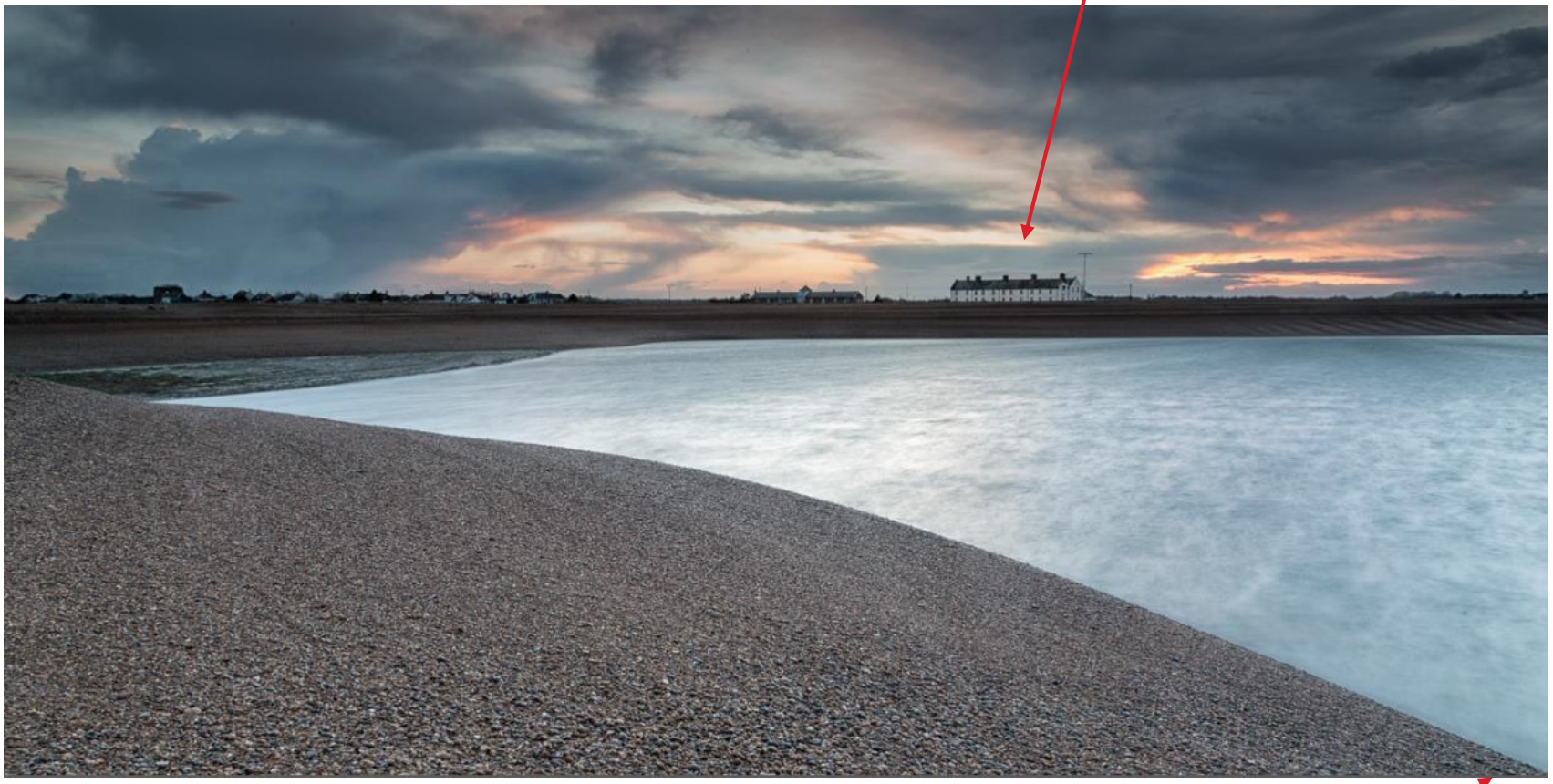
Blocked

Using movement to create lines

Rule of 1/3rds

1/3rd for sky

Buildings on 1/3rd



Lead In

Horizon on 1/3rd

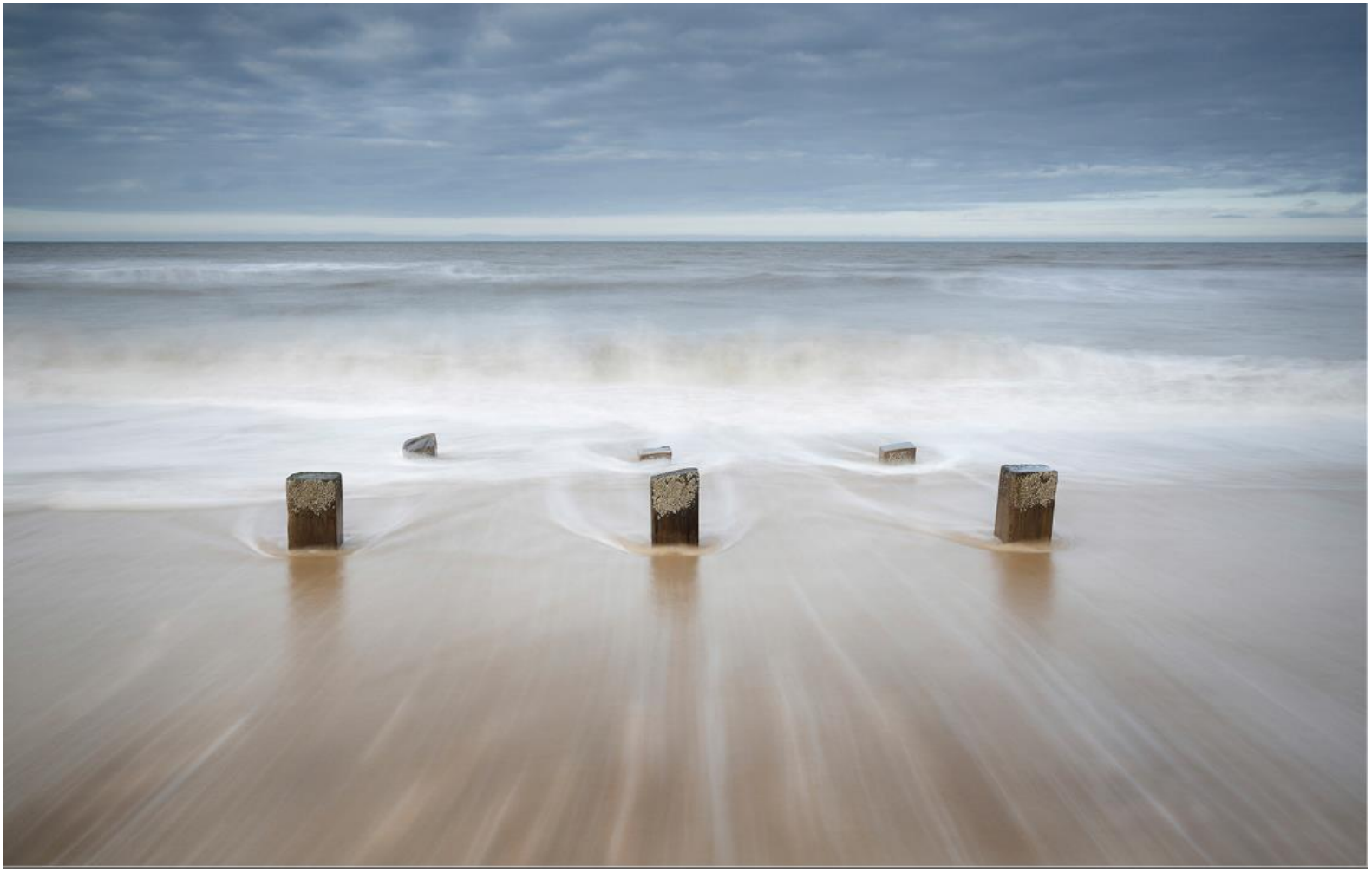
Cliff on 1/3rd

Lead in lines

Breaking the Rule of 1/3rds

# Simplicity

- Long exposures common but not mandatory
- Identify key elements, omit others
- Mist and fog are your friend
- Generally have a muted palette

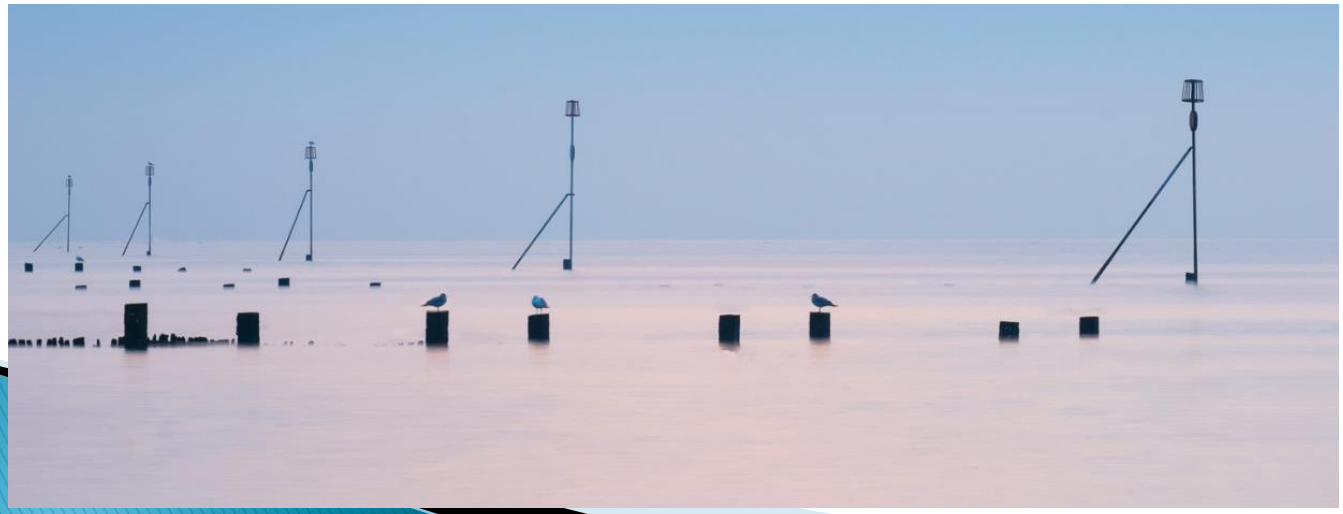


2 second exposure

15 secs

2.5 secs

Pastels



People in the Landscape

# Importance of Light

- Quality of light
  - Harsh light rarely yields good results
- Direction of light
  - Side light is our friend
  - Shooting into light possible but tricky
  - Overcast can be great
  - Silhouettes
- Low light and Night

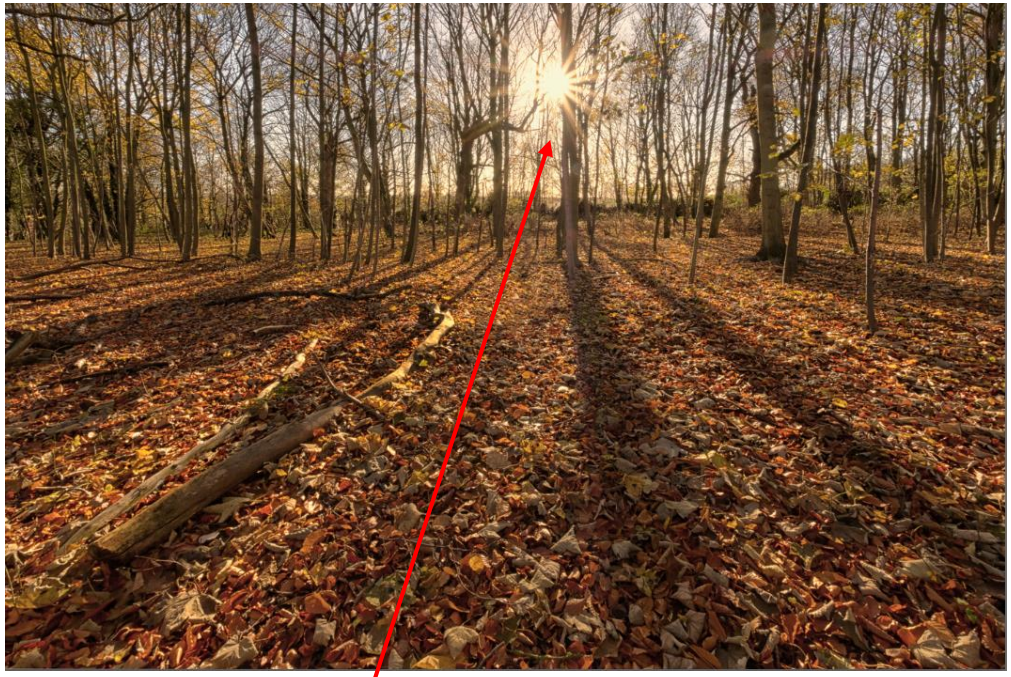
Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun

Big shadows
Contrasty

Low sun
Warmer tones
Side lighting

Light is King

2 unprocessed RAW
Files taken 2 minutes apart



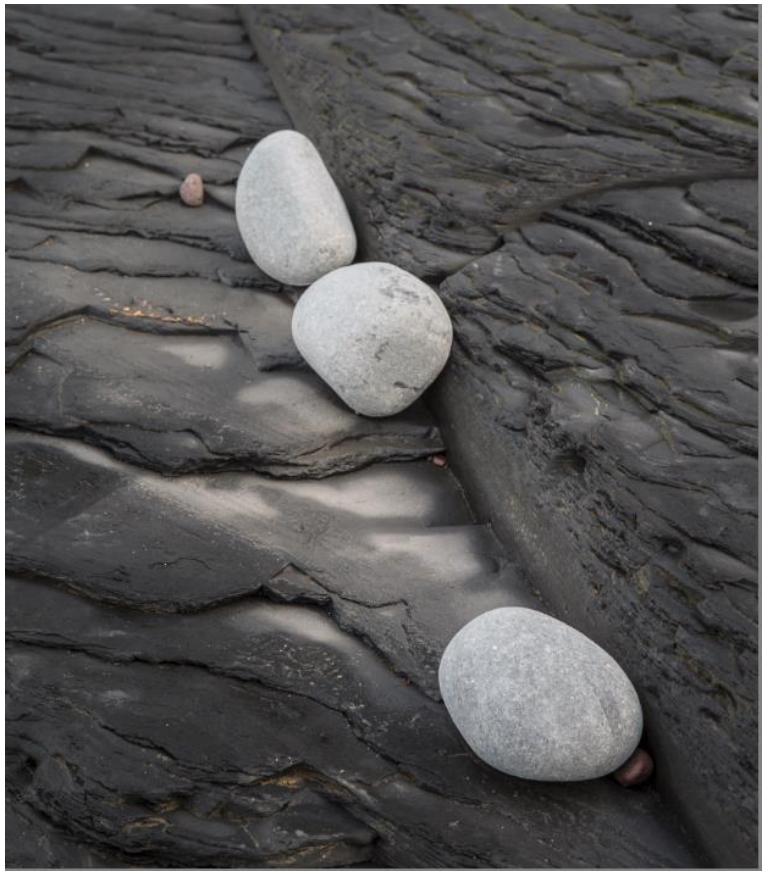
Shooting into the light

Using tree to shield the sun

Using clouds to shield the sun

Overcast
Stormy conditions
Fleeting sunlight

Overcast is perfect for waterfalls
Avoids burnt out highlights



In harsh light, concentrate on details in the landscape

Silhouettes

Allow highlights to blow

Expose for the sky

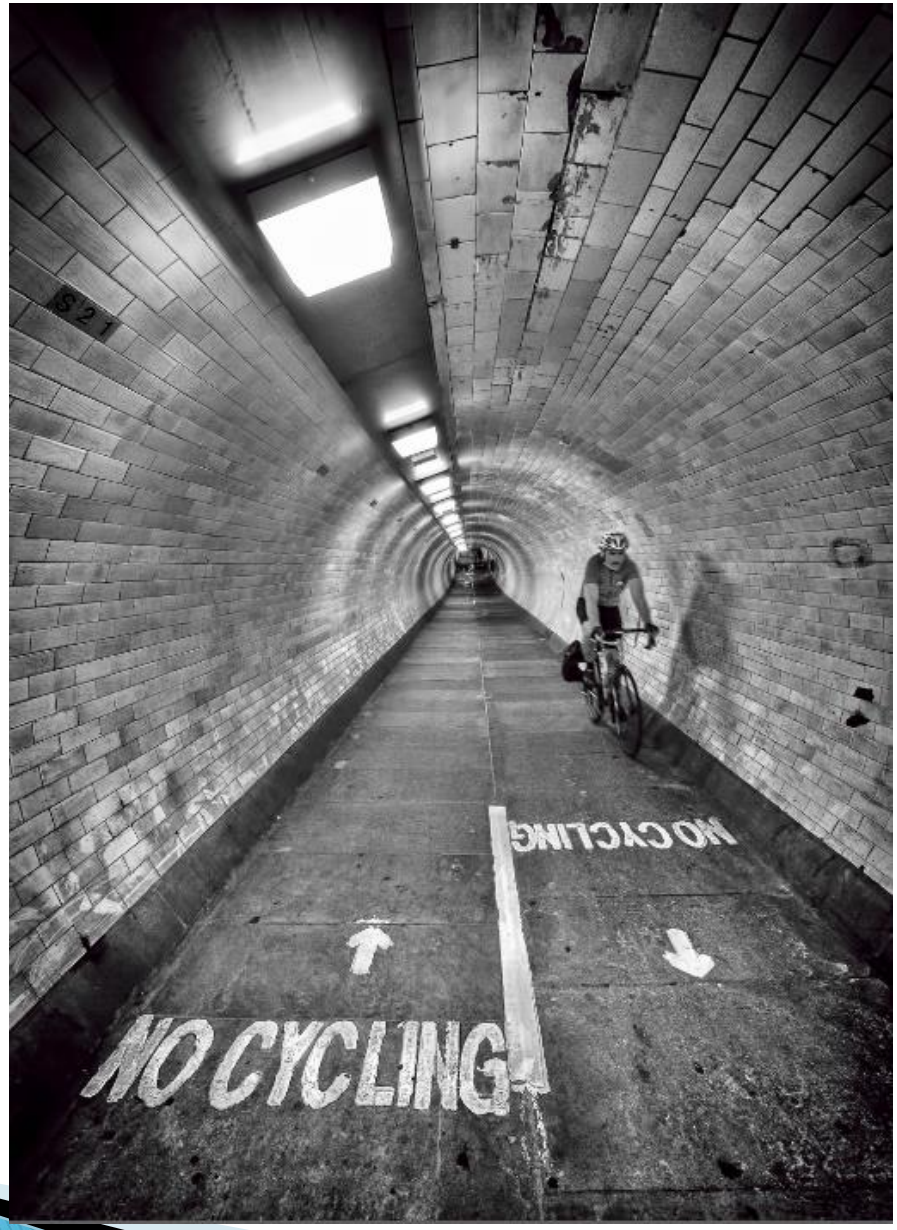
# Low light and Night

- Almost always on tripod
- Use aperture priority and let camera decide on shutter speed
- Light trails are always a favourite
- Fireworks
- Normal “rules” on composition still apply

25 secs; f16

5 secs; f13

10 Secs
Hope people don’t move
Shoots loads of images

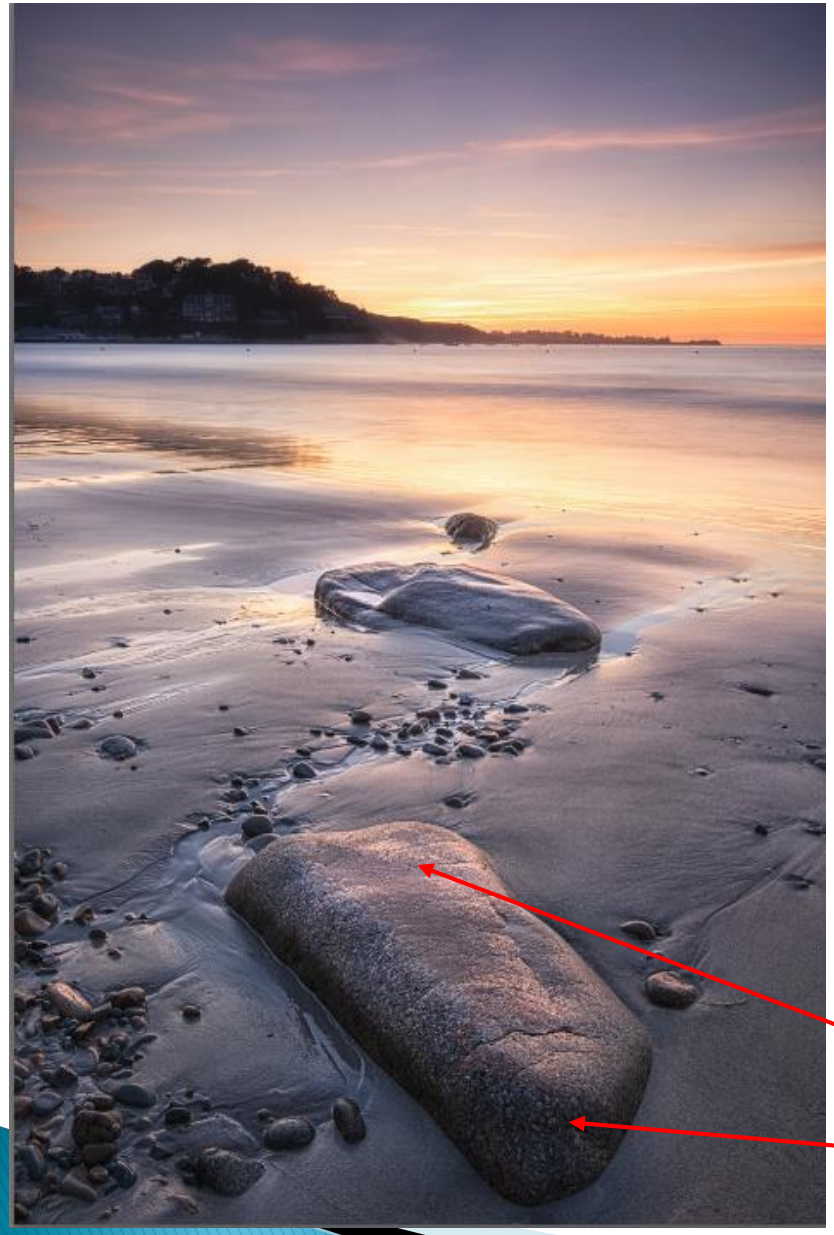



If you need a fast shutter speed, be bold with ISO

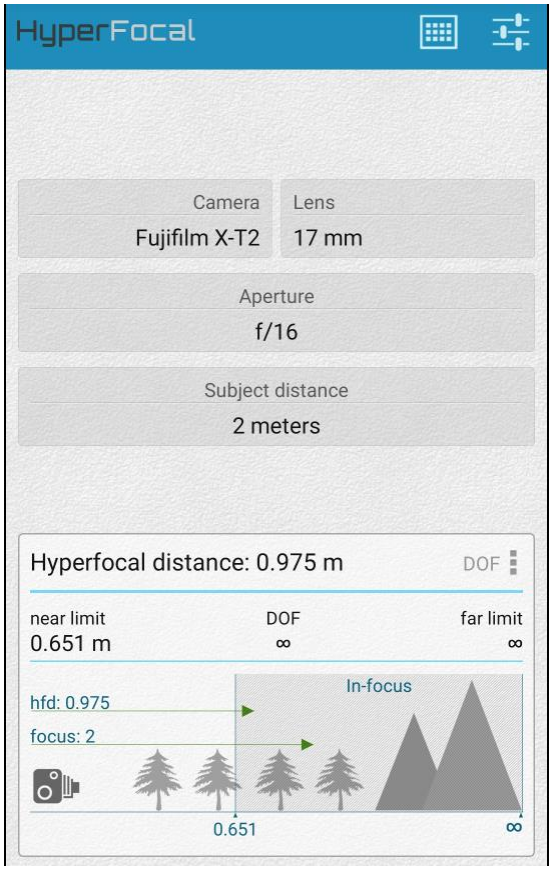
ISO 6400

# Taking the photo

- Importance of sharpness (where you need it)
  - Knowing when you can hand-hold and when you can't
  - Reciprocal Rule
    - 200mm lens; don't hand hold slower than 1/200$^{th}$ sec
    - 20mm lens; don't hand hold slower than 1/20$^{th}$ sec
- Importance of exposure
  - What is the "correct" exposure?



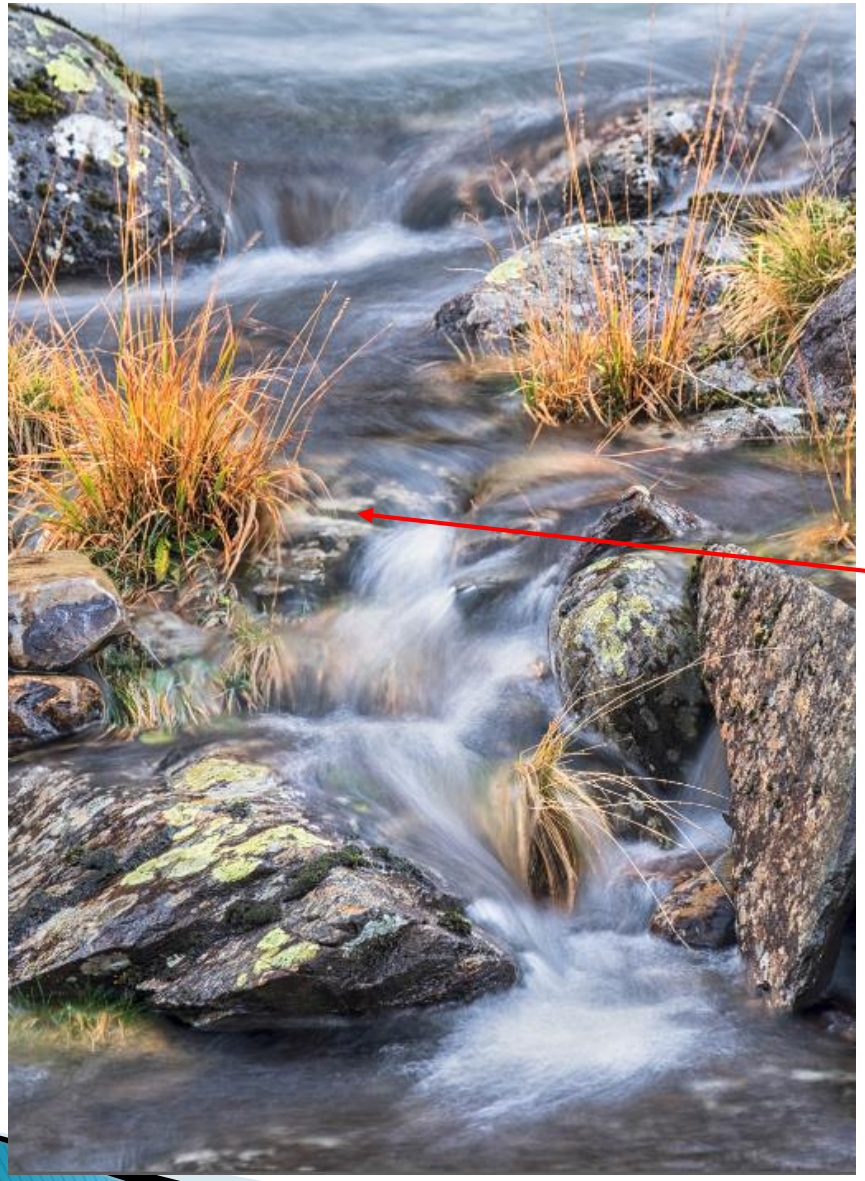
Landscapes generally characterised by front-to-back sharpness (wide angle)

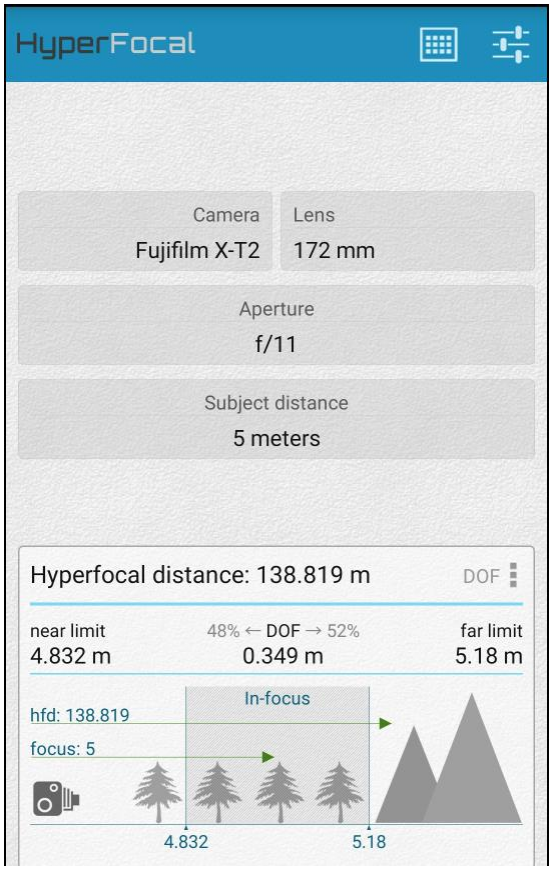



Focused here 2 m from lens

Front rock less than 1m from lens f16

# Mini landscape with telephoto lens

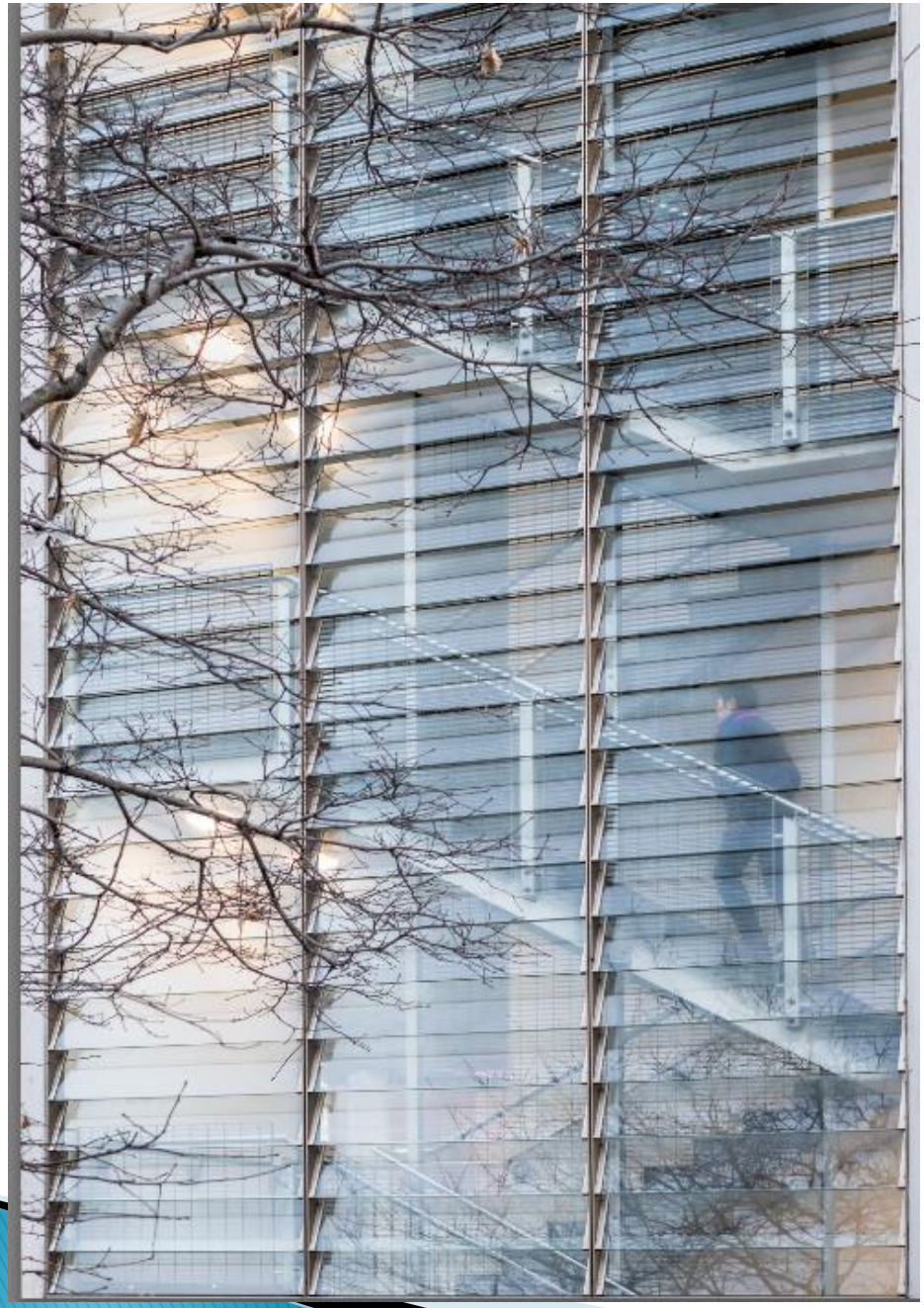



All in focus between 4.8m and 5.2m
Depth of field 0.35m even at f11

Sometimes front to back sharpness isn’t what you want

f4.0



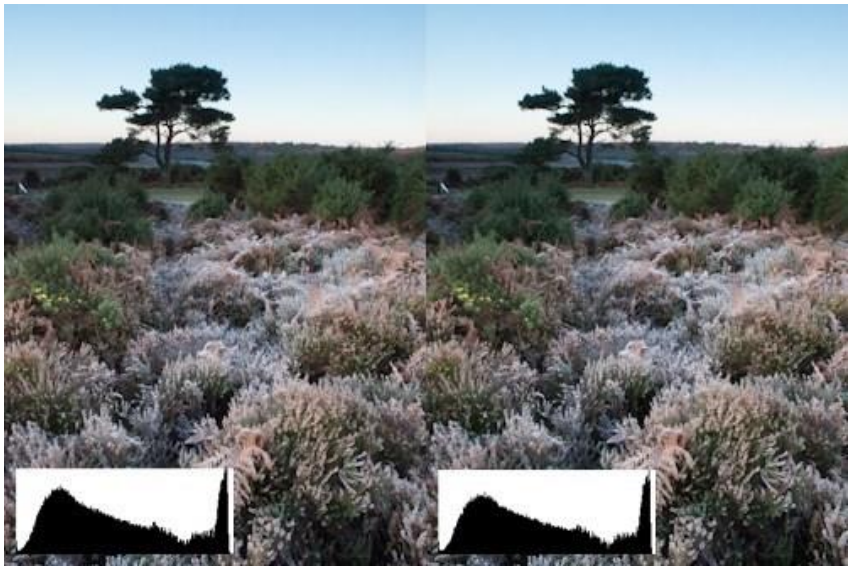
If the photo is all in the same plane then a wide aperture will work

f2.8

# Exposure

- Take shot then check histogram
  - Use exposure compensation if needed
- Take shot then check histogram
  - Use exposure compensation if needed
- etc

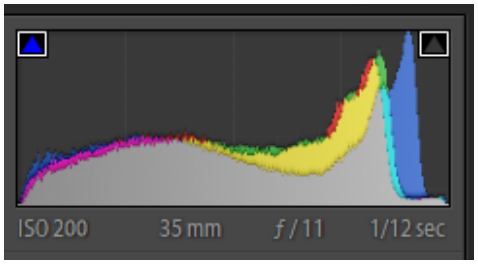
Underexposed shots can be brightened
but at expense of quality

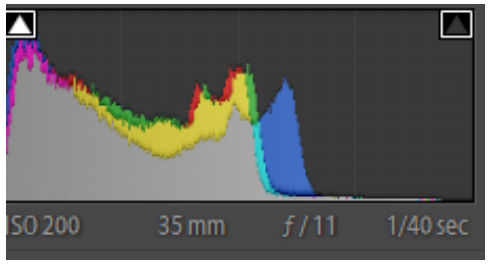


# Expose to the right

- Push histogram as far to right but without clipping highlights
  - Ensures more tonal information captured by sensor
  - Image can be darkened without loss of quality

More noise in shadows




Underexposed shot lightened by 2 stops to be Equivalent exposure

F11; 1/12th

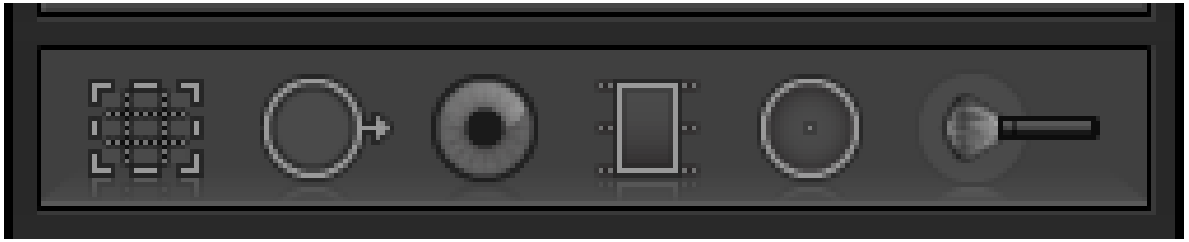
F11; 1/40th

Perfect exposure. Exposed to the right but no clipping

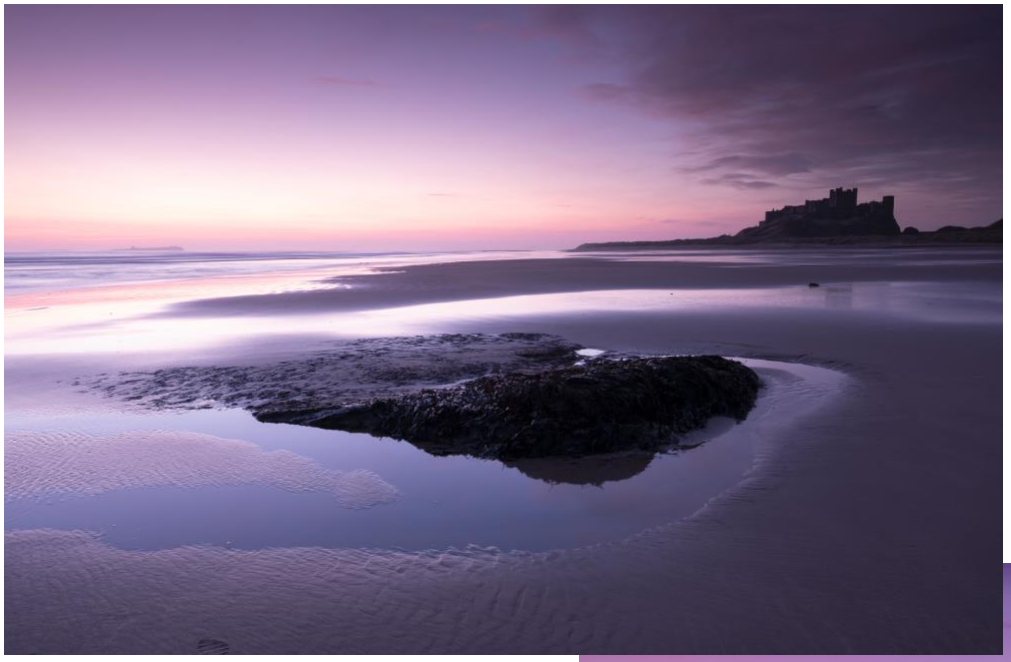
# Processing

Good processing will not turn a poor image into a great image but may turn a good image into a great image

- Secret is to focus much more on local adjustments once global adjustments done

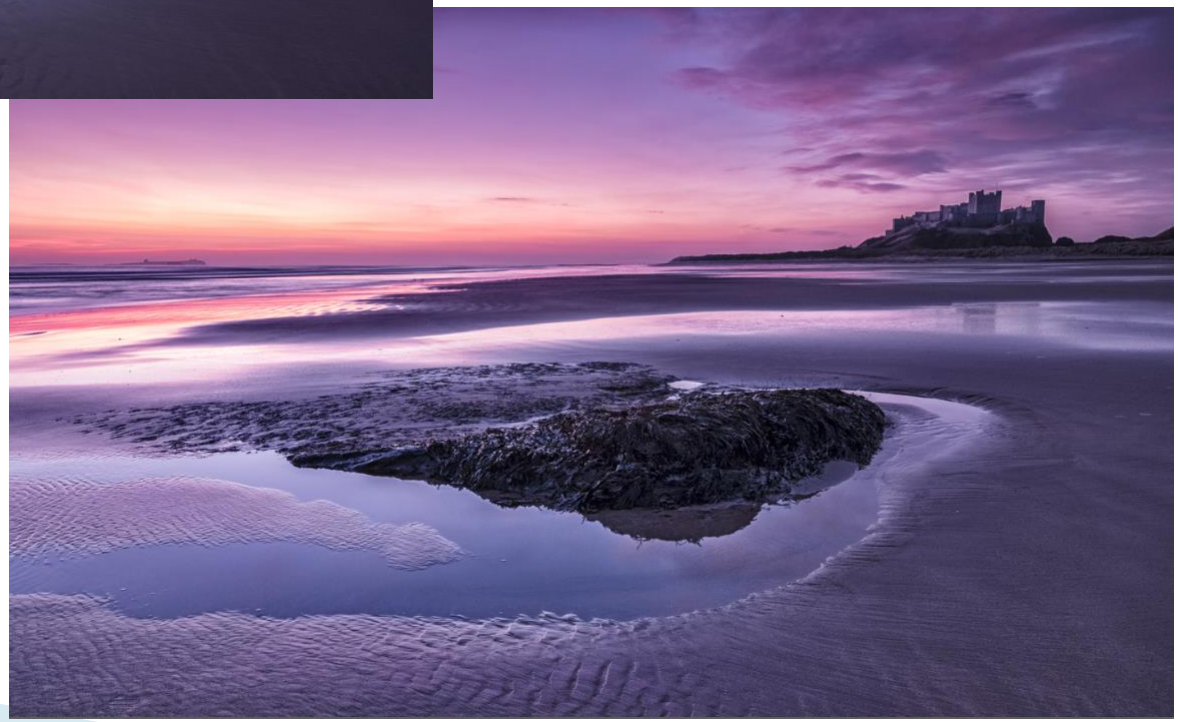


Gradient Tool
Radial filter
Adjustment Brush



Raw File

Processed file



Raw File

Processed file

Raw File

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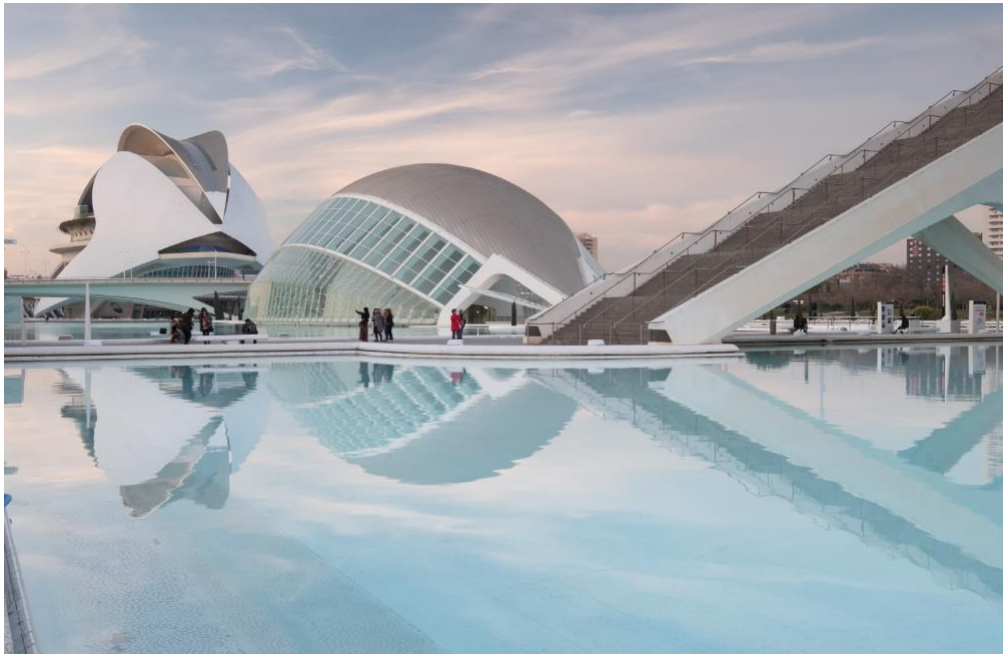
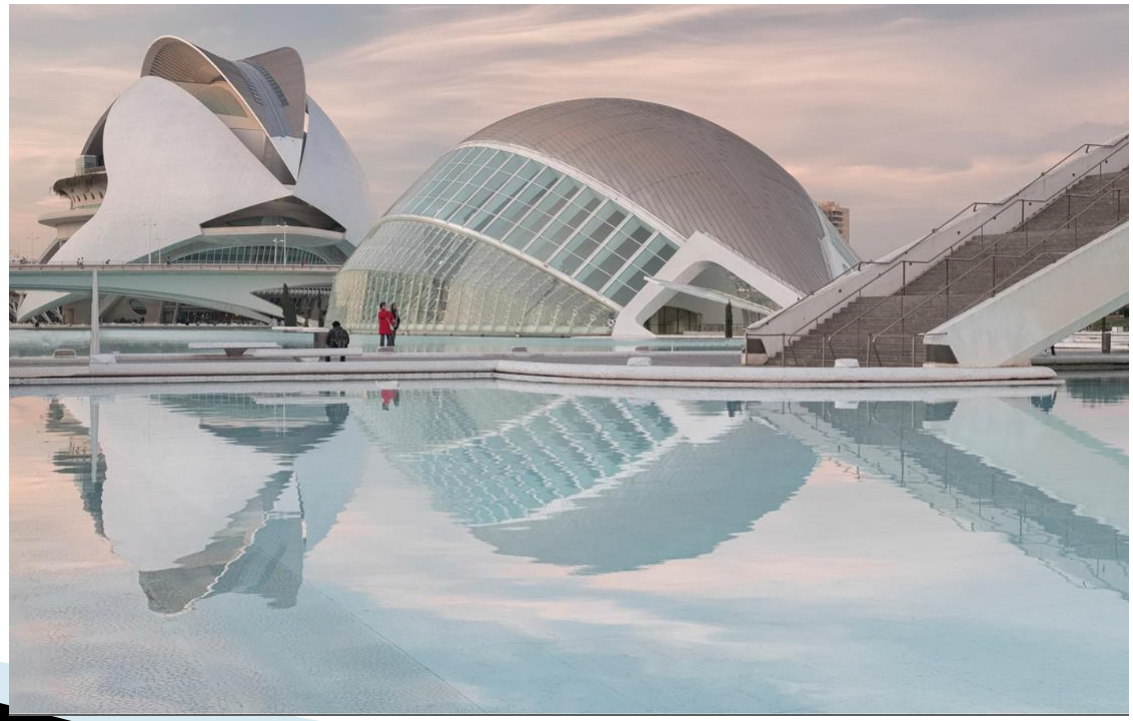


Raw File

Crop
Taking out figures
Moving lady in red
Cleaning bottom left

Processed file



Raw File

Processed file

# Different types of Landscapes

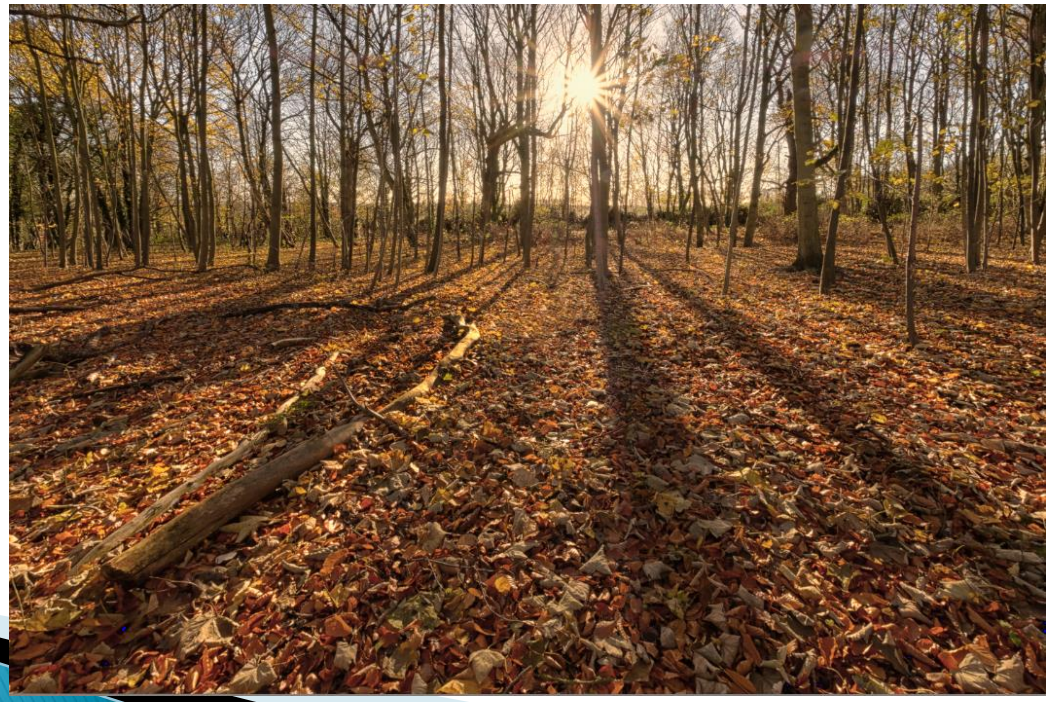
- Woodland
  - Overcast and flat lighting is great
  - Woodland photography is very difficult due to chaos
  - Using telephoto helps
    - Concentrate on simple elements
  - Having sky in image creates dynamic range issues
  - Mist, fog and rain is perfect
  - Gaussian blur to make “mystical”

# Coping with high dynamic range in Woodland

Std Exposure

+2 stops

-2 stops



# Cityscapes

- What can you do that hasn't been done before??
- People in the landscape
- Adverse weather conditions (rain, sleet and snow)
- Interesting processing

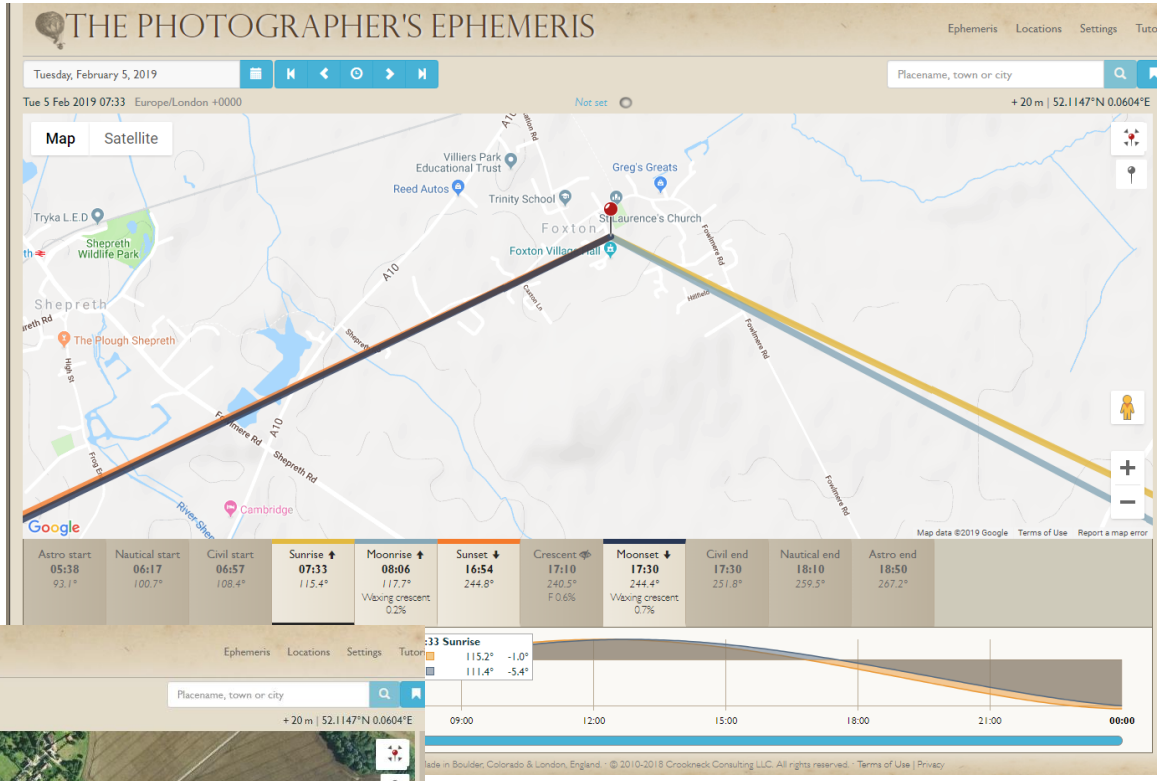
The Crystal

le bloom

# Planning- The Photographers Ephemeris (TPE)

- Sunrise and Sunset times
  - Moonrise, moonset
- Direction of light at any known date, time of day
- Web App (https://www.photoephemeris.com/)
- Phone App

- Also, check……..
  - Weather
  - Tides
  - Parking availability
  - Consider safety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Ephemeris
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Placename, town or city
Tue 5 Feb 2019 07:33 Europe/London +0000
Not set
+ 20 m | 52.1147°N 0.0604°E
Map
Satellite
Villiers Park Educational Trust
Greg's Greats
Reed Autos
Trinity School
St Laurence's Church
Tryka L.E.D
Shepreth Wildlife Park
Foxton
Foxton Village Hall
Shepreth
The Plough Shepreth
A10
Cambridge
Google
Map data ©2019 Google
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Report a map error
Astro start 05:38 93.1°
Nautical start 06:17 100.7°
Civil start 06:57 108.4°
Sunrise 07:33 115.4°
Moonrise 08:06 117.7° Waxing crescent 0.2%
Sunset 16:54 244.8°
Crescent 17:10 240.5° F 0.6%
Moonset 17:30 244.4° Waxing crescent 0.7%
Civil end 17:30 251.8°
Nautical end 18:10 259.5°
Astro end 18:50 267.2°
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12:00
15:00
18:00
21:00
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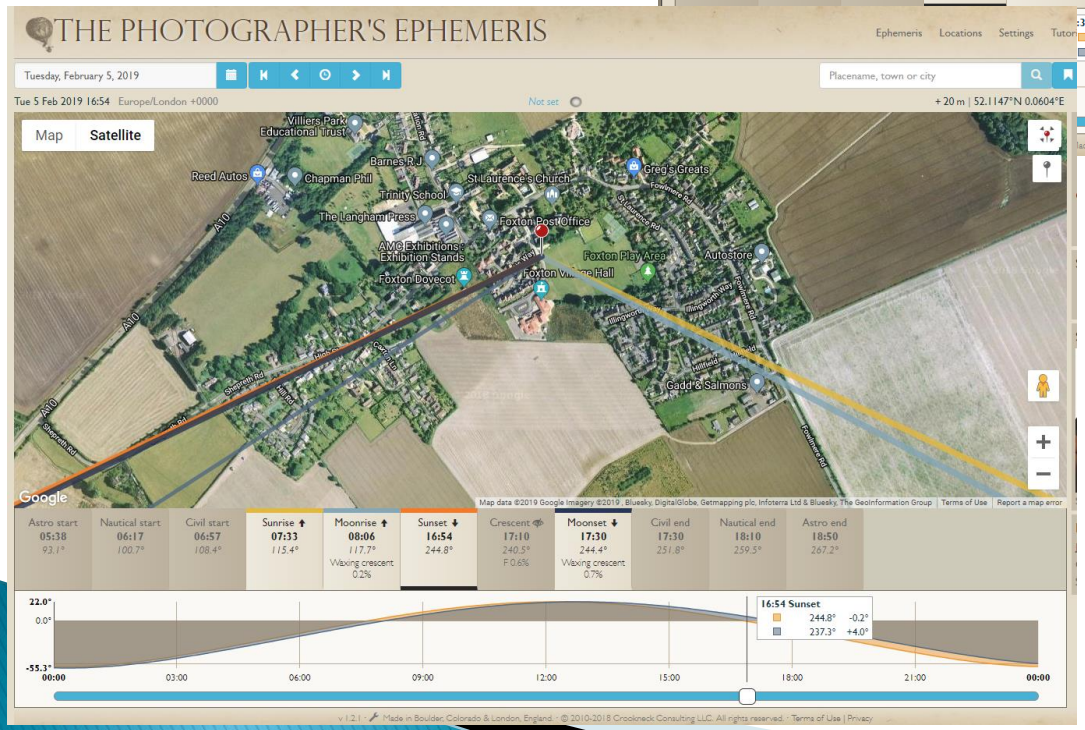
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Locations
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Trinity School
The Langham Press
Foxton Post Office
AMG Exhibitions Exhibition Stands
Foxton Play Area
Autostore
Foxton Dovecot
Foxton Village Hall
A10
Gadd & Salmons
Google
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Astro end 18:50 267.2°
16:54 Sunset
244.8° -0.2°
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21:00
00:00
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# Planning –Melbourn Locations Database

| Image | Location Name | County | Nearest Town/City | Address/Directions | OS Ref / Google Map Ref | Parking | Location Comments | Lighting Comments | Hazards | Contributor |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Ogwen Valley, Snowdonia | Gwynedd | Bethesda | LL57 3LZ | 53.1299, -3.9954 | Free road side parking available or Pay & Display at Ogwen Cottage. | Llyn Ogwen runs along this valley and there are numerous vantage points depending on your willingness to walk/climb. Tryfan is also a notable peak to photograph. You can spend all day here. | Good at any time of day but probably best early morning or at dusk | Weather is very unpredictable here - check the forecast and let someone know where you are hiking. Uneven ground at times, even on paths. | Kath Watson |
| | Howe Wood | Hertfordshire | Littlebury | CB11 3JT | 51.9884,0.25221895 | Park on narrow country lane near to entrance gate to woods | Fabulous Bluebell Woods | Any time of day will work. Plenty of dappled lighting | Traffic. Over-enthusiastic game wardens | Keith Truman |
| | Above Therfield Heath | Hertfordshire | Royston | SG8 5BJ or at layby on Therfield Road just as woods start | 52.226, 0.0326 | Best parking is on layby on Therfield Road alongside woods | Beautiful Beach Woods. Great in mist/fog or autumn | Good at any time of day but probably best early morning or at dusk | Traffic | Keith Truman |

http://melbournphotoclub.com/members-area/locations-database/

If you want this idea to be successful
you need to contribute to it

# Equipment

- Lenses

- Filters

# Lenses

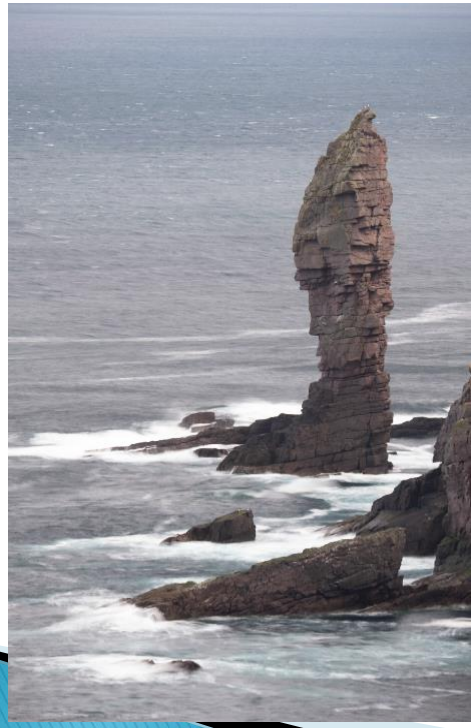
- Typical lenses for landscape photography
  - Wide Angle (16-35mm on Full Frame) of 10-24mm on cropped sensor
  - Mid range lens (18 – 55mm on cropped sensor
  - Longer range telephoto (e.g., say 55-200mm)

Wide Angle at 13mm cropped sensor

Generally works well with foreground interest

Choice of lens isn't just a cropping tool. Different focal lengths will give totally different perspectives

13mm



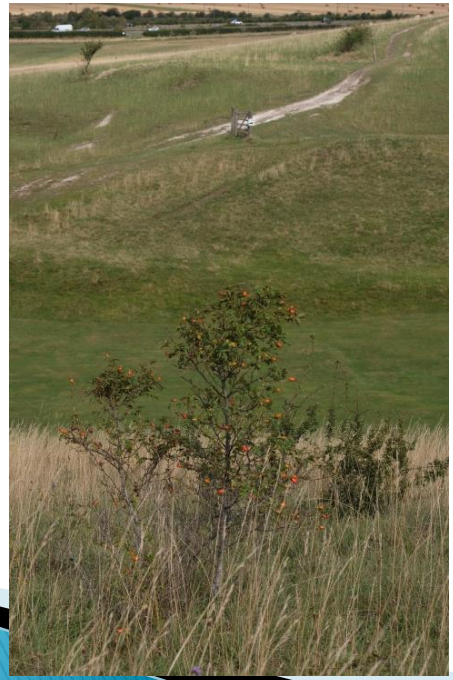
200mm

24mm

10mm

18mm

70mm



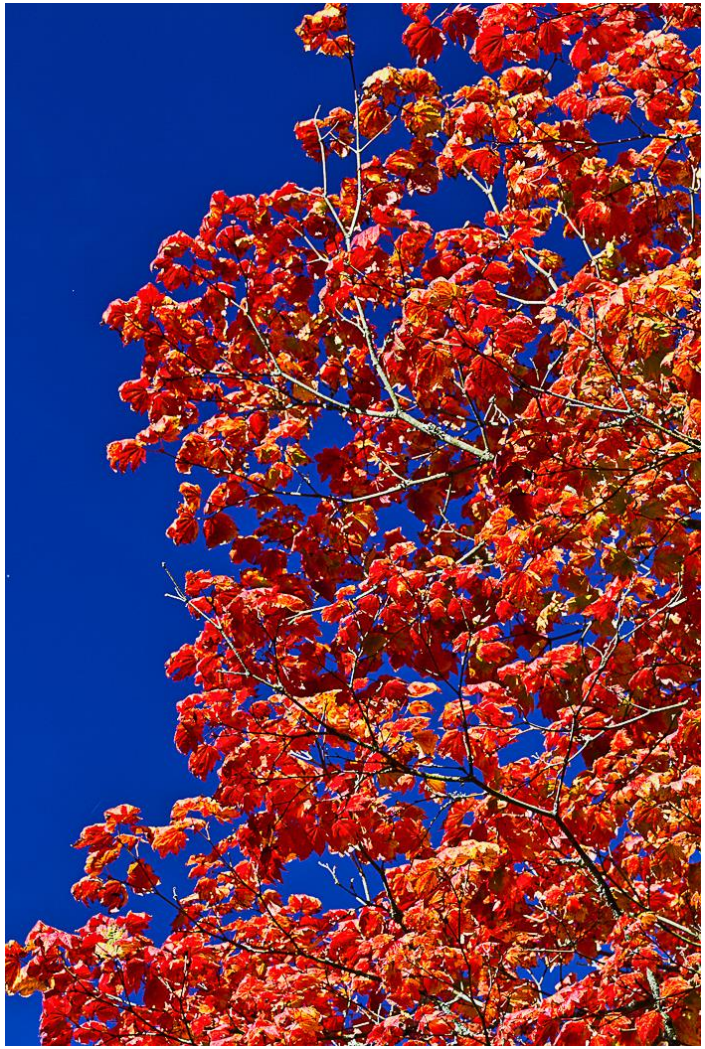
200mm

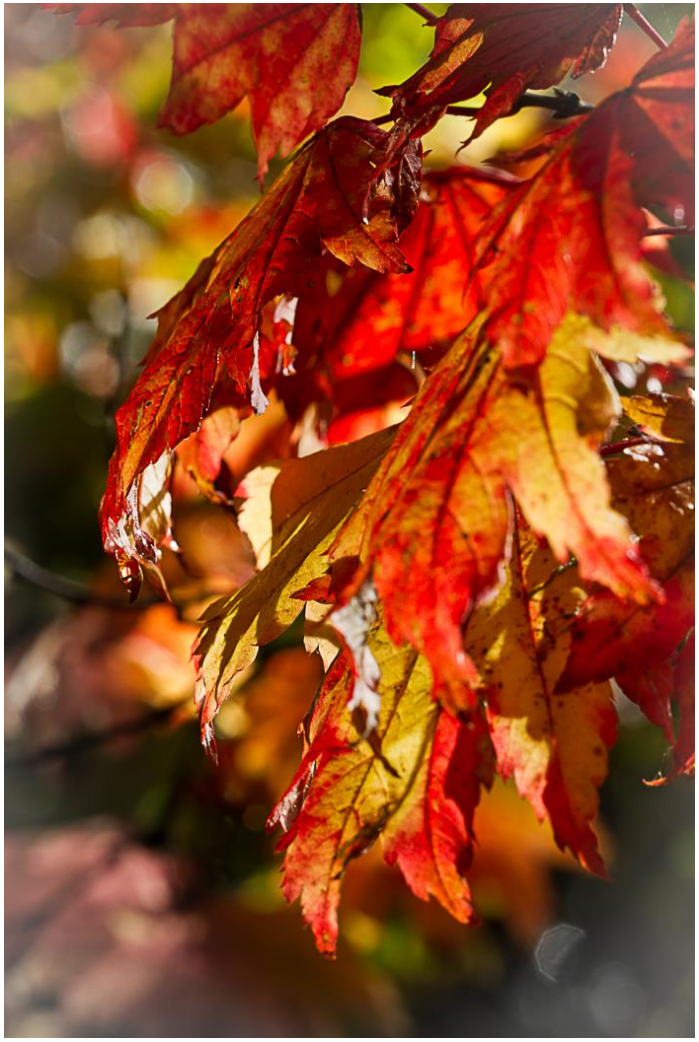
# POLARISING FILTER

- Uses
  - Enhancing skies and clouds
  - Managing reflections (in glass/water)
  - Saturating colours
- What can go wrong
  - Over-polarisation
- Brands
  - Hoya, Lee, Cokin, Kood

# Polarisers
# Things to be aware of

- Polarising filters work best on sunny days with the sun at an angle of about 90° to the subject
- On grey, overcast days they may have little or no effect
- Vignetting if you leave UV filter on and add Polariser
- Uneven polarisation when using wide angle lens
- Polarisers are in effect a 2-stop filter





Enhancing colours. Great for autumn, Good when foliage is wet

# Over-polarised?????

# ND Grad Filters

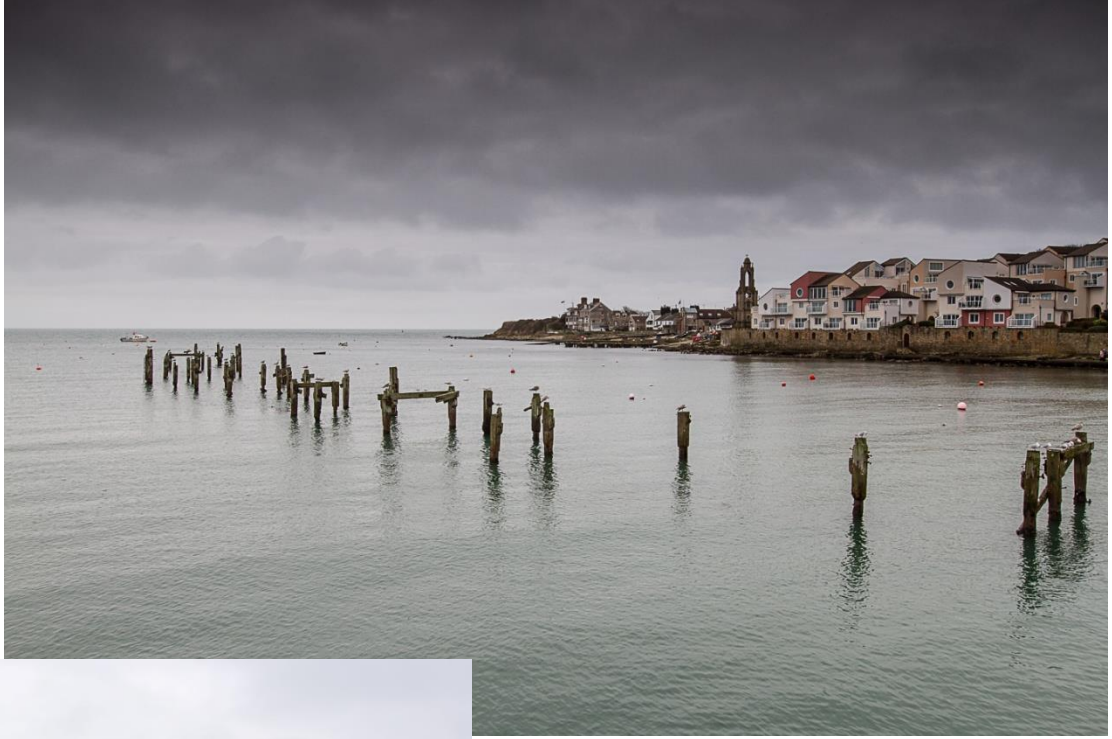
- Neutral Density filters reduce the light without changing the colour
- Almost always used to balance the light in the sky with light on land
- A large difference in brightness between sky and foreground is beyond a digital camera's ability to see and record
  - A lot of times the sky is much brighter than the ground, so the ground looks ok but the sky comes out pure white, or the sky looks fine but the ground looks too dark.
  - Blown, white skies familiar to anyone?
- Can bring texture to dull skies

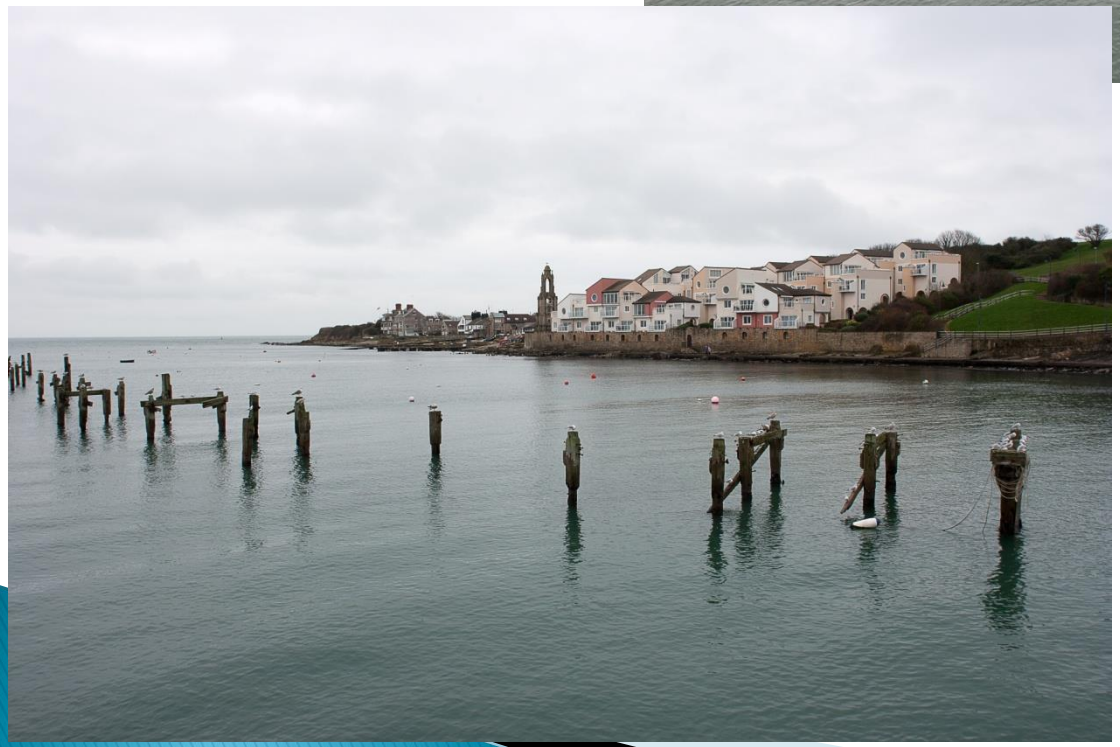
Reduces light
to 50%
ie 1 stop

Reduces light
to 25%
ie 2 stops

Reduces light
to 12.5%
ie 3 stops

With ND Grad

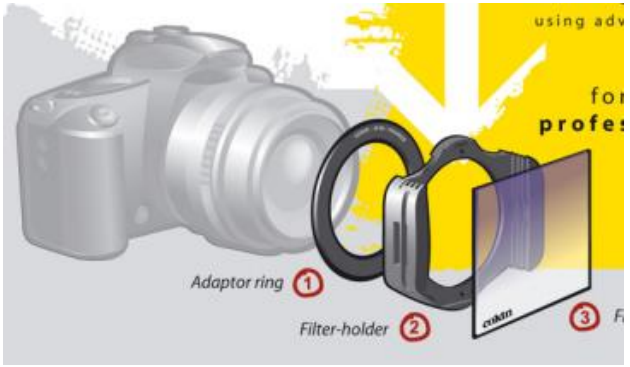




No ND Grad

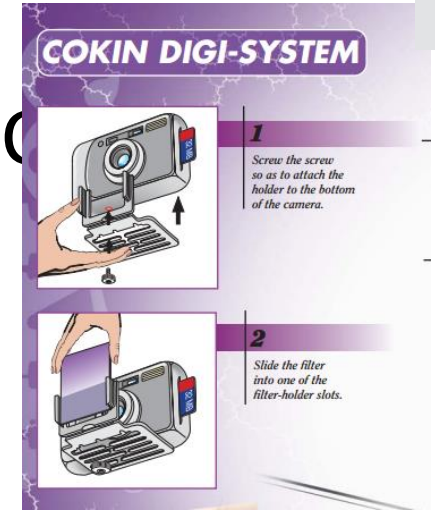
# Availability of ND Grad

- Cokin
  - kit is £34 from Amazon




- Lee (resin)
  - expensive but the best
  - £185 to get started

- Grads for Compacts/CSC
  - Cokin Snap System
    - £50 for Kit



# ND Filters

- Primarily used to slow down water motion
- Used when you want to use a longer shutter speed than is ordinarily possible due to the brightness of the conditions
- Available in a range of strengths depending on how much you wish to cut out the light
- Often give a colour cast (which can be removed)
- Will always need to use a Tripod

Reduces light to 50% ie 1 stop

Reduces light to 25% ie 2 stops

Reduces light to 50% ie 3 stops

Reduces light by 10 stops

Assume 1/30$^{th}$ at f11 without filter

Becomes 1/15th

Becomes 1/8th

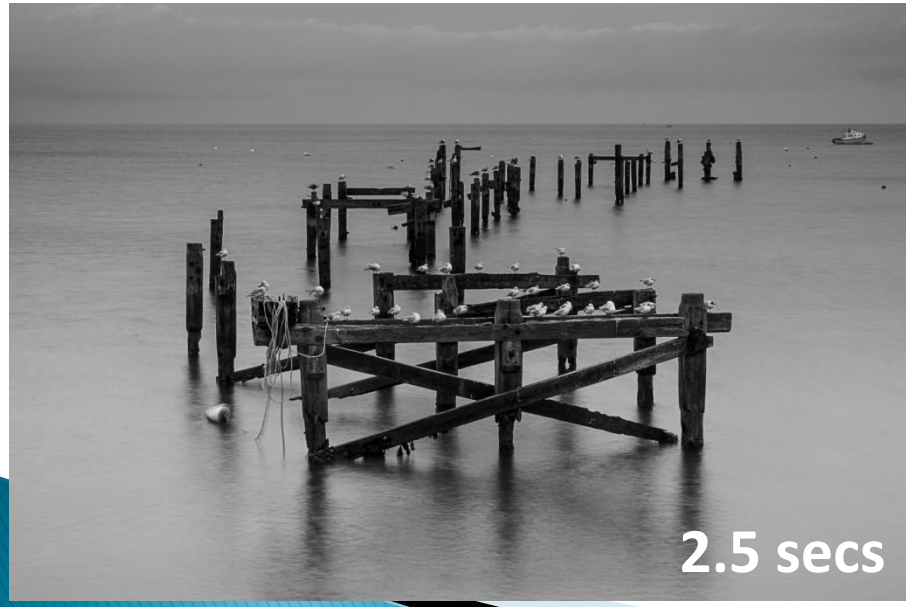
Becomes ¼ sec

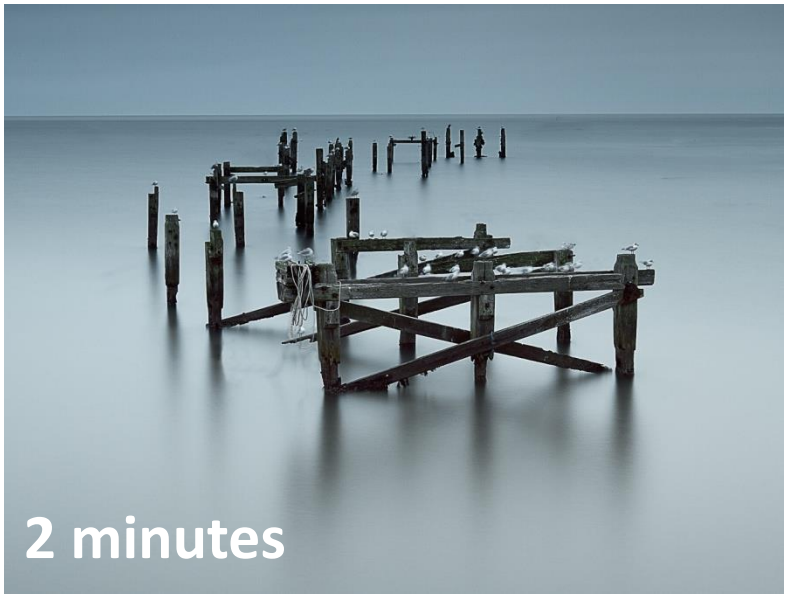
Becomes 1 minute

1/13th sec at f11

3 minutes at f11

# Deciding how much to blur.....



# The End

Questions?