

# WHY SHOULD YOU TAKE RAW PHOTOGRAPHS?

“Jpegs are smaller and they look the same to me.”

“I can do anything I want with jpeg files”

“There is no difference between raw and jpeg”

Hands up those who always get their exposure  
perfectly correct every time.

You may leave now.

# For those of use who are fallible..

- Raw files have more information in them than any other file type your camera can produce.
- This extra information is not immediately visible.
- It can often be used this to improve shots that would be unusable from jpegs.

# What is a raw file?

- A raw file is a file that contains the information directly as it comes off the camera's sensor.
- It has not been processed by the camera in any way, (well almost).
- Every camera's raw format is different.

# How do you use a raw file?

- You process it on your computer with a Raw Converter
  - Photoshop with the Adobe Camera Raw plugin
  - Elements with the Adobe Camera Raw plugin
  - Picasa
  - Paint Shop Pro
  - Lightroom
  - RawShooter (for older cameras only, very good)
  - Specific software provided with the camera
  - ...and many others

# Why should I use raw files?

- Pros

- Can do more editing afterwards without damage.
- Can ignore colour balance when shooting.
- More dynamic range in the image.
- Raw files can be sharpened more.
- Raw files never get re-written so your original is always still available.

- Cons

- Raw files are bigger
- Raw files need to be processed afterwards.

# Extra detail in Raw files (1)



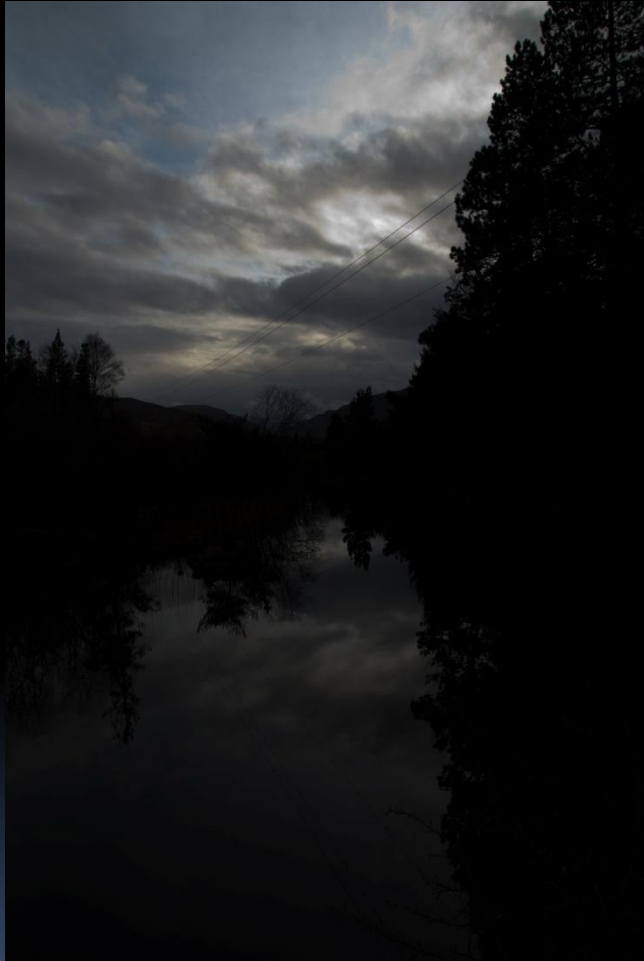
Raw



Jpeg

Both pictures are unmodified.  
Note the blown out area of the sky.

# Extra details in Raw files (2)



Raw



Jpeg

Both pictures have now had their brightness reduced by exactly the same amount. Note the difference in the blown out area of the sky.

# Extra details in Raw files (3)



Raw



Jpeg

Once something is blown out in jpeg it's gone forever, in raw files there is usually more information there, it just needs a bit of work to get it out.

# Another example.



Processed from Raw



Processed from Jpeg

Note the extra detail that has been recovered from the Swan's tail end in the raw version.

# Colour Balance



As shot



Modified

If you make big colour balance changes like this with a jpeg file it will start to posterise earlier.

# Resources

Good tutorials at

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/RAW-file-format.htm>

[http://www.petercox.ie/tutorials/camera\\_raw.php](http://www.petercox.ie/tutorials/camera_raw.php)

Demos

# The End

Thanks for listening.