



Bramhall Photographic Society

Using 'Content Aware Fill' in Elements 14

- **Content Aware Fill** – is a great feature in both Full Photoshop (CS5 onwards) and in Photoshop Elements 13 onwards, I believe.
- The name “*Content Aware*” may be familiar to some, from having used the Spot Healing Brush, in Content Aware Mode.
- *Content Aware Fill* actually looks at all the surrounding areas near to what you are trying to clean up (*Content Aware*) and makes an intelligent replacement over what you want to remove (*Fill*).

As with all edits, duplicate your image first by either (*Shortcut Ctrl+J*) or if you prefer the long way – Right click on the Layer Thumbnail and choose *Duplicate Layer* (not Layer from background, because all this does is to unlock your background layer) in which case you are working on your original image, which is never a good idea.

Select the area you want to remove, with the selection tool of your choice. Sometimes this might be the Lasso Tool, or for straight-sided selections, the Polygonal Lasso Tool.

When the selection is made, go to top menu and choose *Edit> Fill Selection*. From the Use list, choose *Content Aware Fill* and Elements will automatically fill that selection with something that matches the area around your selection. If you don't get a good effect first time, step backward by using shortcut *Ctrl + Z* this will revert back to showing you the selection you just made. You can get rid of the selection (the marching ants) by using shortcut *Ctrl+ D*

Maybe smaller selections are needed? It all depends on your own image, but don't give up if the first attempt doesn't give a satisfactory result, because if you do the same procedure again, it can work perfectly 2nd time around!

Sometimes a slight feather on the selection can help too.

If you make a complete mess and don't know how to go backwards far enough, you can simply delete your Layer 1 by highlighting it and hitting delete key on keyboard/Right clicking Layer 1 and choosing Delete/or Left click Layer 1 and drag to delete bin until the small hand icon is over the 'dustbin'

Then simply hit *Ctrl +J* again and you have a new layer to work on.