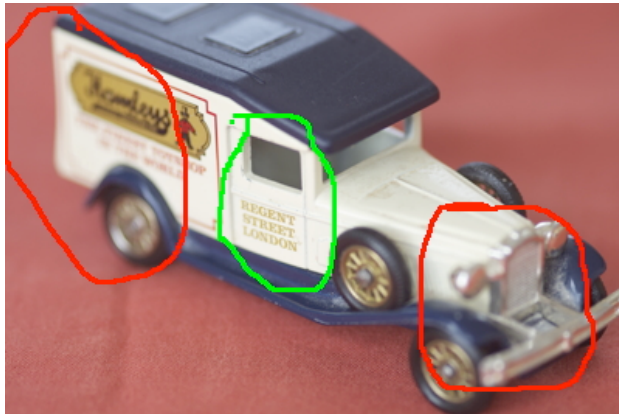


Depth of Field

When we focus the camera on our subject, theoretically only those things in the scene at the same distance are in focus. In practice parts of the scene in front of,



and behind, the subject are acceptably sharp. The zone of acceptably sharp focus is called the Depth of Field (Dof).

Sometimes we deliberately want to control the depth of field, for example in portraiture where we may want to use shallow DoF to throw an unsightly background out of focus, or in a landscape shot where ideally everything in

sight is in focus, and other times we merely need to be aware that our settings might inadvertently give us a shallow depth of field, rendering part of the subject out of focus.

There are three things under our control that affect DoF:

- **Distance** – the closer the subject is to the lens, the shallower will be the DoF
- **Aperture** – the larger the aperture, the shallower the DoF
- **Lens** – the longer the focal length, the shallower the DoF.

DoF is not evenly distributed, as the zone behind the subject is about twice the size of the zone in front of the subject. When taking landscapes, where we want to maximise the amount of the scene in focus, we will get best results by focussing on something about 1/3rd of the distance between the camera and the horizon.