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PLANNING SUPPORTING STATEMENT

MERTHYR MOTOR AUCTIONS (MMA)

REMOVAL OF CONDITION RESTRICTING USE OF LIGHTING

(Removal of Condition 'h' attached to appeal decisions APP6410/C/95/508749 and APP6410/C/95/508750)

October 2020

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

2.0 PROPOSAL

3.0 PLANNING CONTEXT AND HISTORY

4.0 PLANNING POLICY

5.0 REVIEW

6.0 CONCLUSION

APPENDICES

A – Redline plan showing area of lower yard

B – Photos / Images

C – Specifications

D – Decision notice for application P/14/0258

E – Letter from Western Security Systems Ltd and Industry commentary on IR reflection

1.0 Introduction and Site Description

- 1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Merthyr Motor Auctions (MMA), a family motor auction business established in 1978 operating from one site at Pant Road, Dowlais and employing around 40 long serving staff.
- 1.2 For identification purposes, the MMA site can be seen on page 6.
- 1.3 This report supports the application to remove the Condition 'h' attached to appeal decisions APP6410/C/95/508749 and 508750 which currently restricts the hours of use of floodlights of the lower yard (see Section 2 for condition wording). This application also seeks to revise the type of lighting to ensure the modern units can meet current standards and policies.
- 1.4 There is a long planning history relating to the site however we have focused only on that which is relevant to this application within this report.
- 1.7 This application is supported by the following suite of documentation that should be read in full :
- Red line plan
 - Location plan
 - Ecological Assessment (Inc Bat survey) carried out by BE Ecological of August 2019 and last updated October 2020.
 - Environmental Light Impact Assessment (ELIA) prepared by Jacobs 22nd January 2019
 - MMA Lighting Report carried out by Qoda Light to provide additional information July 2020 and revised October 2020
 - Elevations and lighting specification

Site Description

- 1.5 The application relates to the lower yard of MMA (see plan in Appendix A). The lower yard covers an approximate area of 0.34 hectares and is situated to the southern end of the MMA site. The lower yard can be accessed via Pant Road

to the north (and accessed through the MMA site via the primary access) or direct from Victoria Street to the south (secondary access). The lower yard is part hard surfaced and part rough gravel and used for vehicle storage, 2 valet bays and circulation space. The area is fenced and securely gated at each end. Lighting and CCTV are present. The site has a gentle gradient falling from north to south and hedging is also in place (in addition to the fencing) on the east and west boundaries.

- 1.6 The site is bound to the north by the rest of the MMA Upper Yard where the auction hall and main activities are located. To the east the lower yard is flanked by hedge and fence, beyond which lies a public footway and some residential properties are located at high level on Wern Street (to the northern half of the eastern boundary see Appendix B, photograph 7 displaying difference in height). To the west lies a high, dense hedge (see Appendix B Photograph 3 and 4) beyond which residential properties of Llewellyn Street are located. To the south lies the public footway, beyond which lies a strip of land in ownership of MMA, the former Ifor works land and residential properties fronting Victoria Street.



Figure 1 : Satellite image of the MMA Site (GoogleMaps) – Lower Yard marked in Red, rest of MMA site in Blue. (For broad site identification purposes only).

Proposal

- 2.0 The proposal seeks to remove the Condition h from decision APP6410/C/95/508749 and 508750 restricting times when floodlighting to the lower yard can be used. The proposal also renews the type of lighting in order to meet local and national policy requirements and standards. The wording of the condition/s is provided below:

- **Condition e:**

'no activity shall take place on the site before 08.00 hrs or after 18.30 hrs on weekdays and Saturdays, nor at any time on Sundays or Public Holidays (the sole exception to this condition being in the event of a transporter arriving whilst the auction activities are being undertaken in the upper yard, such transported shall be permitted to enter the lower yard for the purpose of parking only).'

- **Condition h:**

'details of any proposed floodlighting shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the lighting is installed, and any such floodlighting as may be approved, shall be used solely during the authorised hours as specified in condition e above'.

- 2.1 The removal of this restriction is sought in order to reduce the risk of vandalism, theft of vehicles parked in the lower yard and incidences of antisocial behaviour in this area together with keeping high standards of health and safety for MMA employees (and emergency services) called to this area to attend any security breach.
- 2.2 The removal of this restriction will allow the use of flood lighting in the hours of darkness on this part of the site which is imperative for the infrared security system to function in a satisfactory way. The need for lighting in this area is further exacerbated by the amount of vehicles with affixed reflective decals. These vehicles (such as ambulances, maintenance vans) form a large part of the MMA business and require storage space in this area of the site.

2.3 As well as the removal of the condition on usage times the existing lighting installations have been reviewed and updated to meet policy requirements as follows (please see Appendix C for specifications and the separate Qoda Light report for further details):

- Removal of existing 8 no. luminaires
- Retention of existing columns to mount new luminaires
- Replacement with 4 no. Meyer monospace 2700k luminaires (one per existing column)
- Luminaires x3 installed at 6m. 1x luminaire mounted at a reduced height of 4.5m (southernmost column)
- Retention of existing mature hedge

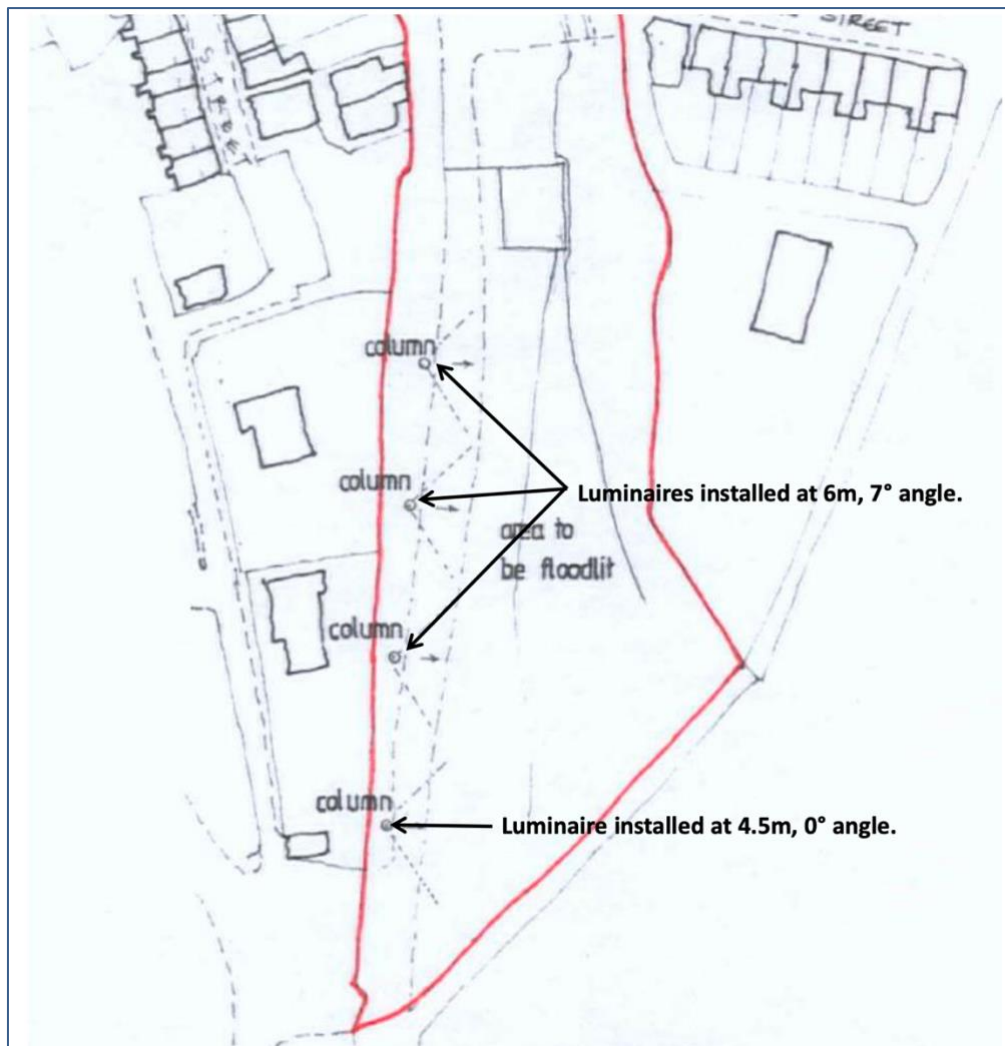


Figure 2 : Proposed installation heights and angles of luminaires (Qoda Light)

- 2.4 The Meyer luminaires use LED technology that has no UV component and the selected colour temperature of 2700k has a warmer colour temperature reducing impact on ecology. Small installation angles have been applied to a number of the luminaires in order to achieve the best spread of light across the lower yard whilst ensuring no excessive light spill onto site boundaries.
- 2.5 As can be seen in the attached specification the proposed luminaires have flat glass and asymmetric distribution and are designed to be installed in a horizontal orientation, meaning there is no direct upward light (see Qoda report for further details). The units will be colour silver grey to provide the best match the existing silver columns.

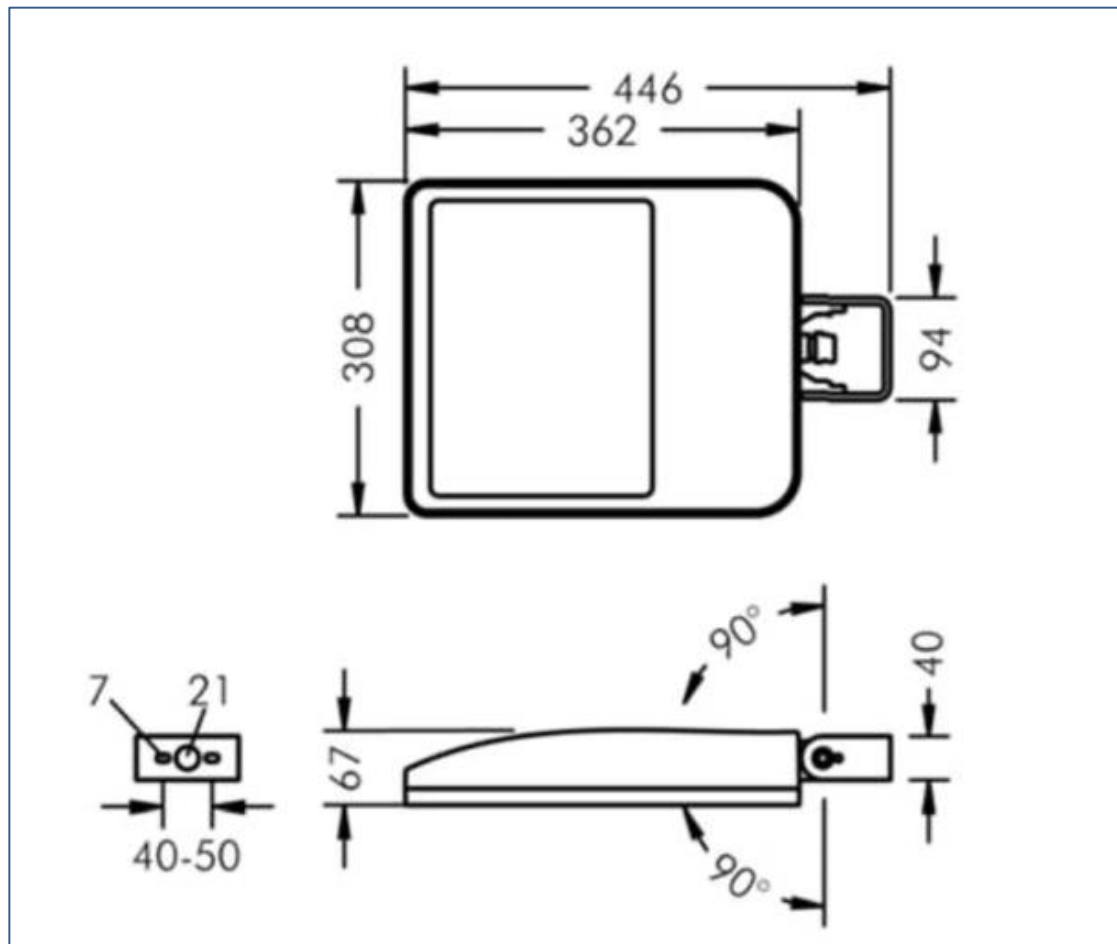


Figure 3: Proposed Luminaires Dimensions Specification



Figure 4: Proposed luminaires showing LED technology, flat glass and asymmetric distribution

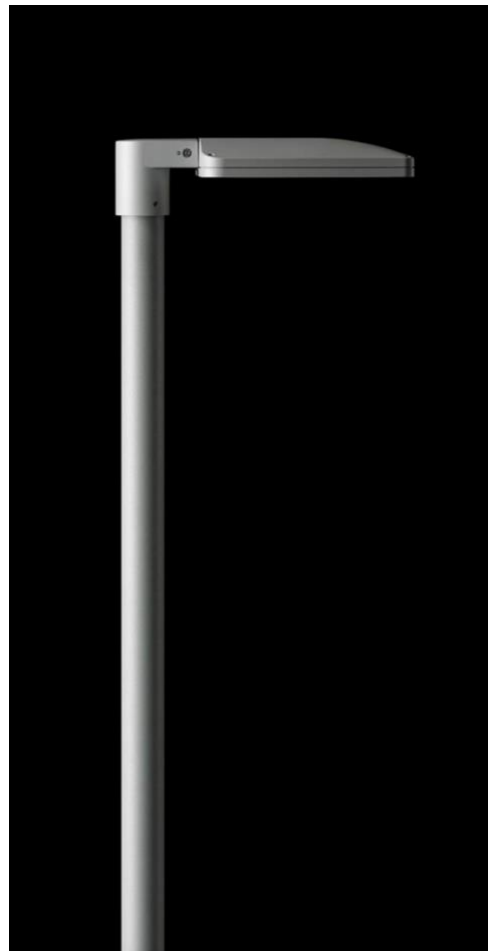


Figure 5: Proposed Luminaires shown attached to a column – Meyer Monospace

3.0 Planning Context and History

3.1 A number of planning applications are contained in the table below that provide the relevant planning history for this site.

Reference	Proposal	Decision	Date
P/14/0258	Removal of condition h attached to APP6410/C/95/508749 and 508750 which currently restricts the use of floodlights	Approved — Judicial Review — Withdrawn	18/11/2015 — Judgement 16/05/2016 — 05/12/2019
P/13/0074	Retention of 2no. lamp posts, housing CCTV cameras and PA system	Approved	02/05/2013
P/12/0022	Demolish part of building and construct a two-storey extension	Approved	05/04/2012
P/09/0142	Removal of condition e (hours of operation) of planning inspectorates appeal decision APP6410/C/95/508749	Refused	17/12/2009
P/08/0093	Erection of single storey car and van valeting building	Approved	05/08/2008
APP6410/C/95/508749	Appeal against enforcement notices served for the unauthorised storage, parking and valeting of vehicles in association with the adjacent car auction premises and engineering works	Appeal Allowed Enforcement Notices quashed	21/02/1997

Table 1 – Planning history summary

- 3.2 **Appeal APP6410/C/95/508749 and APP6410/C/95/508750:** It is important to note in 1997 an Inspector allowed the appeal referenced above and quashed the enforcement notices and granted planning permission for the storage, parking and valeting of vehicles in association with the adjacent car auction premises.
- 3.3 The main concerns raised by the Inspector related to impacts on the amenity of local residents from noise and disturbance. Furthermore there is no reference in the decision that the lighting in the lower yard area is restricted due to its impact on neighbouring residential properties.
- 3.4 As part of this permission the Inspector included conditions on the decision (relevant to this proposal) as follows:
- **Condition e:**
'no activity shall take place on the site before 08.00 hrs or after 18.30 hrs on weekdays and Saturdays, nor at any time on Sundays or Public Holidays (the sole exception to this condition being in the event of a transporter arriving whilst the auction activities are being undertaken in the upper yard, such transported shall be permitted to enter the lower yard for the purpose of parking only).'
 - **Condition h:**
'details of any proposed floodlighting shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the lighting is installed, and any such floodlighting as may be approved, shall be used solely during the authorised hours as specified in condition e above'.
- 3.5 Whilst the conditions form part of the decision, there is no explanation by the Inspector why the use of floodlighting (condition h) is limited to the hours of operation provided in condition e.
- 3.6 **Application P/14/0258 and Approved Judgement :** this application considered the Removal of condition h (floodlight use) attached to appeal decisions APP6410/C/95/508749 and 508750 and is of particular note. Details of this application are given overleaf.

- 3.7 The application was considered by MTCBC. Statutory consultations (Highways, Ecology, Environmental Health and NRW) were undertaken and no objections were received. Letters of objection (5 in total) were received from 2 local residents.
- 3.8 On balance the Officer provided a recommendation for approval dated 18th November 2015 (with one condition relating to information received 3rd November 2015 concerning floodlight specification and light spillage diagram). A copy of the decision notice is contained in Appendix D for ease of reference.
- 3.8 A legal challenge was launched by a resident of a neighbouring property who had objected to the proposal. A Judicial Review was held by Hearing on 25th April 2016 with the Official Judgement received 16th May 2016.
- 3.9 At the Hearing a range of relevant issues were discussed including light pollution and loss of amenity due to light. The Official Judgement states:

Paragraph 41 : *“In dealing with light pollution and the loss of amenity due to light spillage, the report made clear that these impacts were assessed on the site visit to Mr Thomas’s property. The conclusion was that light spillage/glare of the floodlights into the bedrooms and garden was minimal (emphasis added). This is hardly surprising because Mr Thomas himself in his earlier email to the council accepted that this was the case. He referred to such an effect in his letter of objection, without using the word minimal, but he also went on under other considerations to mention the reduction of the view of the night sky and sky glow.”*

- 3.10 Importantly the following was included in the Official Judgement:

- **Paragraph 43:** *‘In my judgement, what is required by the paragraph of PPW cited in the report is not just consideration of that aspect of light spillage/glare, but the need to protect the natural environment, retain dark skies where appropriate, prevent glare and respect the amenity of neighbouring land uses. In my judgement that wider need was a material consideration which ought to have been weighed in the*

balance and, in that wider sense, it was not. To that very limited extent ground 1 is made out'.

- **Paragraph 46:** *'In my judgement the issue of need for unrestricted floodlighting at the premises was a principal controversial issue and the absence of reasons does give rise to a substantial doubt as to whether the council made an error of law in this regard.'*

3.11 The conclusions made by Judge Jarman in his Official Judgement have been taken on board by MMA who have commissioned additional survey work and extensive modelling in order to assess the effects (if any) of floodlighting in hours of darkness on this site and beyond the perimeter. These measures are discussed in Section 7 of this report and include attention to those issues raised of:

- need for unrestricted use of lighting,
- protection of the natural environment,
- retaining dark skies where appropriate,
- prevention of glare, and
- the respect of the amenity of neighbouring land uses.

4.0 PLANNING POLICY

- 4.1 Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires that proposals are determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicated otherwise. The development plan comprises of local planning documents which have been the subject of examination in public or testing through public inquiry and are adopted having been through due process. Whilst the planning policy has been considered in relation to P/14/0258 this section briefly sets out the planning policy for the proposal in the context of the relevant planning policy and guidance at both the national and local level.

National Planning Policy

- 4.2 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The primary objective of PPW being to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and other key legislation.
- 4.3 Paragraph 1.17 of PPW 10 (2018) states *“a presumption in favour of sustainable development in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise to ensure that social, economic, cultural and environmental issues are balanced and integrated”*.
- 4.4 Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs). Each TAN presents guidance on a different issue of planning, the following are considered to be relevant to this proposal :
- TAN 5 : Nature conservation and planning (2009)
 - TAN 12 : Design (2016)

Local Planning Policy

- 4.5 The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) first replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016-2031 was adopted in January 2020, replacing the LDP 2006-2021, and sets the local policy for the area. Please see below the relevant extract from the proposals map showing the MMA site in the centre.

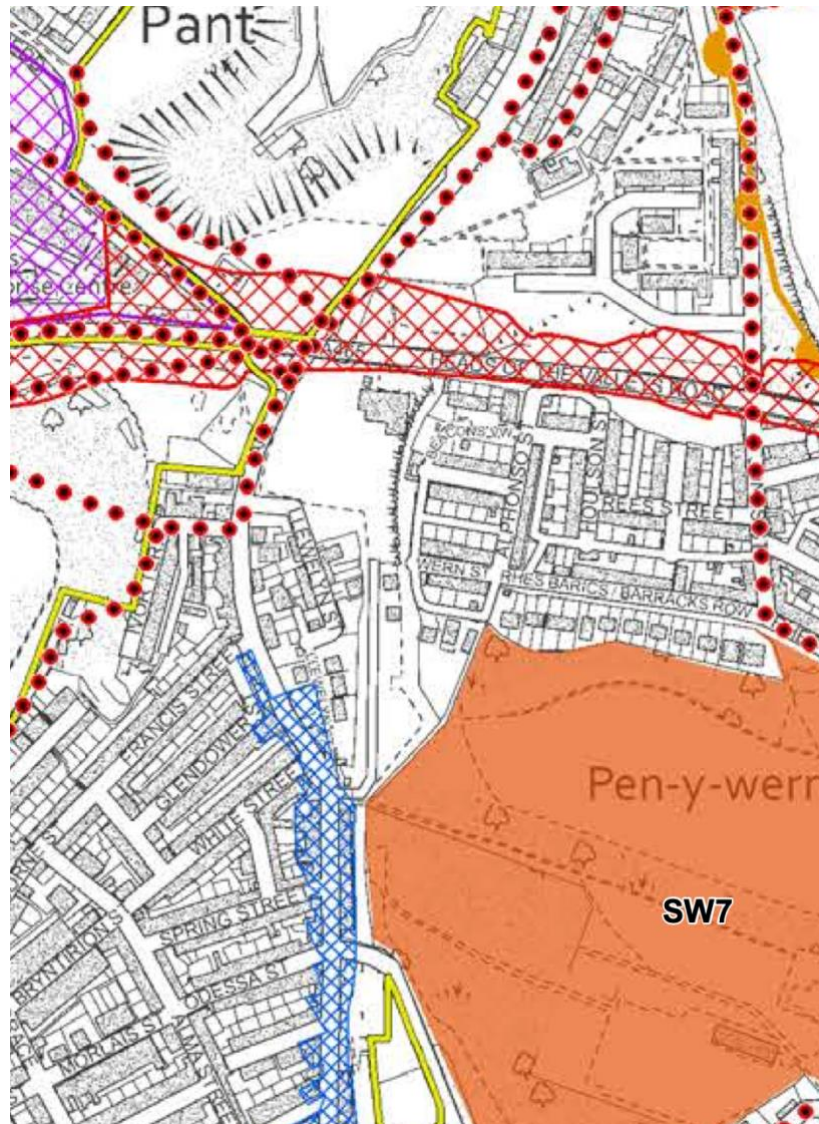


Figure 6: Extract from the adopted MTCBC LDP (First Replacement) January 2020

- 4.6 The site sits within the Primary Growth Area to which the majority of development in the Borough is directed. This is consistent with the Wales Spatial Plan and Turning Heads – A strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020.

- 4.7 Part of the northern section of the MMA site is affected by the A465 road widening (red hatched area).
- 4.8 Land immediately to the south of the MMA lower yard is allocated for mixed use regeneration (former Ifor Steel Works site) shaded orange and guided under policy SW7. To the west and south the blue hatched shading denotes the local centre of Dowlais.
- 4.7 Local Planning policy for consideration would include:
- SW11 – Sustainable design and placemaking
 - Policy EnW1: Nature Conservation and Ecosystem Resilience
 - Policy EnW2: Internationally and Nationally Protected Sites and Species
 - Policy EnW4 – Environmental Protection
- 4.8 Supplementary Planning Guidance adopted by MTCBC that would be relevant to the proposal are listed below:
- SPG 4 – Sustainable design (2013)
 - SPG 5 – Nature and development (2015)
- 4.9 In summary these revised proposals can adequately meet both national and local planning policy requirements by virtue of the modern Meyer Monospace design using LED technology to ensure the best spread of light across the lower yard for security purposes meanwhile ensuring no direct upward light to contribute to sky glow ensuring and no excessive light spill on the boundaries of the site. The warm colour temperature of 2700k will also protect the natural environment and ecology. These attributes are further discussed in Section 5 'Review'.

5.0 REVIEW

5.1 The current proposal has been considered in light of the Appeal decision and Official Judgement and current policy with each explained in turn:

- Need for the unrestricted floodlighting
- Light spillage / glare
- Protection of the natural environment
- Retain dark skies where appropriate
- Prevent glare
- Respect neighbouring land uses

5.2 **Need for unrestricted floodlighting:** MMA has been clear on the need for the floodlighting in hours of darkness in order to protect the Lower Yard site and buildings, and those vehicles within it, from vandalism and crime. Whilst the lighting remains off there is significant risk to the site and stock. In addition there is risk to personal safety should any crime occur that requires attendance on site by staff members and the lights cannot be illuminated.

5.3 The provision of adequate lighting ensures that the security system can operate correctly and give a clarity of image to identify a specific event and or intruder. A letter from MMA's security provider, Western Security Systems Ltd, regarding the Lower Yard lighting and cameras is provided in Appendix E stating:

'It is essential that the floodlighting you have on the poles are turned on giving good lux levels in that area' it goes on to say 'The main reason for this is that our monitoring centre can then clearly see any intruders, also if they need to call staff to site there are health and safety issues if the lights are not on.'

5.4 Furthermore the issue outlined in the letter is exacerbated by the reflective decals affixed to a significant number of vehicles that are stored on the lower yard, reflecting the infrared of the CCTV camera providing 'blank' areas within the image that severely compromise the clarity and usefulness of any image.

The use of adequate lighting mitigates these issues. Industry guidance on such issues is contained in Appendix E.

- 5.5 It is noted the MMA call out logs have been previously submitted to MTCBC (as part of the consideration of P/14/0258) demonstrating the amount of unnecessary calls and those that were legitimate. Updated MMA call out records are available and we would be happy to provide these on request.
- 5.6 The need for the lighting has led to significant work to reach a solution for MMA that both adequately lights the yard for security and also respects the amenity and ecology of the immediate area.
- 5.6 **Light spillage** : MMA commissioned Qoda Light to undertake extensive investigations into light spill around the perimeter of the site. Qoda have modelled the existing luminaires of the lower yard site and how these affect the boundaries and after searching many products have modelled the proposed Meyer Monospace lighting installations..
- 5.7 The Qoda report shows the horizontal and vertical (east and west) light spill across the site boundaries based on the existing installation (pages 5, 6 and 7) and then compares this with the proposed installation (page 8, 9 and 10). The report concludes that by installing 4 of the proposed luminaires to the existing columns (varying heights) there is no excessive light spill on to or across site boundaries.
- 5.8 **Protection of the natural environment:** BE Ecological have undertaken work to identify the potential for protected species including bats to be present on site including deskstudy and activity surveys (11th July 2019, 29th July 2019, 2nd October 2019, 15th April 2020, 14th June 2020 and 15th June 2020.)
- 5.9 The BE Ecological report concludes the site appears to be of little importance to bats in terms of roosting and foraging/commuting. There is no evidence to suggest that any of the light intolerant species present within roosts within 2km of the site, use the site in any way shape or form. It is anticipated that the increased duration of lighting at the site will not have any adverse impact on foraging, commuting or roosting bats.

- 5.10 The full methodology and findings are included in the BE ECOLOGICAL Ecological Assessment (Issue 2 1VB) that accompanies this submission and should be read in full.
- 5.11 **Retain dark skies where appropriate:** Jacobs carried out investigations (including monitoring in the hours of darkness) and produced an Environmental Lighting Impact Assessment (ELIA) for the existing MMA lighting installation at the site. The ELIA was produced in January 2019 and drew the following conclusions in relation to dark sky (page 9).
- 5.12 The sky around the MMA site was assessed and given a level according to the Light Pollution Map and Bortle Scale of 'nine level' (level 9 being the highest and level 1 the lowest). The area around MMA is currently class 5 (suburban Sky).
- 5.13 The report concludes that with additional mitigation the predicted effects will be reduced to neutral for obtrusive light, Glare and Sky Glow (the overall result without mitigation would be minor adverse for the surrounding area) and the lower yard will not be contributing to additional light pollution in the area. Qoda investigated the options and concluded the rear baffle blocks any light spill behind the existing lanterns and the limited tilt now ensures that the light is directed onto the vertical plane and contained within the site boundary however the existing luminaires posed a problem with the 2700k colour temperature requirement. Therefore the new luminaires were sourced that can provide the limitation of light within the MMA boundary, restrict both upward light and glare and provide 2700k 'warm light'. These new units are the Meyer Monospace.
- 5.14 **Prevent glare:** Please see comments above.
- 5.15 **Respect neighbouring land uses:** MMA respect the neighbouring land uses to their site and maintain a clean and efficient business within the parameters offered by their planning permission and conditions.

- 5.16 The changes that MMA are proposing to the lighting units ensures that the surrounding natural environment is respected and protected and that neighbouring residential properties are not affected by the lights, either directly in to their property or by their views of the night sky. This is demonstrated in the conclusions of the Qoda report and BE Ecological report submitted as part of this application.
- 5.17 Consideration was given to sensors being fitted to the lights however as the luminaires are 2700k, restricted upward light and confined within the MMA boundary, it is considered that the proposal will not create harm to any local ecology and that the sensors triggering the lights to flick on and off may be more disturbing than if the lights were constantly on during hours of darkness.
- 5.18 Importantly, the lights being on during hours of darkness will act as a significant deterrent against vandalism and crime at the MMA site and protecting their site and stock, the main aim of this planning application.

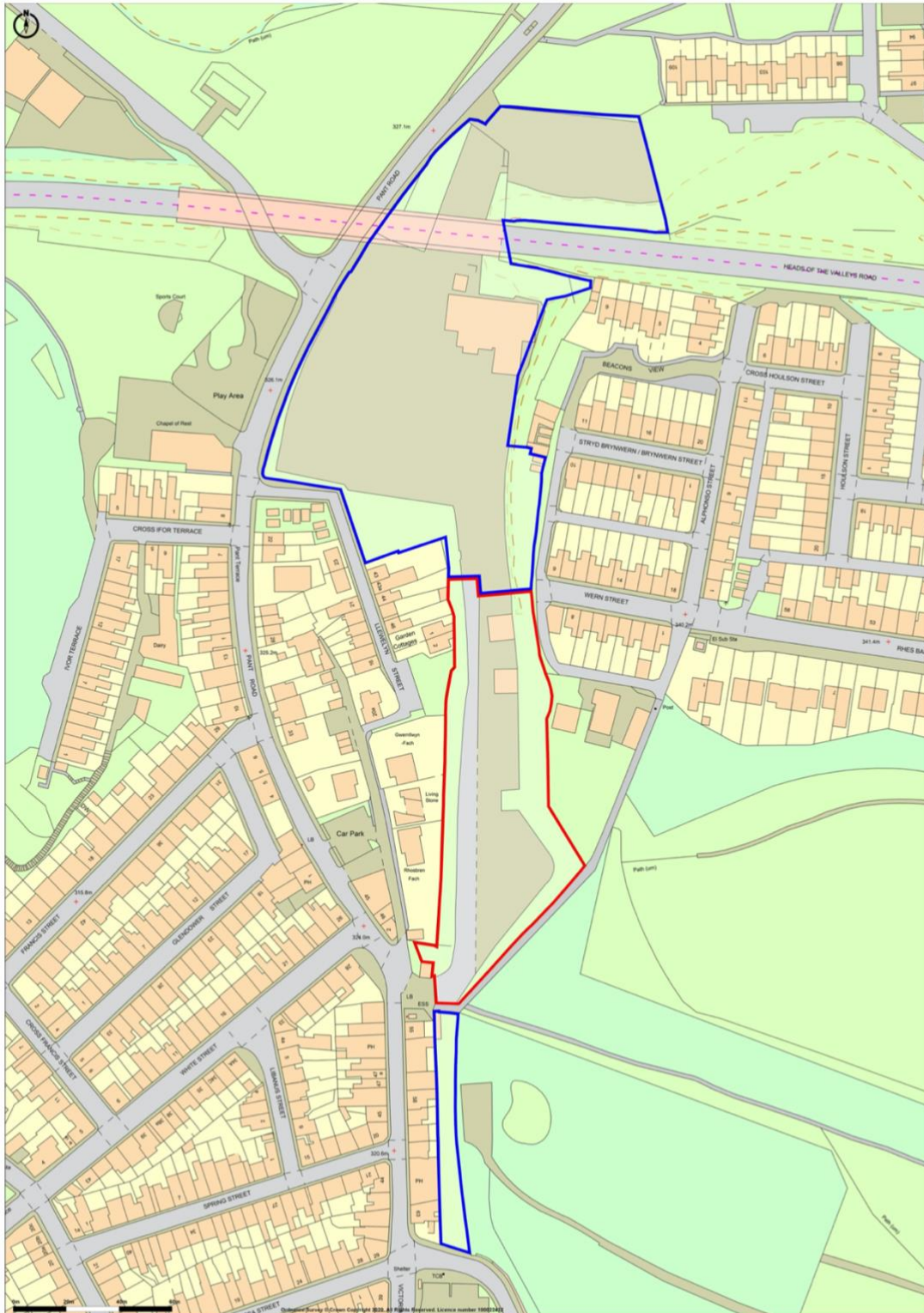
6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 PPW guides that there needs to be balance struck between the provision of lighting to enhance safety and security to help prevent crime with the need to protect wildlife, protect from glare and respect residential amenity.
- 6.2 The information contained within this application clearly demonstrates that the proposal will not have adverse effect on the ecology, light pollution or amenity of the surrounding area and is therefore in accordance with the guidance set out in PPW.
- 6.2 We respectfully request that MTCBC support this application allowing this long established business to maintain the required levels of safety and security in the Lower Yard by removing the restrictive condition h and allowing the use of the proposed modern lighting units in hours of darkness.

APPENDIX A

Location plan with the lower yard of MMA edged red

Site H
Merthyr Motor Auctions



Promap^{v2}
LANDMARK INFORMATION

Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved.
Licence number 100022432
Plotted Scale - 1:1500. Paper Size - A3

Produced by Herbert R Thomas
For Identification Purposes Only

APPENDIX B

Photographs / Images



1. Existing lighting column



2. Close up of flood lights



3. Lighting column just visible in trees



4. Lighting column (in trees)



5. View south in to the Lower Yard (Valet buildings visible to LHS)



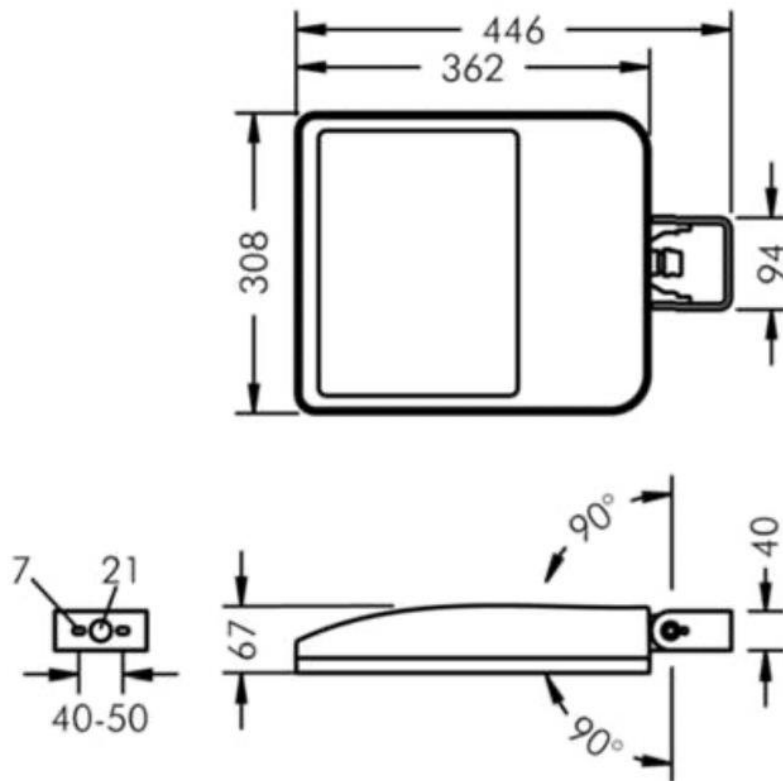
6. View North from bottom of lower yard showing types of vehicle stored in and attached reflective decals



7. Image showing the height difference between MMA site and residential property south of Wern Street.

APPENDIX C

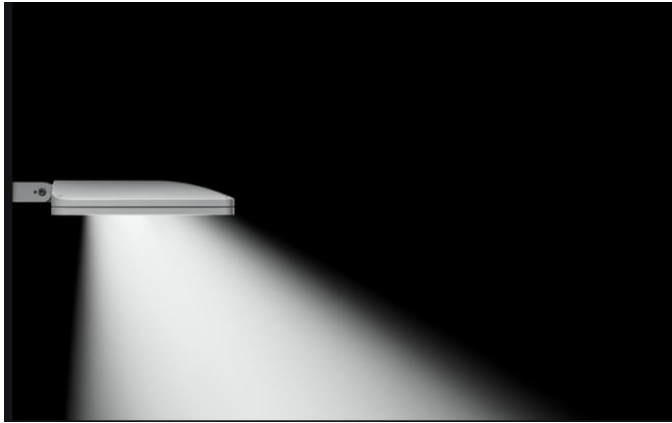
Lighting unit specification and elevation



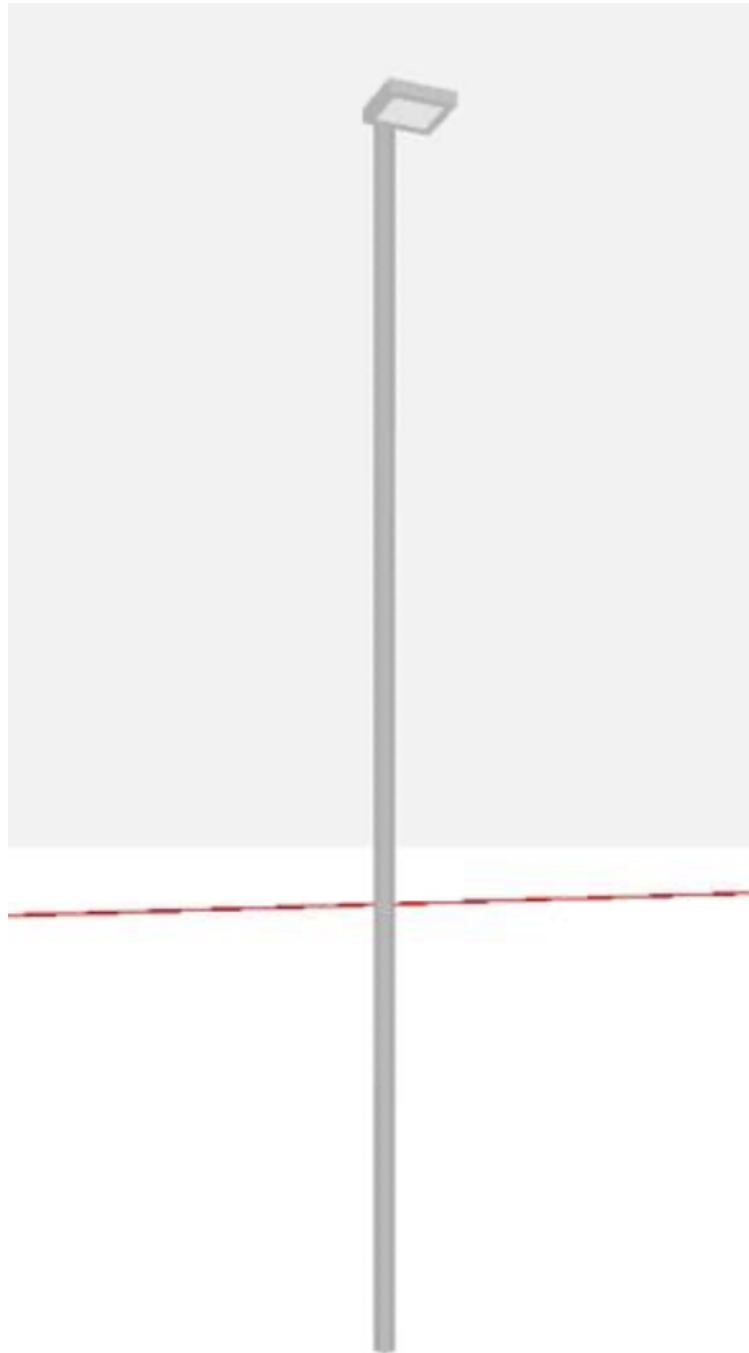
Meyer Monospace Specification (plan and elevation of Unit) measurements in mm



Meyer monospace lighting unit in silver grey



Meyer Monospace lighting



Elevation image of Meyer Monospace unit used for modelling

APPENDIX D

Original decision notice for P/14/0258

Dated 18th November 2015

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (as amended)
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)
(Wales) Order 2012 (as amended)

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION

To: Merthyr Motor Auctions c/o Viv Jones 114 Brecon Road Hirwaun RCT CF44 9NS

WHEREAS you submitted an application on the 26th September 2014 to develop: Merthyr Motor Auctions Pant Road Dowlais Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3SH short particulars of the application being as follows:-

 Name of the Applicant	Description of Proposed Development
Merthyr Motor Auctions Pant Road Dowlais Merthyr Tydfil CF48 3SH	Removal of condition h attached to appeal decisions APP6410/C/95/508749 and 508750 which currently restricts the use of the floodlights (Removal of Condition) (Removal of Condition)

The Council in pursuance of its powers under the above mentioned Act and Order hereby **GRANTS PERMISSION** for the carrying out of the proposed development as described above and in accordance with the application and plans (if any) submitted with the application subject to compliance with the following conditions.

CONDITIONS

 Please see attached.

Date: 18th November 2015

Signed: 
(Head of Town Planning)

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ
THE NOTES ATTACHED TO THIS FORM**

N1V
Page 2 of 3
P/14/0258

CONDITIONS

- 1 The floodlights shall only be operated in accordance with the additional information relating to the floodlight specification details and light spillage diagram, received on 3rd November 2015.

Reason - In the interests of visual and residential amenity in accordance with Policy BW7 of the Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan.

INFORMATIVES

1. This permission only relates to the removal of condition h of the appeal decision (APP6410/C/95/508749/50) dated 21st February 1997. As such this permission shall be read in conjunction with the other conditions attached to the decision.

NOTES

Your attention is drawn to the following:-

Appeals to the Welsh Government:

- If you are aggrieved by the decision of the Local Planning Authority to refuse permission for the proposed development or to grant it subject to conditions, then you can appeal to the Welsh Government under Section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- If you want to appeal, then you must do so within **six months** of the date of this notice, using a form which you can get from The Planning Inspectorate, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ. Alternatively you can use the Planning Portal (Wales) website (www.planningportal.gov.uk) to complete your appeal.
- The Welsh Government can allow a longer period of an appeal, but will not normally be prepared to use this power unless there are special circumstances which excuse the delay in giving notice of appeal.
- The Welsh Government need not consider an appeal if it seems that the Local Planning Authority could not have granted planning permission for the proposed development or could not have granted it without the conditions they imposed, having regard to the statutory requirements, to the provisions of any Development Order and to any directions given under a Development Order.
- In practice, the Welsh Government does not refuse to consider appeals solely because the Local Planning Authority based their decision on a direction given by them.

Purchase Notices:

- If either the Local Planning Authority or the Welsh Government refuses permission to develop land or grants it subject to conditions, the owner may claim that he/she can neither put the land to a reasonable beneficial use in its existing state nor render the land capable of a reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted.
- In these circumstances, the owner may serve a Purchase Notice on the Council. This notice will require the Council to purchase his/her interest in the land in accordance with the provisions of Part VI of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

PLEASE NOTE: THIS NOTICE RELATES ONLY TO A PLANNING DECISION AND DOES NOT RELATE TO OTHER LEGISLATION INCLUDING ANY LEGISLATION UNDER:

BUILDING REGULATIONS
LISTED BUILDING LEGISLATION
HIGHWAY LEGISLATION

IF PLANNING PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED IT IS ADVISABLE TO ESTABLISH WHETHER ANY OTHER FORM OF CONSENT IS REQUIRED AND TO OBTAIN SUCH CONSENT BEFORE COMMENCING DEVELOPMENT

Please quote the application number in all correspondence.

APPENDIX E

Industry commentary on IR reflection problems at night.

Letter from Western Security Systems Ltd



WESTERN SECURITY SYSTEMS LTD
SOUTH GLADE
GWAELOD-Y-GARTH
CARDIFF CF15 9TS

TEL: 029 2081 5040

13th January 2017

Mr Davies
Merthyr Motor Auctions
Red Barrel House
Pant Road
Dowlais
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 3SH

Thank you for your time discussing the security and CCTV at the bottom yard. As discussed during the hours of darkness it is essential that the floodlighting that you have on the poles is turned on and giving good lux levels on that area.

The main reason for this is that our monitoring centre can then clearly see any intruders, also if they need to call staff to site there are health and safety issues if the lights are not on.

Therefore please ensure that the lights are on each night.

Kind regards

Stephen Outing
Technical Director



V.A.T. REGISTRATION NO. 588 0916 96
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO. 2603708

- INTRUDER ALARMS
- CCTV SYSTEMS • FIRE ALARMS
- ACCESS CONTROL • REDCAP • DUALCOM
- INTEGRATED SECURITY SOLUTIONS



Prevent / reduce IR reflections on dome cameras with built-in IR

**Last updated: September 9th, 2015
Rev: 1.3**

Please note that AXIS does not take any responsibility for how this configuration may affect your system. If the modification fails or if you get other unexpected results, you may have to restore the factory default settings as described in the User's manual.

Introduction

Axis dome cameras with built-in IR illuminator enable video surveillance at night or in dark environments. The IR illuminator provides discreet and covert illumination for network video while minimizing light pollution. However, IR-light reflected by close objects can significantly deter image quality at night. The reflections may cause a cloudy effect in the image or mirroring effects in the bubble. In some cases you may even see the camera lens mirrored in the bubble. This is usually caused by either:

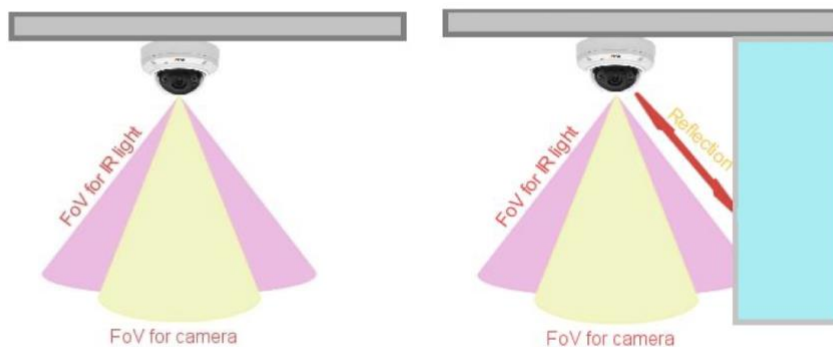
- IR-Reflection from nearby objects
- Reflections from external light sources
- Water droplets on the outside of the bubble
- Dirt and dust

Below we have listed a few considerations that should be taken into account to avoid these potential problems and achieve the best possible results.

1. IR-Reflections on nearby objects

Walls, eaves, ceilings and other objects may reflect IR light back into the camera. The strength of this effect depends on the proximity and surface of the object. As a rule of thumb, light and glossy surfaces, metal and glass will reflect more light than dark, matt objects.

Avoid direct reflections from nearby objects. The IR beam should not be directed towards near walls or ceilings, windows and other objects with high reflectivity. The camera's angle of illumination might be wider compared to the angle of view so you should not rely on the camera image to determine if an object is in the path of the IR beam. Highly reflective objects could be covered or painted to reduce reflections.



10 Ways to Improve Security Camera Night Vision

2017-08-24 / Articles / By Steve / 50 COMMENTS



You can improve how well your security cameras see at night by keeping these tips in mind when installing and troubleshooting your surveillance system.

It's easy to make some simple mistakes that can severely degrade your cameras ability to get a useful image in low light conditions if you don't know what to watch out for.

Keep reading to see what to do and what to avoid in order to get the best image possible from your cameras.

1. Add more visible lighting

This may seem too obvious to even mention, but also it's too important to leave out of this list. Adding the right light source can be almost like turning night into day when you can evenly illuminate the area being viewed by a security camera. A good light can even allow a good camera to operate in color mode all night as if it were daytime.

One example would be a driveway or parking area with several vehicles parked there. A small porch light on the side of a nearby building might light the area a little bit, but the lighting would be uneven and full of shadows.

You might be able to improve things by adding several more similar lights if the area layout allows it, but I think the best solution is a powerful light designed to illuminate large outdoor areas like that. Something like a mercury vapor light up high on a building or on a pole will evenly and brightly light a large area, and the mounting height will greatly reduce the number and size of shadows around objects like vehicles.



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