Sharp and Effective Focusing

Good focusing is one of the essential elements of any photo: if a scene is not properly in focus then the resulting photo will be ruined regardless of how perfect the lighting is, or how well the shot is composed. Therefore, it is important to be confident when focusing shots on a smartphone camera.

One of the limitations of smartphone cameras is that they do not have a manual method of focusing by moving the camera lens. Instead, they use Auto Focus (AF) when focusing on a scene being viewed by the camera. This is a very effective way of focusing on a scene and, by default, the camera tries to get as much of the scene in sharp focus as possible. This usually results in a photo that looks sharply in focus wherever you look at it:

...cont'd

Selecting areas of focus

Despite the effectiveness of Auto Focus, there may be occasions when you want to have the main focus of the photo at one specific point. If this happens, the smartphone camera will still try to get as much of the rest of the photo in focus as possible, but the area that you have selected will be the main focal point. This should guarantee that the main subject of the photo is in focus.
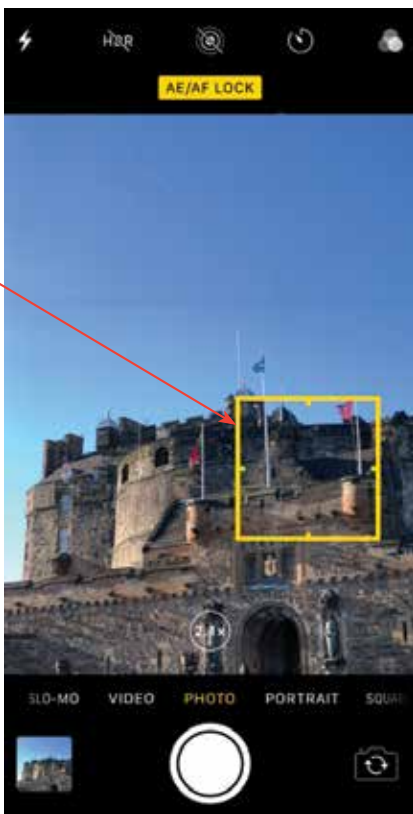
To specify a particular focal area in a photo:

1 Open the photo app and compose a scene

2 Press and hold on the screen on the area that you want to be the main focal area

3 A colored square appears over the focal area

4 Keep holding on the screen until the **AE/AF Lock** button appears at the top of the screen (AE is for the exposure of the photo – see pages 26-27. AF is for the Auto Focus). This indicates that the focal point has been set where you specified it, and will remain there once you remove your finger from the screen and move the camera

AE/AF LOCK

To ensure the best focus, use a method of supporting your smartphone camera to reduce the risk of your hand shaking slightly and causing an out-of-focus photo. This is known as camera shake.