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Setting up the ANPR Camera

Unlike other cameras which are plug and play the ANPR camera takes a little setting up to get the best results. First of all understand what the ANPR camera is designed to to: It's primary role in a CCTV system is to capture UK vehicle number plates at night. It gets round the problem of bleached out number plates, a product of their highly reflective design.

We recommend you set your ANPR camera up at night when it is designed to be used. You can of course mount it and complete any wiring during the day.

Mount your camera above the main beam of the vehicle headlights, the camera is able to deal with vehicle headlights to some degree but mounting in this way will give the best results. 6-8 feet from the ground is a good height.

Once mounted place a vehicle where you are trying to capture number plate details then zoom the camera in as far as possible to fill as much of the screen as possible with the number plate. A gateway or entrance is an ideal location for the camera as you know exactly where the car will be.

Twist open the round cover under the camera body to gain access to the set up controls. You can also plug in the supplied lead for your set up monitor. The use of a set up monitor saves huge amounts of time when setting up cameras.

First you need to adjust the brightness of the infra red illumination. In general we find the brighter the better. You may find the image glares out initially but the next step of setting up is designed to counter this.

The most important setting is the shutter speed of the camera. Using the on-screen menu (press the menu button in to initialise the on screen menu then toggle up, down, left and right). You need to have the shutter speed set to manual. Once you have the shutter speed highlighted adjust it so the number plate is clear. Aim to have as fast a shutter speed as possible (ie a large number), try 1/4000th of a second as a starting point. Once you are happy scroll down to save and return and press the menu button. If you can't get a clear image try turning the Infra red down a little.

You are now set up. Remember you are only looking to record the number plate, the rest of the image will be very dark. Check the results in daytime operation. You may find in bright sunlight the image is a bit pale but you should still be able to read the number plate. If necessary adjust the shutter speed a little to get a balance between day and night time footage.

By using one of our normal non-ANPR cameras in conjunction with the ANPR camera you will be able to capture a good overview both at night and during the day, albeit with the number plate bleached out. It will allow you to put the ANPR camera's footage into context.