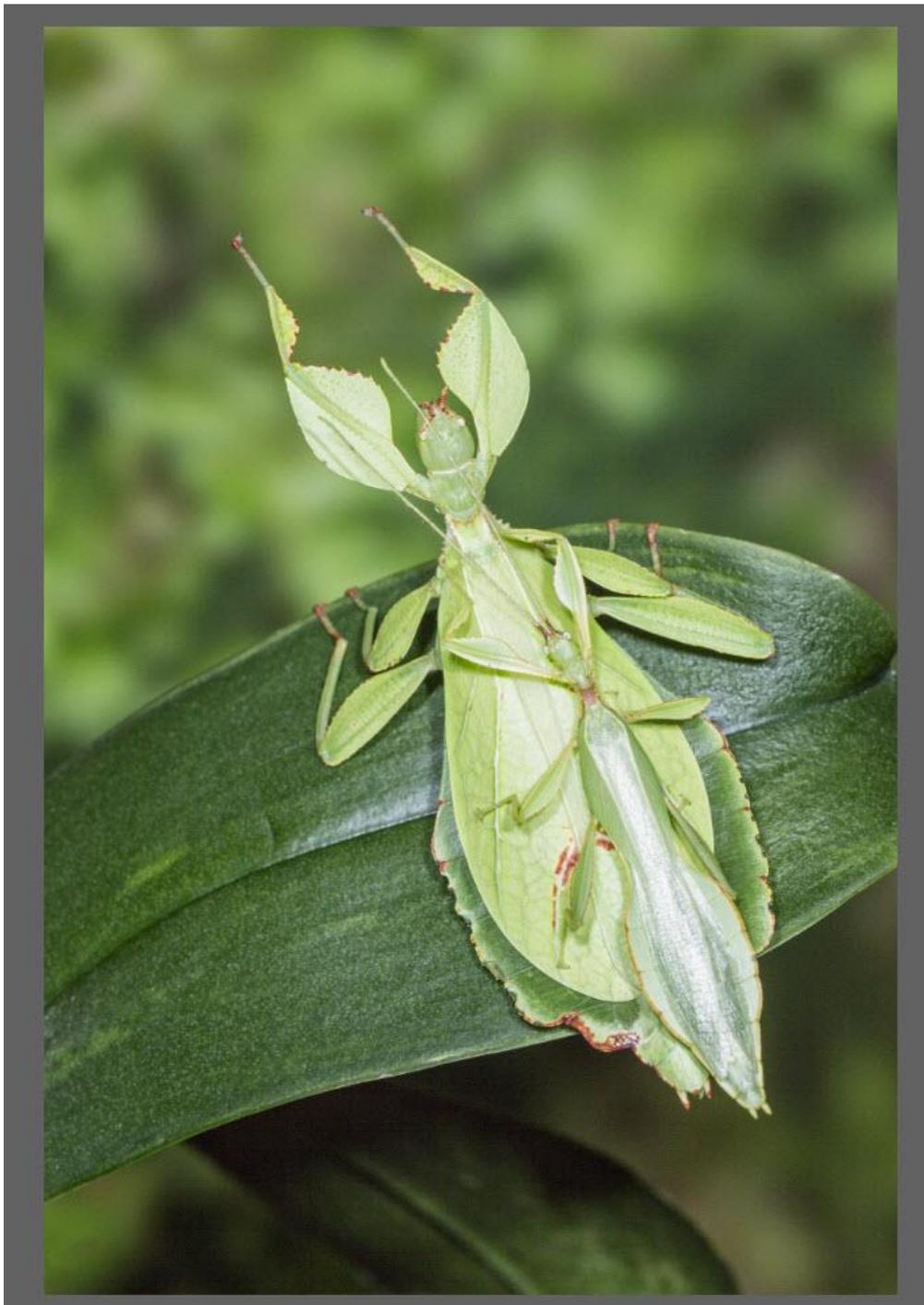


ADVANCED CROPPING AND CORRECTION

When cropping an image, in particular when rotating it before cropping or when cropping a stitched panorama you can be faced with having to crop tighter than you really want. This is because the ideal crop that you would like, results in cropping outside the image area. Here is a technique for filling those blank areas, providing the image around the area is not too complex.

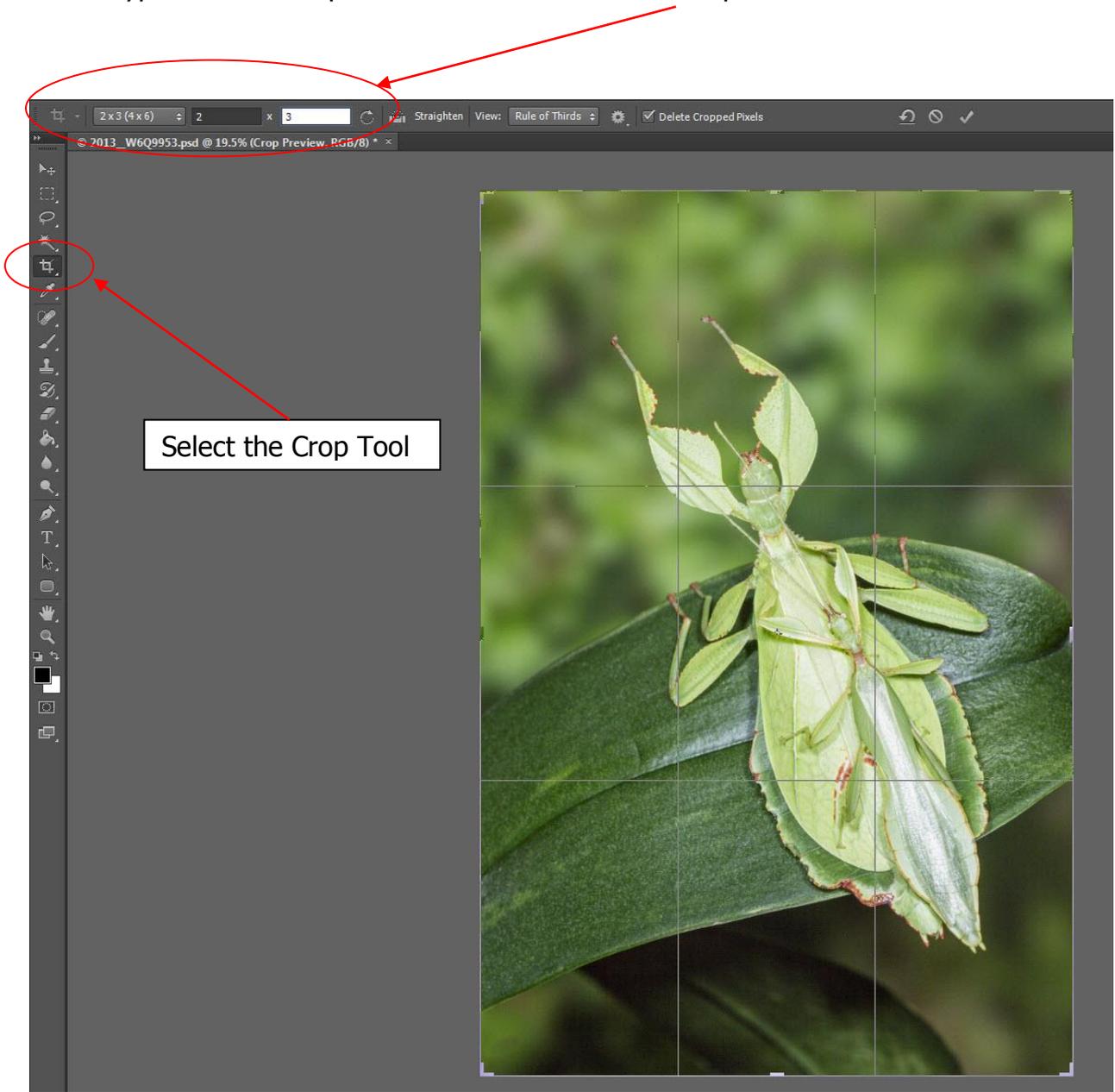
1. Load your completed image into Photoshop.

Here I have chosen a vertical image of Leaf Insects and I want to change the angle of the insects in the image.



2. **Select the crop tool.**

I wish to maintain the 36mm x 24mm (3 x 2) Aspect Ratio of this image.
3 x 2 is for a landscape format and 2 x 3 is for a portrait format.
I have typed 2 x 3 for a portrait format in the Custom aspect ratio boxes.

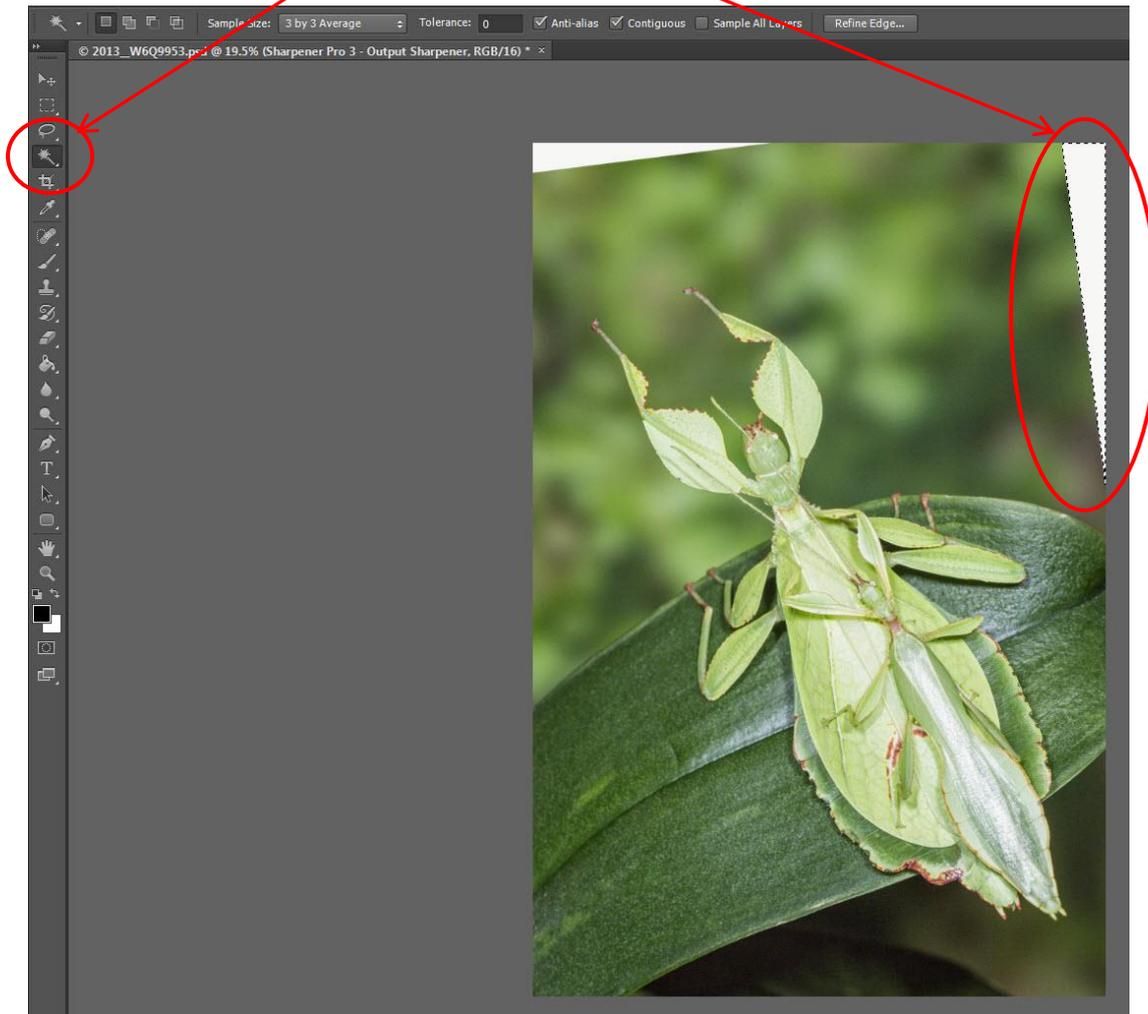


3. **Rotate image to desired angle.**

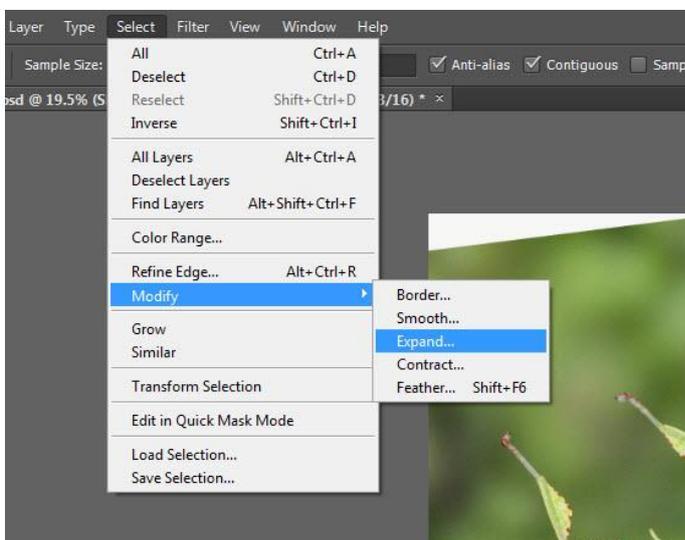
Click outside of the image at the corner and your cursor will change to a double arrow symbol. You will now be able to rotate the image.



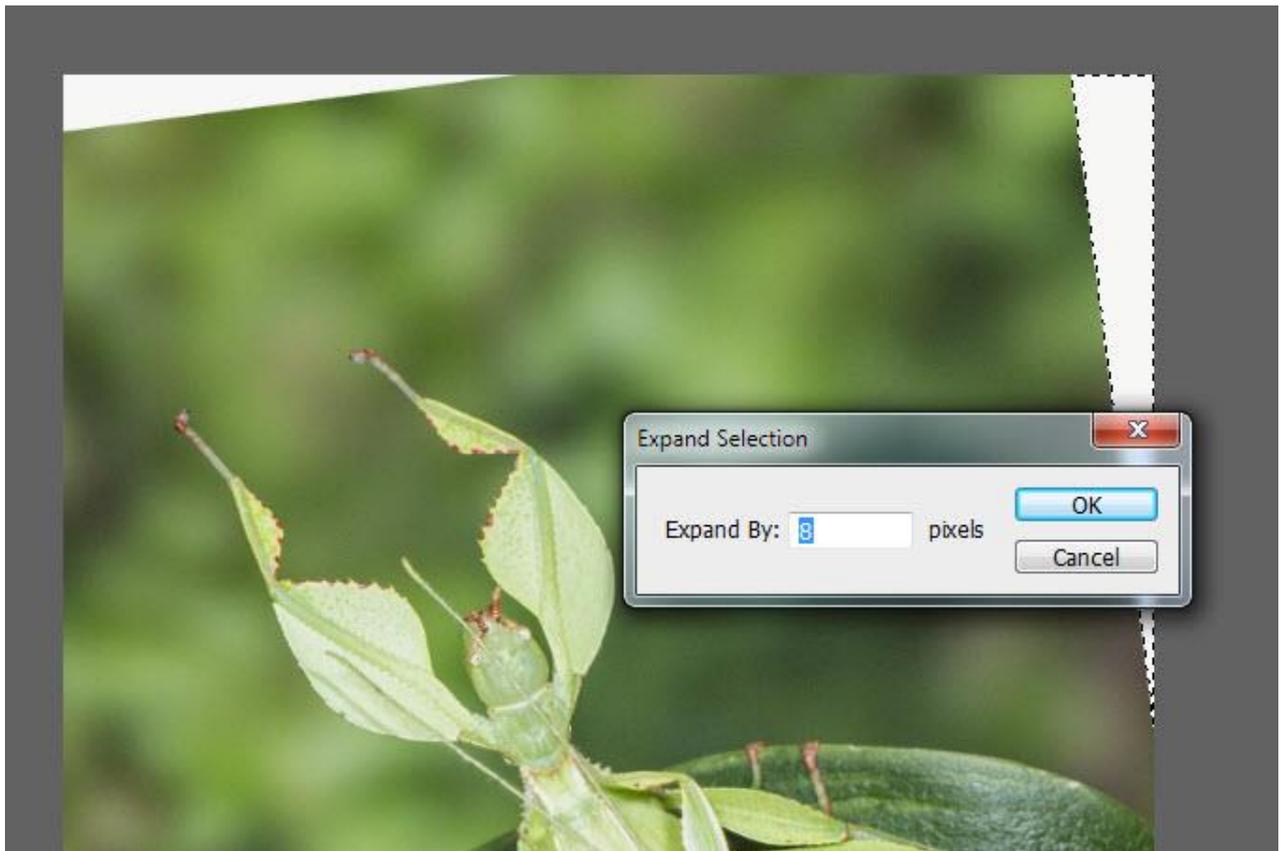
- Alter the crop area to ideal position and crop.
- Select the Magic Wand Tool and with it select one of the blank areas by clicking inside it.



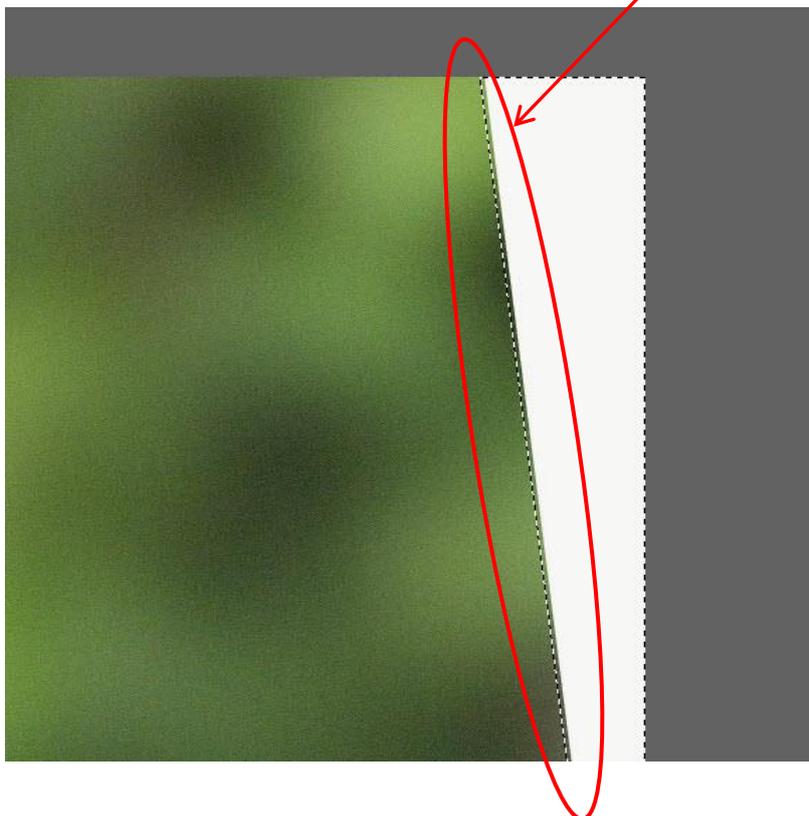
- We now need to deal with the selected area where there is no image.** Click on Select/Modify/Expand.



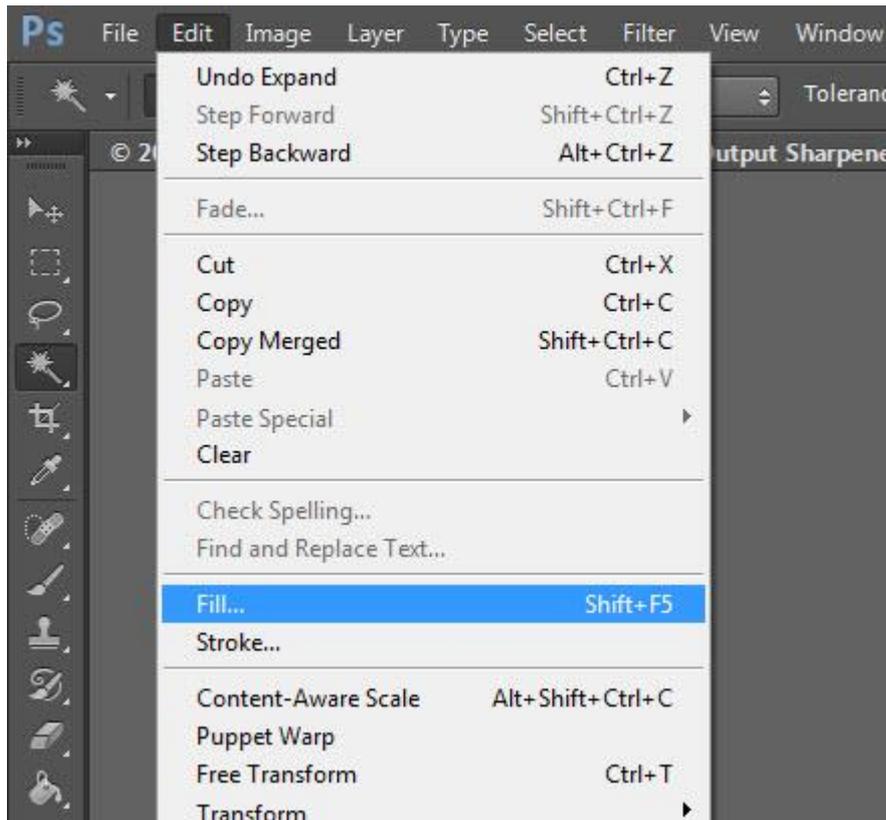
7. **A dialogue box will appear.** Enter how many pixels you wish to expand your selection by and click OK. In this case I have entered 8.



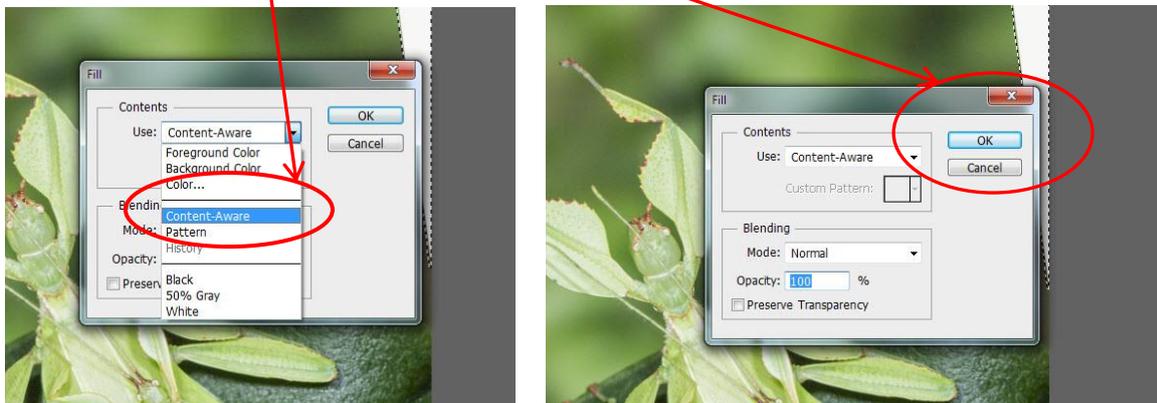
8. **You will see the selection has been expanded.**



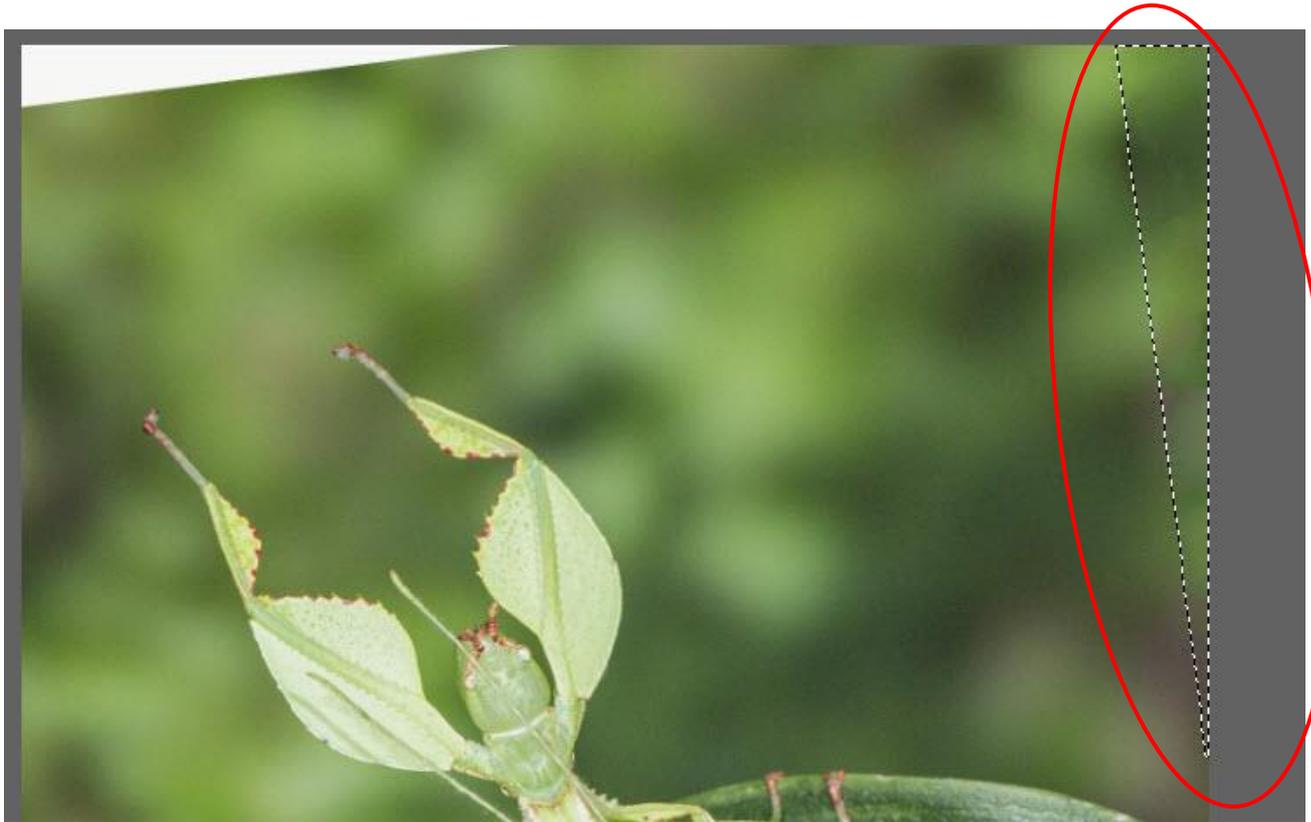
9. Select Edit/Fill



10. Choose Content Aware and click OK

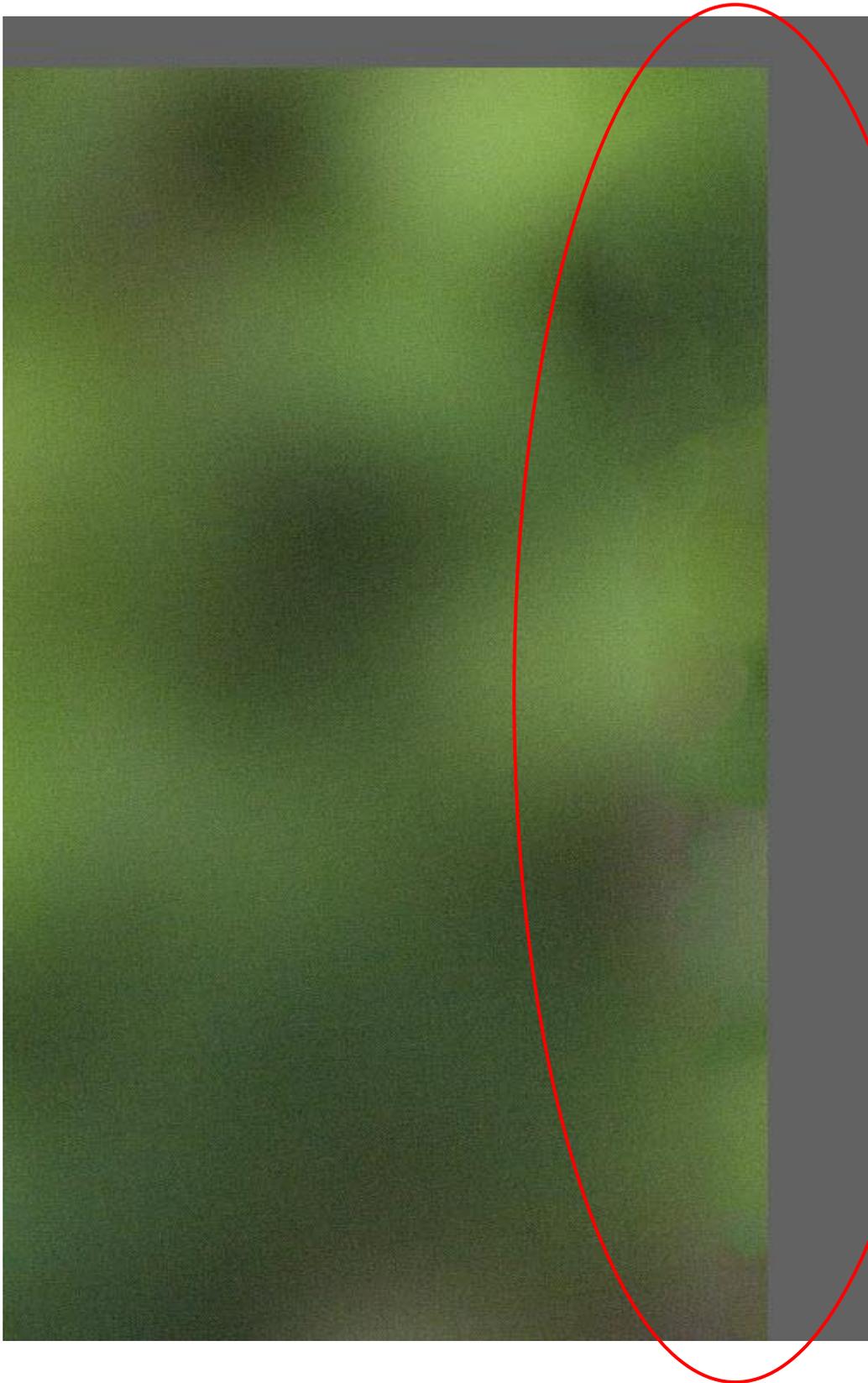


11. Photoshop has now filled the area based on the surrounding content.

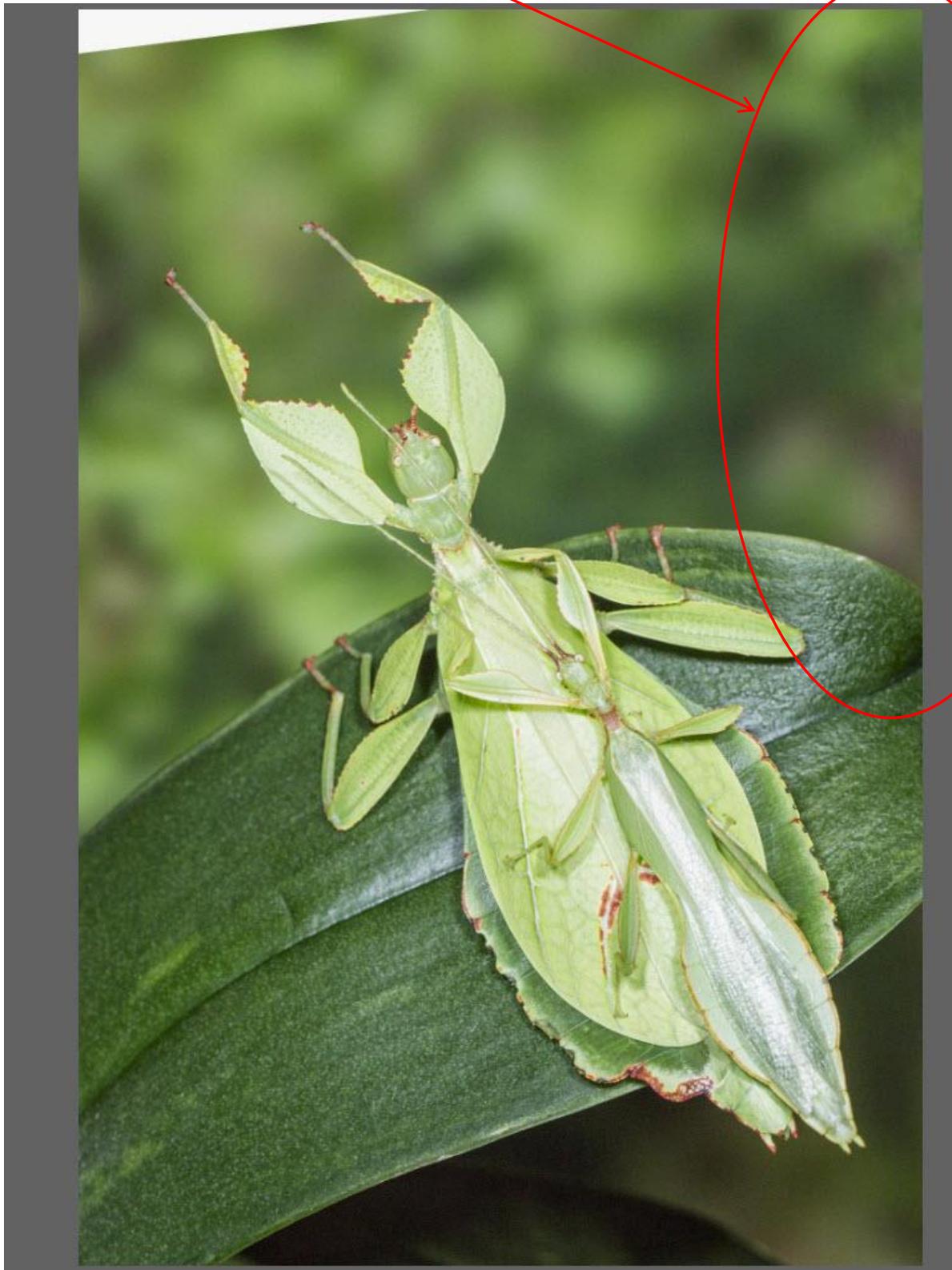


12. **Click Ctrl-D to deselect the selection and examine the results.**

On this occasion the results are good but not perfect.



13. **Photoshop does not always do a perfect job**, so, as on this occasion it needs a small amount of work doing with either the Clone Tool (sometimes at a reduced opacity) or the Spot Healing brush tool as done here.



14. **Repeat this operation for any other areas that require filling.**
Here is the final image.



15. This technique can also be used on stitched panoramic images to help maintain maximum image if needed.

16. BEFORE



17. AFTER.

This image needed very little work doing after filling the areas using the above technique.



I do Hope that you found this tutorial useful.

Derek Doar

www.ddimages.co.uk