

# British Isles - Seal ID

## Common Seal – *Phoca vitulina*

[www.cambsmammalgroup.org.uk](http://www.cambsmammalgroup.org.uk)



Mark Hows  
Cambridgeshire Mammal Group

## Grey Seal - *Halichoerus grypus*

**ID Features:-** A rather dog or even horse like face with a large muzzle, very large nostrils which are widely separated. A pronounced forehead with protruding eyes. Like common seals they are very variable in colour. Grey seals lie flat.

**Size:-** 140-250cm

**Weight:-** 130-440kg

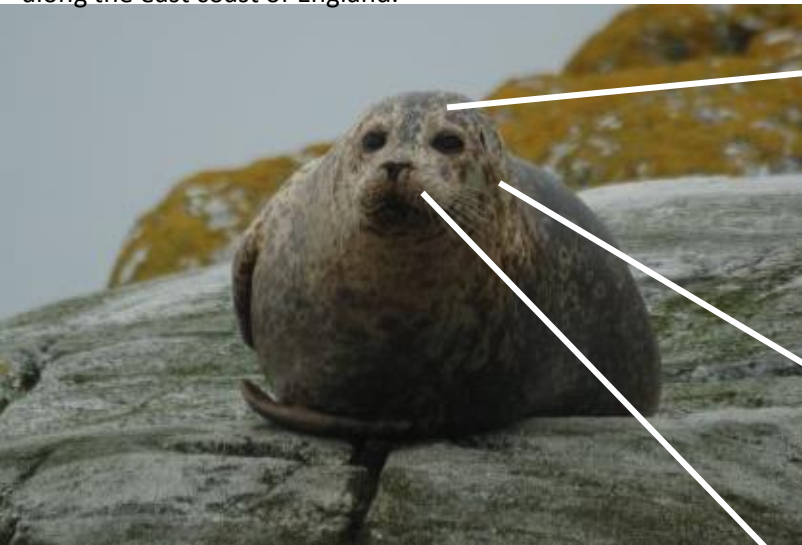
**Distribution:-** All of UK apart from some of the southern coast of England.

**ID Features:-** Almost cat like face, short muzzle, large white whiskers, coat very variable in colour. Concave forehead and small nose, small nostrils which form a V shape almost meeting. Eyes often look sunken. More likely to be found in freshwater than grey seals. On land often lie in the 'banana' position.

**Size:-** 120-160cm

**Weight:-** 45-130kg

**Distribution:-** Mostly Scotland, Western Ireland but a few colonies along the east coast of England.



Concave  
Forehead

Convex  
Forehead

Sunken Eyes

Large Nostrils

Small Nostrils

Lies Flat

Banana  
Position

