

Magnificent Mammals

Marine mammals breathe air, are warm blooded and produce milk for their young. Whales and dolphins spend all their lives in the ocean but seals move between the land and sea.

All marine mammals have hair but whales and dolphins lose it when they are young.

Bottlenose Dolphin

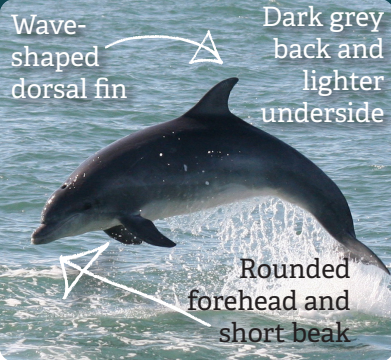
Tursiops truncatus

Dolffin Trwyn Potel

Up to 4m long. Same length as the average car.

Dolphins don't chew their food, they use their teeth to grip prey and then swallow it whole!

Chunky and plain grey dolphin



What to look for:



You will typically see their back and sickle shaped dorsal fin above the surface of the water. Bottlenose dolphins are very active, so you may spot them leaping out of the water.



Harbour Porpoise

Phocoena phocoena

Llamhidydd

Up to 1.7m long. The same length as the width of a king size bed

Harbour porpoise are called puffing pigs because of the sound they make when they breathe.

Small and stocky cetacean



What to look for:



When porpoise surface to breathe they stay low in the water, so you will see the upper part of their back and triangular dorsal fin breaking the surface.



Atlantic Grey Seal

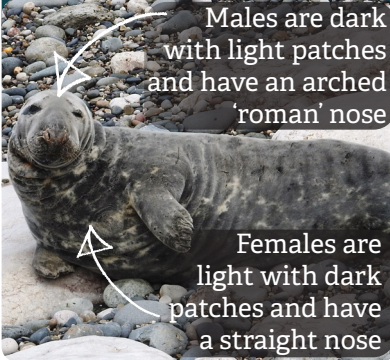
Halichoerus grypus

Morlo Llwyd

Up to 2-3m in length. The same length as a pool table.

Atlantic grey seals are closely related to bears. Pups are born with white fur called langu.

Large seal with a long head



What to look for:



Seals are often spotted hauled out on rocks or beaches and they can also be seen swimming in the water or bobbing up and down like a bottle.

Common Dolphin

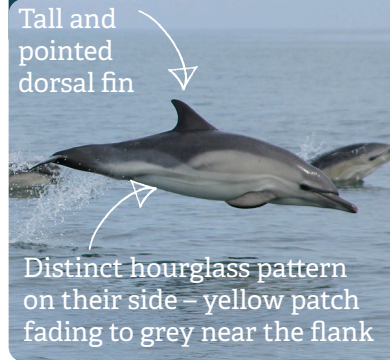
Delphinus delphis

Dolffin Cyffredin

Up to 2m in length. The same height as a standard front door.

Common dolphins can swim up to 30m an hour when chasing fish.

Slender and streamlined dolphin



What to look for:



Often in large groups travelling at speed and leaping out of the water. Common dolphins are typically found in deeper water but, occasionally come closer to shore.



Risso's Dolphin

Grampus griseus

Dolffin Risso

Up to 4m in length. The same length as the average car.

As Risso's age they become white from scarring caused by other Risso's and squid they eat.

Stocky and covered with scars



What to look for:



Often seen floating lazily at the surface or leisurely travelling in groups. Look out for tall dorsal fins, white bodies and large splashes as they crash down after a leap.



What is it?