

Photography Best Practice for Seals

While it is always exciting to see a seal, we must remember that it is a wild animal with survival needs and instincts. We must learn to live alongside seals, who need us to avoid inadvertently disturbing them and causing unseen harm.

The impacts of disturbance are often invisible and delayed.

As a charity, we no longer publish or share photos of seals looking at the camera and are phasing out photographs on public display where the seal is looking into the lens; this is to discourage people from deliberately disturbing seals to get a "good photo".

A good photo is a relaxed seal, not looking at you and behaving naturally.

If a seal looks at you, you are too close!

Defra recommend we all stay at least 100m away.

Let's change the culture of wildlife photography, one photo at a time.



Use zoom cameras or binoculars

On land, stay on clifftops, dunes or paths. Avoid walking on seal beaches and discourage others from doing so.

.....
at least 100 metres

Eyes, nose and ears
Make sure seals cannot:

smell you
(stay downwind)

see you
(stay out of sight)

hear you
(stay quiet/
whisper)

Enjoy,
Respect,
Protect
Leaflet



Aim to be a role model for photography best practice

In public: use vague site names, avoid landmarks, and encourage others not to name sensitive seal sites online, except in a direct message.

On/in the water: If you spot seals on land, give them an extra-wide berth - especially if the seals are high above the water line. A high-up seal is a high injury risk.

Don't share photographs of mums and pups in real time, or reveal their location.

Visit sites where human access is managed.

#RespectTheNap

#DoNotDisturb

#RudeToIntrude

#GiveSealsSpace



Selfie Research



Defra Marine Code



SRT Website

SEAL
Research
Trust

