Seal Wardens’ Handbook
FoHS Contacts

FoHS website
www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

Wardens’ Forum
www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk/wardens/forum

E-mail addresses
General wardening matters
wardens@friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

Contact for members
members@friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

Rota enquiries
Short notice cancellation
rota@friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk
in emergency ring 01493 748516

General enquiries from the public
enquiries@friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

RSPCA-24 hour line to report sick or injured animals
0300 1234 999
You will be asked questions about the exact location and condition of
the animal/bird you are reporting and might be asked to remain at
the location until an officer arrives.

Enquiries from the media or for new wardens
Peter Ansell (FoHS Chairman and Press Officer)
2, Chapel Cottages, Back Lane,
Rollesby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 5EB
01493 748516

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The Role of a Seal Warden

Wardens are on duty to:
* Help reduce disturbance to the breeding seal colony.
* Encourage visitors to follow guidelines regarding how to behave around seals.
* Engage with visitors.
* Educate visitors about grey seals.
* Promote Friends of Horsey Seals.

Wardens should be:
* Happy to talk to members of the general public.
* Welcoming to all visitors.
* Adaptable and ready to warden anywhere on this site if required. (Mobility problems will be taken into consideration)
* Enthusiastic about wildlife.

Preparing for duty:
* Have the right attire for the time you will spend on the dunes. Weather conditions can change quickly and wardens should be prepared for this. Take additional warm and waterproof clothing with you.
* Ensure that your mobile phone is fully charged in case of emergencies.
* Have your identification lanyard and hi-viz vest with you and wear them on site.
* Be aware of the BUDDY system. (See page 9)
* You may wish to take a warm drink and a snack.

Wardens should not:
* Be confrontational with visitors who do not adhere to guidelines.
* Get involved in arguments with visitors.
* Get involved with parking issues. Refer them to the car park attendants or get them to contact the parking company whose telephone number is displayed near the payment machine.

Responsibilities of the Seal Warden

Role:
* You are a volunteer and are on site to welcome and advise visitors.
* To help reduce disturbance to the breeding grey seal colony at Horsey.
* To advise visitors to follow marked paths to view the seals to the best advantage and reduce damage to the dunes.
* To interact with visitors and answer their questions about seals and the colony.
* To be aware of health and safety issues at the site and never to endanger yourself, visitors or fellow wardens.
* To explain the role of the seal warden and Friends of Horsey Seals, and to invite visitors to become members.

Responsibilities:
Full wardening of the dunes on busy weekends in the pupping season is necessary to protect the colony and to interact with and educate as many visitors as possible.
* If time to do so (i.e. before 48 hours before duty) cancel via the online rota. (See contacts list.)
* If you know less than 48 hours before the duty that you cannot make a shift, you MUST email: rota@friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk.
* or at extreme short notice, call the emergency number on the contacts list on page 2.
* Always wear clothing appropriate to the prevailing weather conditions.
* You are responsible for your own safety.
* Use the buddy system.
If a visitor is unco-operative or aggressive towards you, politely back off. Never inflame a situation.

Act professionally at all times while on duty. Please refrain from smoking or any other inappropriate behaviour in front of visitors.

Please refrain from taking personal photographs while there are visitors to attend to.

Please keep conversations with other wardens short when there are visitors to attend to.

Be aware of possible delays in reaching and entering the wardens' permitted parking area and allow sufficient travelling time to arrive at the site to start your shift.

Be at your allotted post to begin wardening on time.

Parking space for wardens is limited. Please use your parking permit only for the purpose of carrying out wardening duties.

Use the Wardens' Forum regularly.

Refer any on-site media enquiries to FoHS Press Officer.

What a Warden Does

TALKS TO AND ENGAGES WITH PEOPLE

* Answers visitors' questions about the seals - if you don't know the answer - be honest! Another warden may be able to help you.

* Explain what is going on in the colony - the 'soap opera' that is Horsey Beach.

* Explain that any disturbance of the colony may result in a pup losing connection with its mother and being abandoned.

* Disturbance can also drive a pup into the territory of another seal where it may be attacked.

* Explain that a dog running loose can also break this connection. The dog is more likely to be hurt than the seal.

* Explain that seals can bite both humans and dogs and that it can cause 'seal finger' (An infection that needs immediate treatment with a specific antibiotic that is not generally available). Lack of treatment can, in some cases, cause paralysis of the bitten limb which could lead to the need for an amputation.

* Advise visitors to stay in the accessible areas and explain why we have roped-off some areas of the dunes to help stop erosion. The dunes are part of the local sea defences.

* Suggest that if they are interested in the seal colony, they could become a member of Friends of Horsey Seals and explain what we do.

Your Commitment

* By completing enrolment and training you agreed to accept the role and responsibilities of a seal warden.

* It is IMPORTANT that you turn up on time for your shifts - that doesn’t mean arrive at Horsey Gap Cark Park - it means being in your allocated position at the time specified.

* During peak periods - there may be a delay in parking your car - take this into consideration and time your journey accordingly.

* Be aware that another warden might be waiting for you to take over from them.
You will be asked to commit to a minimum number of shifts during the pupping season.

It is important that you access the Wardens’ Forum on the website so that you are aware of any problems that you might confront when you come on duty. Also post any problems you have encountered during your shift.

Communication with fellow wardens is useful but do not congregate in groups when there are visitors to speak/attend to.

Respect the role of the DUTY WARDEN and assist them by responding to their requests (e.g. if asked to cover another duty point).

Please do not smoke, eat or behave in a way that could offend our visitors - it does not reflect well on us as a group.

Respect our partners:
Those who operate the car park
The Environmental Agency
The Buxton and Burnley Hall Estates
The RSPCA.

Meeting and Greeting

Be welcoming! Smile and say, Good morning/Good afternoon/Hello, etc, to arriving visitors.

Chat to visitors. Find out what interests them and answer their questions - this booklet is here to help you.

At Horsey Gap Car Park, you might like to ask if they have taken distance into account when paying for parking? It’s about 1.25 miles to the viewing platforms, 20-25 minutes walk. (Each way)

The metal kissing gate from HG car park gives access to wheelchairs and buggies.

The path behind the dunes can be muddy and pitted and there are steep flights of steps up to the viewing platforms.

Access is easier for those with mobility issues at the Pillbox viewing area which is a shorter walk from HG car park.

Do they have suitable clothing to be comfortable? This applies particularly when children or older people are included. It can be very cold and windy on top of the dunes.

There are litter and dog waste bins at HG car park only.

Toilet facilities are available at peak times at HG car park, otherwise the nearest toilets are at the Nelson Head public house (Patrons only), Martham (opposite duck pond) and Winterton Beach, Horsey Mill National Trust car park (summer season opening).

There are some shops, cafes and pubs at Winterton, Sea Palling and Martham that remain open all year. The Co-op pharmacy and supermarket at Martham is open Monday to Saturday (open daily) has basic medical supplies.

Buddy System (Emergency contact)

Before going on duty the Seal Warden should ‘Check in’ with a Buddy.

The Buddy system is designed for your safety and is required by our insurance company.

Your ‘buddy’ is a family member or a friend who is not wardening with you.

Make sure your ‘buddy’ is aware of how the Buddy
System works and his/her role in it.
* Make sure he/she knows the number of your mobile phone.
* Leave a list of duties or rota with your 'buddy'.
* Make sure your 'buddy' knows who to contact in case of emergency.

**When going on duty:**
* Seal Warden calls the 'buddy' to confirm arrival on site, expected length of shift, and location where car is parked.

**At end of shift:**
* When ready to leave the site call your 'buddy' to say you have finished your shift and give expected time of arrival home.
* Make sure ‘buddy’ is informed of your safe arrival home.

**Buddy’s telephone number**
___________________________________________

**Name and address of next of kin**
___________________________________________
___________________________________________
___________________________________________
___________________________________________

**Wardens’ Page on the Website**

The Wardens’ page on the website is a tool that helps Friends of Horsey Seals to function. It is essential that all wardens make use of it.

**Website:** www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

**To log in:**

Username: Your email address
Password: you will be advised of this at training

**The Wardens’ Forum**

The Forum is the ideal place for communicating events/incidents to your fellow wardens and to the committee.

If you have something to report:

* To access the Forum click the WARDENS’ tab on the bar at the top of the home webpage - a drop-down menu will appear - select WARDENS’ FORUM
* To post a message select and click the appropriate topic.
* Type your TOPIC TITLE in the box ‘CREATE NEW TOPIC IN XXXX’
* Click in the space below and type your message,
* Click SUBMIT to save your message.

Click on HOME>PRIVATE:WARDENS FORUM to return to the start point of the Forum.

**Booking Shifts on the Website**

To book shifts log onto the website (Continued overleaf.)

* Click on the Wardens tab on the bar at the top of the home webpage.
* Select ROTA and click on it.
* Click on link Volunteer for booking or cancelling duties.

The Wardens’ ‘self serve’ Rota will appear on your screen.

* The Rota shows the daily time slots for duties and the
locations of wardening duties.

(You can hover over any disc with your mouse to check date, time slot and location of a green disc - and find out who has booked the slot if the disc is red)

* If the disc indicating the time slot/location is green it means that it is available.
* If the disc is red it means that it has been booked by another warden.
* If the disc is half red and half green there is still another duty available at that point.
* A message will appear to warn you if you are trying to book two duties for the same time slot. You can go ahead with this if the second slot is for another warden who shares the same email address.

**A confirmation message will appear.**

* Read the message and check that it confirms your chosen day/time slot and location.
* Click **CONFIRM**.
* An email will be sent to your inbox to confirm this booking.
* A reminder email will be sent 48 hours prior to the duty.

You can use the ‘Wardens’ Rota at a glance page’ for CANCELLING a time slot/location that you have booked.

* A message will appear if you try to cancel a slot booked by another warden.
* Only you can cancel your own bookings.
* A message will appear that asks you to confirm the cancellation, and you will be sent an email to confirm the cancellation. The message suggests that you select an alternative duty.

**Other Important Information on the Website for Wardens**

The **Constitution of the Friends of Horsey Seals** appears under MEMBERS/CONSTITUTION & COMMITTEE on the website which includes the FoHS ‘Aims and Objectives’.

A list of **Committee Members** with their roles also appears on the website at the above location.

The **Risk Assessment for Wardening** is on the website on WARDENS/INFORMATION as well as being displayed in the Wardens’ Box and the Wardens’ Hut.

**Health and Safety**

Lone working - this could happen on the first hour of the first shift (10am - 12 noon) and the final hour of the final shift (2.00pm - 4.00pm) but a Duty Warden might be on site for back-up.

Please ensure that your mobile telephone is fully charged before you go on duty.

Make sure that you contact your ‘Buddy’ when you arrive at Horsey and also when you have finished your shift and are making your way home.

**Insurance:** FoHS volunteers are covered by **Personal Accident and Public Liability insurance while on duty.**

**Emergencies**

**First Aid:**
Basic **First Aid Kits** are kept in the wardens’ lock-up box at Horsey Gap and the Wardens’ hut at Crinkle Gap.
Only give first aid within the limits of your training and capabilities.

Good Samaritan rules apply in that you need to show that your actions are protecting life and preventing further harm.

Always remember:

* To check that the area is safe and that you are safe BEFORE taking any action.
* Do not deal with any situation that you do not feel confident to do so.
* If appropriate get another warden to help.

In any emergency situation contact emergency services (999 or 112) and ask for the COASTGUARD. Use grid references printed below (also on the reverse of your ID badge). Record details of accidents in the Accident Book (found in the wardens' box and in the wardens' hut).

Grid references:

- Horsey Gap car park gate: TG464242
- Crinkle Gap entrance: TG473233

Be prepared: If you have dealt with an incident you may feel upset afterwards. Make sure there is someone you can talk to.

Children and Vulnerable Adults

Don’t deal with children and vulnerable adults on your own. Ask other wardens or sensible members of the public to assist. Respect the child's/VA's personal space and safeguard yourself. Involve police within appropriate timescales. If in doubt contact Duty Warden if there is one on duty.

Seal Bites

GET IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION

Seals have bacteria in their mouths which can cause serious damage to humans or animals if bitten by a seal. There is a risk of infection leading to a condition known as SEAL FINGER. Treatment requires a specific antibiotic that is not commonly available. It can take months to cure and in extreme cases amputation of the affected part can result.

Frequently Asked Questions About The Site.

Q. Who is in charge of the car park and sets the car park charge?
A. A private parking company contracted by the estate (See details in car park.) manages the car park at Horsey and sets the parking charges. They also look after the overflow car park and flow of traffic during the pupping season. We do not receive any funding from this.

Q. Who is in charge of services on the Horsey site during pupping season?
A. As above.

Q. When is the pupping season?
A. The season is between the beginning of November and the end of January.

Q. Why can’t we go on the beach during pupping season?
A. There is a voluntary beach closure to help stop seal pups being disturbed and injured. It also sets a good example to other visitors.
Dune Conservation & Footpaths
Pathways and accessible areas on the dunes will be marked by ropes. To avoid excessive erosion of the dunes these might change from year to year. Notices have been erected to deter visitors from entering conservation areas.

Wardening Locations
- NG: Horsey Gap North
- HG: Horsey Gap Gate
- HP: Horsey Gap Path
- PB: Horsey Gap Pill Box (2 wardens)
- CG: Crinkle Gap
- VP: Viewing Platforms (2 wardens)

Map Key
- Red: Main Roads
- Black: Minor Roads/Lanes
- Dotted: Metalled Paths
- Dashed: Major Footpaths
- Gray: Groynes Numbers
- Purple: Dykes/Ditches

Distance from Car Park to Viewing Platforms is approx 1.25 miles
Q. Why are the areas of the dunes roped off?
A. We rope the areas off to protect the dunes from excessive erosion & allow recovery. Walkers can be a cause of erosion. The dunes are an essential part of the coastal flood defences.

Q. What authority do you have?
A. You are a volunteer of Friends of Horsey Seals, with the support of Natural England who are responsible for access and wildlife issues in this area and with the permission of the landowners.

Frequently Asked Questions About Seals.

Q. What is the difference between Harbour and Grey Seals?
A. Grey seals are normally bigger and have a more Roman nose - nostrils are parallel and vertical, harbour seals have heart-shaped nostrils.

Q. How long do seals live?
A. Males live up to 25 years and females up to 35 years.

Q. How long do grey seal pups stay on the beach.
A. Minimum of 6 weeks - 3 weeks suckling and a further 3 weeks moulting.

Q. Where do grey seals go for the rest of the year?
A. Some remain in the local area but it appears that many do leave although we don't know where they go. They spend most of their time out at sea or near the coast, frequently hauling out on land to rest and groom. There are links on the FoHS website to studies on this subject.

Q. How much weight do grey seal pups gain?
A. In ideal conditions, 2kg per day.

Q. What do I do if I see a dead seal?
A. Nothing! This is all part of nature and the food chain.

Q. What do I do if I see a sick seal?
A. Outside of Horsey and the pupping season, you should
contact the RSPCA. If you spot a sick seal during pupping season at Horsey, please inform the warden/s on site.

Q. How long is the grey seal pupping period?
A. At Horsey it lasts from early November until late January.

Q. What is the gestation period of grey seals?
A. 11.5 months (fertilised egg held in stasis for about 3 months of this).

Q. At what age do grey seals start breeding?
A. Females become sexually mature at 3 - 5 years and males at 4 - 6 years.

Q. What do grey seals eat?
A. Adult: flatfish, octopus, mackerel and herring. Young: small edible fish, molluscs and crustaceans.

Q. What happens to sick, injured or abandoned seals?
A. We keep an eye on them and if necessary we contact the RSPCA who decide whether they need treatment or are better left undisturbed. Seals are frequently reported with netting/rope around their necks. Sometimes we cannot act straightaway and we need to monitor the situation and wait for the right opportunity. A seal will head straight for the water if we approach and if they are in the middle of the colony, especially during pupping season, we could potentially disturb females nursing pups, and they could become abandoned.

**About Grey Seals**

**Name**
The Grey Seal (also called Atlantic Grey Seal and Horsehead Seal). *Halichoerus grypus* which translates as hooked-nosed sea pig.

**Habitat**
* Grey Seals inhabit the North Atlantic Ocean
* 40% of the world's population of grey seals are found in and around the British coast.
* Three distinct populations occur:
  1. The western Atlantic population
  2. The north-eastern or Baltic population (which is endangered)
  3. The eastern Atlantic population
* About two thirds of the grey seals' time is spent at sea.
* They can dive 30 - 70 metres and usually dive for 5 - 10 minutes, but they can stay submerged for up to 20 minutes.
* Many grey seals feed locally, foraging just offshore and adopting a regular pattern of travelling between local sites and their favoured haul-outs.
* Between tides they haul out on rocks, sandbanks, or on uninhabited offshore islands, though some haul-outs (like Horsey) are on secluded mainland beaches.
* Grey seals come ashore to breed on exposed rocky shores or beaches, to moult, or to bask in the sun - this is believed to remove parasites.
* There are several colonies:
  * Farne Islands off the Northumberland coast
  * North Rona off north coast of Scotland
  * Lambay Island off the Irish Coast near Dublin
  * Ramsey Island off the Coast of Pembrokeshire
  * Donna Nook in Lincolnshire
  * Blakeney Point and Horsey in Norfolk
The Colony

* The Breeding area is called a ROOKERY or NURSERY.
* Grey seals are gregarious at these haul-outs, they are not, however, sociable and keep a distance between one another.
* Unhappy seals will:
  * Open their mouth in the direction of the intruder
  * Growl, moan, hiss
  * Wave their flippers
  * Lunge
  * Bite and scratch with their claws
* Seals vary in colour from dark brown to grey or black with blotches (coats sometimes turn red before they moult).
* When the males come ashore they compete for space nearest the females. The oldest males get the best positions.
* The largest males, usually more than 10 years old, compete for a position within groups of breeding females.
* It is difficult to tell the difference between male and female grey seals and mistakes can be made distinguishing harbour and grey seals. Size is the main factor when viewing from a distance.
* Young seals are more sociable and will play with each other, particularly in the sea.
* The seal’s large eyes enable them to see well under water, but it uses its highly sensitive hearing mostly when hunting for its prey. It may also be able to detect the presence of chemicals in the sea.

Males - bulls

* Males - usually the continuous background colour is dark, but in females it is lighter.
* Nostrils are parallel
* They have broad shoulders, thick neck, elongated snout and a heavy muzzle.
* They can be 2.3 - 3.3 metres long and weigh up to 300kg.

Females - cows

* Have a more slender snout and a less-rounded profile.
* They tend to be paler than the males.
* They are much smaller, typically 1.6 - 2 metres long and 100-150 kgs in weight.
* Female seals lose approximately 4kg (9lbs) weight a day whilst suckling (they use about 30,000 calories a day) and may appear to be unwell. This is natural and there is no need to worry.
* They may live for 35 years, but males seldom survive to more than 25 years.

Why give birth in the winter?

* This may allow the female to gain weight during the summer, feeding on fish - allowing her to be in good condition for feeding pup. Shefasts during lactation.

The pup

* Weighs 13 - 15kg at birth.
* Is born with a soft silky white fur that is not waterproof.
* They gain about 2kg (4.5lbs) of weight a day due to the high fat content of their mother’s milk (60% fat). When they are weaned they can weigh 45kg (100lbs).

Birth

* Pups are born from November to early January at Horsey.
* The females arrive at the breeding site first.
acts as vital insulation when they go to sea.
* They take approximately 2.5 litres of milk a day.
* The mortality rate for pups in their first year can be as high as 30 - 55%.
* Once the pup has been weaned the mother leaves it to fend for itself.

**Moulting its puppy coat**
* The pup stays in the rookery until it has fully moulted, living off its blubber reserves, and eventually goes to sea to start feeding, usually 1- 4 weeks after it has been weaned.
* Pups disperse in many directions from the rookery and are known to wander widely - distances of over 1,000 km are not uncommon.
* Within a month of weaning they shed the natal fur and grow dense, waterproof adult fur.
* Driven by hunger, they soon take to the sea to find their first solid food.
* They learn to fish for themselves. Mistakes are made and young seals have been found dead with just seaweed, grass or stones in their stomachs.
* Young seals may start with shrimps and crabs, but soon move on to fish.
* Adults moult three to four months after breeding.

**Suckling**
* Most pups would have had their first milk within six hours of being born.
* They suckle from their mother for 18 - 21 days.
* Ideally need to suckle 10 minutes every hour for maximum growth.
* They usually suckle 6 times a day - making a total of about 1 hour.
* The weight gained is stored as fat beneath the skin, which

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Seals are adapted to spend long periods in the sea: a thick layer of fat
Breeding

* After three weeks of suckling its pup, the female mates and then leaves the breeding area. She may mate with more than one male.
* She comes into oestrous 14 - 18 days after giving birth. However, males will often try and mate with a female in early stages of lactation. The response to this is flippering, snarling and lunging.
* Copulation can take place on land or in water and lasts on average about 20 minutes.
* Gestation period is 11.5 months, including a three month delay in the implantation of the fertilised egg.
* Successful males are able to mate with 2 - 10 females.
* Females reach sexual maturity at 3 - 5 years, males at 4 - 6 years, although males do not attain territorial status until 8 - 10 years of age.
* Neither lactating females nor dominant males feed during the breeding season, females usually for about three weeks and males sometimes for up to six weeks.
* Males lose approximately 2.2kg (4.5lbs) a day whilst stationed on the beach waiting to mate with as many females as possible.
* It seems that larger males mate with more females. This may be because they have larger energy stores allowing them to stay on the beach and guard their territory longer than smaller males.
* Females usually leave one or two days after being mated. About one in ten males will stay for most of the breeding season, but on average a male will stay for three weeks.

Diet

* Feeds on a variety of fish.
* Sand eels are important, but they will eat whatever is available, including octopus, squid and shellfish. They will even take the occasional sea-bird.
* Average daily food requirement is estimated at 5kg (11lb) - does not feed every day.
* Fasts during the breeding season.
Horsey Seals Project.
Historically, UK’s grey seals were confined to the waters around Scottish coasts and islands. When legal measures to protect wildlife were put in place in 20th century the population increased. As breeding sites (rookeries) became overcrowded they had to find other suitable places, and rookeries started to appear on rocky islands offshore (eg the Farne Islands, Northumbria) and on quiet beaches along the east coast (eg Donna Nook, Lincolnshire).

November 2012 marked the start of the first breeding season managed by FoHS. Seal births continued to increase and passed 1000 in 2015/16 season.

FoHS is now seeking to register as a charity.

Membership of Friends of Horsey Seals.

How much does FoHS membership cost?
The cost of annual membership is published on the FoHS leaflet and on www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk.

Annual membership
The membership year is from 1st November to the 31st October.

How can I become a member?
Visit our website www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk where you can find details of enrolment and online payment.

OR
Complete the form on the FoHS leaflet and send with a cheque to Friends of Horsey Seals at the address that can be found on the list of contacts.

Why become a member of Friends of Horsey Seals?
By joining FoHS you will be:
* Supporting the volunteer wardening scheme and the aims of Friends of Horsey Seals.
* Helping to provide education and information to visitors.
* Helping to fund the maintenance of fencing, signage and viewing areas.

In the 1990s a few grey seals were using the beach at Horsey to have their pups, but success was limited as disturbance by human visitors and dog walkers caused nervous mothers to abandon pups.

By 2002 the rookery had grown and about 50 pups were born at Horsey. Some informal voluntary wardening was already taking place but English Nature (now Natural England), together with the Broads Authority, and encouraged by Mr John Buxton, local landowner and wildlife enthusiast, set about formalising a project to recruit and train voluntary wardens with a view to providing guidance and reducing disturbance by visitors.

The project prospered and from 50 pups (2002/03) the number of births had increased by 2011/12 to 500.

The international banking crisis of 2008 reduced government grants, and in late 2011 both Natural England and the Broads Authority were forced to withdraw further financial support of the Seal Project. They suggested that existing volunteers should set up a community group to enable the project to continue.

Friends of Horsey Seals was inaugurated in January 2012. A committee was formed and a constitution put in place. Grants from Norfolk Coast AONB and Broads Authority’s Sustainable Development Funds paid for designing a logo, an information leaflet and a website.
Benefits of membership
As a member you will have access to a ‘members only’ area on of the website, which features:

* Online newsletters about the colony and other natural items.
* Invitations to Friends of Horsey Seals events.
* Comprehensive seal information.
* A gallery of pictures.

Volunteering

What to advise a visitor who may like to become a seal warden
Take the person’s name and contact details and forward them to wardens@friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk. (See information on page 2) Details are in the leaflet and on the website.
Suggest they visit the FoHS website - www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk

Friends of Horsey Seals - Aims and Objectives
(Extract from the Constitution)

Aims
To protect the grey seal population at Horsey from disturbance by the public.

Objectives

* To increase knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the grey seal colony at Horsey.
* To work with land owners, agencies and the local community to further the protection of the grey seal colony.
* To operate and manage an effective seal warden scheme.

REMEMBER
As voluntary wardens, we have no authority and can only ask politely for the co-operation of visitors.
We want you to enjoy the experience of being a Seal Warden.

Notes

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Grey Seal Cycle

1 - 2 days before birth, pregnant cow comes ashore

Pup born. Will have begun suckling within 6 hours

In one week pup weight doubles

Female seals become sexually mature between 3 and 5 years

Pup is weaned at 16 - 18 days old and will be treble its birth weight

Female leaves the pup to fend for itself around 21 days after giving birth

Pup stay on the beach moulting its white coat for up to 3 weeks, before making its way to the sea

Between 14 - 18 days after giving birth female seals are ready to mate again (this will be next year’s pup)