

Addendum to the
Environmental Impact
Assessment Report

NISA
North Irish Sea Array

Volume 9 - Offshore Appendices

Appendix A14.3

Seal Vantage Point Survey Report



Seal Vantage Point Survey Report

North Irish Sea Array Offshore Wind Farm



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APEMGroup

North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd

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North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd Acronyms

Term	Definition
ACP	An Coimisiún Pleanála
Co.	County
DCCAE	Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
HWM	High-Water Mark
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
NISA	North Irish Sea Array
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
RFI	Request for Further Information
OWF	Offshore Wind Farm
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator
VP	Vantage Point

Measurements

Term	Definition
%	Percentage
°C	Degrees Celsius
h	Hour
km	Kilometre
km ²	Kilometre squared
kV	Kilovolt
m	Metre



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Executive Summary

- 1.1.1 Following submission of the planning application for the North Irish Sea Array (NISA) Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'proposed development'), the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) requested further survey data be collected on mobile species, which includes seals, as part of their Submission. Additionally, An Bord Pleanála (ABP), which is now An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP), issued an RFI (section 10(d) and (e)) seeking additional data from any ongoing surveys on mobile species.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development has undertaken seal vantage point (VP) surveys at the landfall site at Balbriggan, County (Co.) Dublin in November 2024 and between June 2025 and May 2026, using VPs within the landfall site and a surrounding 500 metre (m) survey buffer, and following guidance from the following source: NPWS and Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment (NPWS, 2010; DCCAE, 2018). This survey window captures the breeding season (June to August) and annual moult (August to September) for harbour seals, and the breeding season (August to November) and annual moult (December to March) for grey seal.
- 1.1.3 The presence of other users which could act as a disturbance stimuli, and their effects on any seals present, was also recorded. All surveys were undertaken by experienced competent surveyors with experience in seal surveys and familiarity with the survey site.
- 1.1.4 Survey limitations include no indication of inter-annual variability. However, this limitation is addressed through the comprehensive baseline which has been characterised in Appendix 14.2: Marine Mammal Baseline Characterisation, which includes an extensive review of available datasets and literature on seal presence, distribution, and seasonality. In addition, a further survey was undertaken in November 2024, providing a snapshot of the previous year.
- 1.1.5 Another limitation is that observations were restricted to animals at the surface. However, monitoring at each vantage point was conducted over a one hour period, during which any seals present underwater would be expected to surface. Therefore, it is unlikely that seals present within the survey area were missed.
- 1.1.6 Finally, there is a potential limitation relating to duplicate sightings of the same individuals. Nevertheless, the survey methodology was designed to capture a worst-case estimate, with all observed animals recorded to ensure that numbers were not underestimated.
- 1.1.7 This report presents the findings of the seal VP surveys. In summary, both grey and harbour seals were recorded during the surveys. Seal sightings occurred in all months except for January and March 2026. Within the Seal Survey Area, only grey seals were observed, comprising 17 observations of grey seals swimming and none hauled out. The majority of sightings of both grey and harbour seals were recorded on or around Cardy Rocks, outside of the Seal Survey Area. No seals were observed hauled out on the shore or along the proposed development landfall site. Furthermore, no grey or harbour seal pups were observed across any of the months, indicating that the area is not used as a pupping or breeding site by these species.



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1 Introduction

North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Ltd (NISA, hereafter referred to as ‘the Developer’) has been considering the Request for Further Information (RFI) issued by An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) as well as the third-party submissions received following public consultation. At An Coimisiún Pleanála’s behest, the Developer has also continued to consult with stakeholders in respect of the 2024 planning application throughout 2024-2026. The Developer has refined elements of the design to respond to the third-party submissions, the continued public and stakeholder consultation and the RFI. Full details of consultation undertaken can be found in Appendix A1.2 Consultation Report.

Any cross reference to a chapter, section, table, image, figure or appendix within this document is to another location within the Addendum to the EIAR unless explicitly stated otherwise. Any cross reference to anything included in the 2024 EIAR will be clearly labelled as such.

The sections relevant to the Seal Vantage Point Survey Report in the RFI are included below.

RFI Section	RFI	Relevance to Chapter
10 (d) iii	With reference to the Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments & Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects Part 2, April 2018, by the Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) (DCCA (2018) Guidance), the applicant is requested to justify: ... (iii) The lack of any vantage point surveys at the cable landfall;	The Developer has undertaken vantage point surveys in response to this RFI and this report presents the results of that survey.
10 (e)	The applicant is requested to confirm whether any on-going or additional surveying has been carried out on the site in relation to mobile species since the application was lodged. If so, the applicant is invited to submit any further survey data results and incorporate these into the assessments within the application documentation as appropriate.	The Developer has undertaken vantage point surveys in response to this RFI and this report presents the results of that survey.



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1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited, hereafter referred to as ‘the Developer’, is proposing to develop the North Irish Sea Array (NISA) Offshore Wind Farm (OWF), hereafter referred to as ‘the Proposed Development’. The Proposed Development boundary, within which the Proposed Development will be located, comprises the offshore development area off the coast of Counties Dublin, Meath, and Louth and the onshore development area within Co. Dublin (Fingal and Dublin City Council administrative areas), with the interface between the two being the High-Water Mark (HWM). The array area, located within the offshore development area, covers approximately 88.5 kilometres squared (km²). At its closest point, the array area is located approx. 11.3 kilometres (km) from land, in water depths of approximately 33 metres (m) to 63 m below Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT), with the closest Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) situated approximately 12.3 km from the coastline. The landfall site, in the vicinity of Bremore, north of Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, is defined as where the 220 kilovolt (kV) High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) comes ashore.

1.2 Purpose of this Document

1.2.1 Following the submission of the Proposed Development consent application, the NPWS provided a submission to ABP in October 2024 requesting surveys of the site for pinnipeds. The submission states:

1.2.2 *It is recommended that further information should be provided by means of specific surveys of the site for pinnipeds and that this should also be set in the context of seasonal changes in distribution of these species.*

1.2.3 Additionally, ABP issued the Request for Further Information (RFI) in April 2025. RFI 10(d) requested additional information to justify the surveys undertaken, and for further information on any ongoing surveys. The relevant points in the RFI to this document are:

10(d): *With reference to the Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments & Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects Part 2, April 2018, by the Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) (DCCAE (2018) Guidance), the applicant is requested to justify: ...*

(iii) *The lack of any vantage point surveys at the cable landfall;*

10(e): *The applicant is requested to confirm whether any on-going or additional surveying has been carried out on the site in relation to mobile species since the application was lodged. If so, the applicant is invited to submit any further survey data results and incorporate these into the assessments within the application documentation as appropriate.*



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- 1.2.4 Seal Vantage Point (VP) surveys have been undertaken at the landfall site for the Proposed Development in November 2024, and then monthly between June 2025 to May 2026, in accordance with DCCAE (2018) guidance. Monthly surveys are considered appropriate as they provide coverage of intra-annual variability in seal presence and captures key life history events. The site is not adjacent to any breeding or moulting sites, and therefore monthly surveys are considered sufficient and consistent with DCCAE (2018) guidance.
- 1.2.5 The purpose of this Seal Vantage Point Survey Report is to present the findings from these surveys.



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2 Survey Methodology

2.1 Surveyors

2.1.1 The surveys were undertaken by Sarah Brouder and Niall Keogh, both who have a detailed knowledge of the landfall site and experience undertaking vantage point seal surveys.

2.2 Seal survey

2.2.1 The seal VP survey effort has been designed in accordance with the guidance outlined in Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments & Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects – Part 2 (DCCA, 2018).

2.2.2 The seal surveys were undertaken in November 2024 and then monthly from June 2025 to May 2026. This survey window captures the breeding season (June to August) and annual moult (August to September) for harbour seals, and the breeding season (August to November) and annual moult (December to March) for grey seal (DCCA, 2018).

2.2.3 The survey covered the proposed landfall site and a 500 m survey buffer, collectively referred to hereafter as the ‘Seal Survey Area’ (Figure 1).

2.2.4 VPs were selected within the Seal Survey Area that would offer views of the full extent of the Seal Survey Area. The VPs, from which the surveys were undertaken, were located at (see Figure 1):

- VP1: The Martello Tower in Balbriggan;
- VP2: The mid-point of the landfall site; and
- VP3: Bremore point at the northern extent of the Seal Survey Area.

2.2.5 Surveys were conducted during optimal tidal conditions, specifically two hours before and after low tide, to maximise the likelihood of detecting hauled-out seals in accordance with DCCA (2018) guidance. Table 2-1 outlines the survey dates and times.

Table 2-1 Survey dates and times

Survey	Date	Start time	End time
November 2024	13/11/2024	12:14	16:14
June 2025	18/06/2025	09:10	13:10
July 2025	21/07/2025	13:03	17:03
August 2025	18/08/2025	11:30	15:30
September 2025	17/09/2025	12:24	16:24
October 2025	15/10/2025	11:00	15:00
November 2025	12/11/2025	08:10	12:10
December 2025	12/12/2025	08:29	12:29
January 2026	12/01/2026	09:47	13:47



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February 2026	24/02/2026	07:29	11:29
March 2026	16/03/2026	13:21	17:31
April 2026	13/04/2026	13:09	17:09
May 2026	11/05/2026	11:22	15:22

- 2.2.6 Hourly presence/absence counts were undertaken to record seals present within the Seal Survey Area (either hauled out within the landfall site or 500 m buffer extending north and south along the coast, or present in the nearshore habitat up to 500 m from the landfall site).
- 2.2.7 In addition, the surveyor also observed whether seals were present on Cardy Rocks, which is located outside the Seal Survey Area (**Figure 1**).
- 2.2.8 Between hourly counts the surveyor moved to the next VP using a coastal footpath, ensuring a distance of at least 100 m from hauled-out seals was maintained at all times to minimise disturbance, as per the NPWS guidelines (NPWS, 2010).
- 2.2.9 Details on the life stage of seals were recorded during each survey, where possible, specifically distinguishing between adults and juveniles. The group composition in terms of life stage was identified.
- 2.2.10 The presence of other users, and any seal behavioural responses to these other users which may constitute a disturbance event, were also recorded throughout the surveys. The type of other user or potential disturbance stimuli along with abbreviated recording codes used are presented in **Table 2-2**, with the potential response levels provided in **Table 2-3**.
- 2.2.11 For each disturbance event, additional information was recorded on the species and number of individuals affected, if the disturbance stimuli was present before the beginning of the new survey period, and the estimated distance of the stimuli to any seals present.

Table 2-2 Disturbance stimuli classifications and codes

Code	Disturbance Stimuli	Code	Disturbance Stimuli
SV	Small vessel	UD	Uncontrolled dog (off lead)
LV	Large vessel	BW	Birdwatcher/ other wildlife watcher
CE	Canoe/ kayak	CY	Cyclist
PD	Stand-up paddleboard	VH	Vehicle
OW	Other watercraft	RR	Raptor
AC	Aircraft	BI	Other bird
DR	Drone	ML	Other mammal
FS	Fisher	WE	Weather
WK	Walker	Oth	Other (describe)
WD	Walker with dog	UN	Unknown



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Table 2-3 Level of disturbance codes

Code	Disturbance Effect
1	No effect
2	Seal wakes and/or looks at disturbance source (Mild response)
3	Movement as a result of stimuli (Moderate response)
4	Seal flees for the safety of the sea, crash diving, leaving the area or is prevented from coming ashore to rest, moult or breed (Strong response)





- Proposed Development Boundary
- Offshore Export Cable Corridor
- Landfall site
- - - Seal Survey Area
- Seal Haul-out Site
- Seal Survey Vantage Point Locations

NISA
North Irish Sea Array

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Project
**North Irish Sea Array
Offshore Wind Farm**

Figure Title
**Seal Survey Area with Vantage
Point Locations**

Job No: 281240	Datum: WGS84 Projection: UTM30N
Date: March 2026	Figure No:
Scale: 1:10,000 @A3	1
Status: Issue	

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2.3 Limitations

- 2.3.1 The seal surveys presented in this report covered one month in 2024 (November) followed by a 12-month period from June 2025 to May 2026. While this shows intra-annual variability on a monthly basis, it does not give an indication of inter-annual variability. However, this limitation is addressed through the comprehensive baseline which has been characterised in Appendix A14.2: Marine Mammal Baseline Characterisation, which includes an extensive review of available datasets and literature on seal presence, distribution, and seasonality. The baseline report confirms that seal species have been recorded within the Proposed Development area, which is consistent with the findings of this study.
- 2.3.2 Observations of seals in water are restricted to animals visible at the surface, meaning individuals swimming underwater may go undetected. However, monitoring at each vantage point was conducted over a one hour period, during which any seals present underwater would be expected to surface. Therefore, it is unlikely that seals present within the survey area were missed.
- 2.3.3 Furthermore, it is possible that the same animal was recorded under multiple observations and therefore the number of seal sightings may not correspond to the actual number of individuals present for that survey. Nevertheless, the survey methodology was designed to capture a worst-case estimate, with all observed animals recorded to ensure that numbers were not underestimated.
- 2.3.4 It was noted that there were fewer seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks haul out site from November 2025 to February 2026, possibly due to time of year and/or easterly wind at that time (see Section 3). Seasonal factors can influence haul out behaviour, as seals may spend more time offshore or using alternative sites for breeding or moulting.



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3 Weather

3.1.1 The weather conditions during each survey are summarised in **Table 3-1** below.

Table 3-1 Weather conditions during each survey

Survey	Temperature (°C)	Cloud cover (%)	Wind (km/hr)	Precipitation	Notes
November 2024	10	100	12-22	No	-
June 2025	14-16	25	5	No	-
July 2025	16-17	85-90	19-22	Yes	Precipitation for survey duration. Poor visibility for final survey hour four.
August 2025	19-21	5-70	18-23	No	-
September 2025	18-20	40-70	28-30	No	Yellow marine warning for small crafts.
October 2025	11-12	100	8-10	No	-
November 2025	7-10	20-90	5-13	No	Heavy rain the day prior.
December 2025	6-9	10-25	6-19	No	-
January 2026	8-10	35-75	12-28	No	-
February 2026	9-12	90-100	11-21	No	Strong south-easterly winds and adverse weather present for much of February.
March 2026	11-12	90	20-28	No	-
April 2026	11	50-70	20-28	No	-
May 2026	11	30-70	20-28	No	-



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4 Results

4.1 Seal counts

4.1.1 Both grey and harbour seals were recorded during the surveys. Seal sightings occurred in all months except for January and March 2026. Within the Seal Survey Area, only grey seals were observed, comprising 17 observations of grey seals swimming and none hauled out. The majority of sightings were recorded on or around Cardy Rocks, outside of the Seal Survey Area. A detailed breakdown of sightings per month is presented in Appendix A.

Hauled out

4.1.2 All hauled out seals were sighted at Cardy Rocks, which is located outside the Seal Survey Area (see **Figure 1**). The peak number of animals hauled out at Cardy Rocks at any one time during a survey is shown in **Table 4-1**. The peak number of grey seals hauled out at Cardy Rocks was nine individuals in October 2025. The peak number of harbour seals hauled out at Cardy Rocks was six individuals in June 2025.

4.1.3 Grey seals were observed hauled out at Cardy Rocks during eight surveys, with no observations in September 2025 and December 2025 through to March 2026. Harbour seals were observed hauled out during four surveys only, November 2024, June 2025, July 2025 and August 2025.

Table 4-1 Peak number of seals hauled out at Cardy Rocks

Month	Grey seal	Harbour seal	Unidentified
November 2024	6	1	0
June 2025	4	6	2
July 2025	7	2	1
August 2025	2	3	2
September 2025	0	0	0
October 2025	9	0	0
November 2025	1	0	0
December 2025	0	0	0
January 2026	0	0	0
February 2026	0	0	0
March 2026	0	0	0
April 2026	4	0	0
May 2026	4	0	0

In water

4.1.4 A total of 46 sightings of seals were recorded in water across all months in November 2024, and between June 2025 and May 2026 (**Table 4-2**), however it is possible that some of these sightings may have been the same individual. This comprised mostly grey seals; with only two sightings of harbour seals observed in water during the November 2024 survey. Of these, 17 grey seals were observed within the Seal Survey Area. No harbour seals were observed within the Seal Survey Area.



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4.1.5 Ten sightings of unidentified seals in water were recorded during the surveys. Of these, nine sightings of unidentified seals were recorded in June 2025 and one sighting of an unidentified seal was recorded in November 2025. To note, it is possible that some of these sightings may have been the same individual. These unidentified sightings were in water around Cardy Rocks, outside the Seal Survey Area.



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Table 4-2 Monthly seal observations by location and life history stage. A blank cell indicates no sighting. (**Note:** numbers in brackets represents the number of seals in the Seal Survey Area. Where no brackets are presented, the number of seals in the Seal Survey Area was 0)

Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups	
November 2024	1	VP1	Grey seal				5			5
			Harbour seal				1			1
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal				6			6
			Harbour seal				1			1
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP3	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal	1						1
			Unidentified							0
	4	VP2	Grey seal				6			6
			Harbour seal	1						1
			Unidentified							0
	5	VP1	Grey seal				5			5
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
June 2025	1	VP1	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified				2			2

¹ To note, the surveyors indicated a lower level of confidence in the estimated life stage of all 'juvenile' seal sightings.



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Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups	
July 2025	2	VP2	Grey seal				4			4
			Harbour seal				5			5
			Unidentified	3						3
	3	VP3	Grey seal				4			4
			Harbour seal				6	1		7
			Unidentified	3						3
	4	VP2	Grey seal				4			4
			Harbour seal				5	1		6
			Unidentified	3						3
	5	VP1	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	1	VP1	Grey seal				7			7
			Harbour seal				2			2
			Unidentified				1			1
2		VP2	Grey seal				7			7
			Harbour seal				2			2
			Unidentified				1			1
3		VP3	Grey seal	1 (1)			7			8
			Harbour seal				2			2
			Unidentified				1			1



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Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total	
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups		
August 2025	4	VP2	Grey seal	2 (1)			7			9	
			Harbour seal				2			2	
			Unidentified				1			1	
	5	VP1	Grey seal							0	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
	1	VP1	Grey seal							1	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
		2	VP2	Grey seal	1 (1)						1
				Harbour seal							0
				Unidentified							0
		3	VP3	Grey seal	2 (2)			2			4
				Harbour seal				3			3
				Unidentified				2			2
4		VP2	Grey seal							0	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
5	VP1	Grey seal							0		
		Harbour seal							0		
		Unidentified							0		



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Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups	
September 2025	1	VP1	Grey seal	1						1
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal	1						1
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP3	Grey seal	1						1
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	4	VP2	Grey seal	2						2
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	5	VP1	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
October 2025	1	VP1	Grey seal				6			6
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal	1			8			9
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP3	Grey seal				9			9
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	4	VP2	Grey seal	1			6			7
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0



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Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total	
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups		
November 2025	5	VP1	Grey seal				6			6	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
	1	VP1	Grey seal							0	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
		2	VP2	Grey seal							0
				Harbour seal							0
				Unidentified							0
		3	VP3	Grey seal	3 (3)						3
				Harbour seal							0
				Unidentified							0
	4	VP2	Grey seal	2			1			3	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified	1						1	
5	VP1	Grey seal							0		
		Harbour seal							0		
		Unidentified							0		
December 2025	1	VP1	Grey seal							0	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
	2	VP2	Grey seal							0	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
	3	VP3	Grey seal	3						3	
			Harbour seal							0	
			Unidentified							0	
	4	VP2	Grey seal							0	
			Harbour seal							0	



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Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups	
January 2026	5	VP1	Unidentified							0
			Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	1	VP1	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP3	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
Unidentified									0	
4	VP2	Grey seal							0	
		Harbour seal							0	
		Unidentified							0	
5	VP1	Grey seal							0	
		Harbour seal							0	
		Unidentified							0	
February 2026	1	VP1	Grey seal	1 (1)						1
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal	1 (1)						1
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP3	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	4	VP2	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0



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Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups	
March 2026	5	VP1	Unidentified							0
			Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	1	VP3	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP1	Grey seal							0
			Harbour seal							0
Unidentified									0	
4	VP2	Grey seal							0	
		Harbour seal							0	
		Unidentified							0	
5	VP3	Grey seal							0	
		Harbour seal							0	
		Unidentified							0	
April 2026	1	VP3	Grey seal				4			4
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal				4			4
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP1	Grey seal				4			4
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	4	VP2	Grey seal	2			2			4
			Harbour seal							0



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Survey	Survey Hour	VP	Species	In water			Hauled-out			Total
				Adult	Juvenile	Pups	Adult	Juvenile ¹	Pups	
May 2026	5	VP3	Unidentified							0
			Grey seal	2			2			4
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	1	VP3	Grey seal				2			2
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	2	VP2	Grey seal	1 (1)			2			3
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	3	VP1	Grey seal	2 (2)			4			6
			Harbour seal							0
			Unidentified							0
	4	VP2	Grey seal	3 (3)			4			7
			Harbour seal							0
Unidentified									0	
5	VP3	Grey seal	1 (1)			3			4	
		Harbour seal							0	
		Unidentified							0	



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4.2 Disturbances / Other Users

- 4.2.1 Other users were recorded during the seal VP surveys, including a relatively constant presence of walkers and dog walkers on the shoreline. Additionally, fishing vessels were recorded a number of times around Cardy Rocks (and so outside the Seal Survey Area). However, most of the other users observed did not lead to a disturbance event. A detailed breakdown of other users recorded per month is presented in Appendix B.
- 4.2.2 Two disturbance events were recorded during the survey period, in November 2024 and June 2025 (**Table 4-3**).
- 4.2.3 In November 2024, the disturbance event was as a result of a scrambler bike on the beach, approximately 1,200 m from the seals hauled out at Cardy Rocks. During this event, six grey seals were hauled out on Cardy Rocks and one harbour seal was observed loafing in water around Cardy Rocks. The sound of the scrambler bike resulted in a mild response (lifting head) from two grey seals on Cardy Rocks.
- 4.2.4 In June 2025, the disturbance event was as a result of a fishing vessel, when a fisherman from a small fishing boat approached Cardy Rocks within 100 m of seals hauled out, got onto Cardy Rocks, threw a lobster pot, and then returned to their vessel and left Cardy Rocks.
- 4.2.5 During this event, both grey and harbour seals were present in and around Cardy Rocks. Four grey seals and five harbour seals were hauled out on Cardy Rocks, and three unidentified seals were also present loafing in water around Cardy Rocks.
- 4.2.6 The approach of the fishing vessel to Cardy Rocks resulted in three types of disturbance responses; a mild response (lifting head) from one grey seal and a moderate (move body) response from one harbour seal. This was followed by a strong response from one grey seal, which began to move body and enter the water as a result of the stimuli. The presence of fisherman on Cardy Rocks resulted in a mild to moderate response from one unidentified seal (looking up and moving body) and a moderate response from one harbour seal (moving body). Soon after the fisherman threw a lobster pot, which resulted in a moderate response from the unidentified seal (moving body). Finally, the fisherman left Cardy Rocks which resulted in a moderate response from one harbour seal (moving body).

Table 4-3 Summary of disturbance responses (further details in Table B-2)

Survey	Potential disturbance stimuli	Reaction code	Reaction
November 2024	Scrambler bike on beach approx. a distance of 1,200 m from hauled out seals on Cardy Rocks.	2	Two grey seals lift heads
June 2025		2	One grey seal lifts head
		3	One harbour seal moves body



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	Fisherman from small fishing boat approaches Cardy Rocks. Fisherman is approx. a distance of 100 m from hauled out seals on adjacent rock.	4	One grey seal flushes into water
	Fisherman on Cardy Rocks	2-3	One seal looks up and moves towards rocks
		3	One harbour seal moves body
	Fisherman throws lobster pot	3	One seal moves body
	Fisherman leaves Cardy Rocks	3	One harbour seal moves body.



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5 Summary

- 5.1.1 Following submission of the Proposed Development consent application, NPWS requested specific surveys of the site for pinniped within their Submission. Additionally, ABP, which is now ACP issued an RFI (section 10(d) and (e)) seeking additional data from any ongoing surveys on mobile species. Seal VP surveys of the landfall site and adjacent coastal habitats have been undertaken in November 2024 and monthly from June 2025 to May 2026, to identify the presence of seals and/or haul-out sites. This survey window captures the breeding season (June to August) and annual moult (August to September) for harbour seals, and the breeding season (August to November) and annual moult (December to March) for grey seal.
- 5.1.2 During the seal VP surveys, both grey and harbour seals were sighted. Only grey seals were observed within the Seal Survey Area, comprising 17 observations of grey seals swimming, and none hauled out. The majority of sightings comprised seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks or in the surrounding waters, outside of the Seal Survey Area. These were primarily grey seals, though there were some sightings of harbour and unidentified seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks also. This suggests that seals, particularly grey seals, have a preference for the Cardy Rocks site, which is located outside the Seal Survey Area. To confirm, there were no seals observed hauled out on the shore or along the landfall site.
- 5.1.3 No grey or harbour seal pups were observed across any of the months, indicating that the area is not used as a pupping or breeding site by these species.



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6 References

Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment (2018), 'Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments and Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects Part 2'.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (2010), 'Harbour Seal Population Monitoring 2009-2010: Report No. 1', Report on a Pilot Monitoring Study Carried out in Southern and Western Ireland, 2009.
[NPWS_2010_Harbour_Seal_pilot_monitoring.pdf](#) [Accessed: December 2025].



A Appendix A – Seal Survey Results

Table A- 1 Seal Survey Counts November 2024

Survey date	Survey hour	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
						Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
13/11/24	1	12:14		1	Falling	6	0	0	0	Five grey seals and one harbour seal hauled out on Cardy Rocks.
	2	13:14		2	Falling	7	0	0	0	Six grey seals and one harbour seal hauled out on Cardy Rocks.
	3	14:14		3	Low tide	0	0	0	1	No hauled out seals visible from this angle. One harbour seal loafing in water around Cardy Rocks.
	4	15:14		2	Rising	6	0	0	1	Six grey seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks. One harbour seal loafing in water around Cardy Rocks.
	5	16:14	-	1	Rising	5	0	0	5	Five grey seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks.



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Table A-2 Seal Survey Counts June 2025

Survey date	Survey hour	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
						Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
18/06/25	1	9:10	09:40	VP1	Falling	2	0	0	0	Two unidentified seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks. Other seals not visible from this angle.
	2	10:10	10:40	VP2	Falling	9	0	0	3	Four grey seals and five harbour seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks. Three unidentified seals loafing in water around Cardy Rocks.
	3	11:10	11:40	VP3	Low tide	10	1*	0	3	Four grey seals and six harbour seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks. *Potentially one juvenile harbour seal (not conclusive) hauled out on Cardy Rocks. Three unidentified seals in water around Cardy Rocks.



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	4	12:10	12:40	VP2	Rising	9	1*	0	3	Four grey seals and five harbour seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks. *Potentially one juvenile harbour seal (not conclusive) hauled out on Cardy Rocks. Three unidentified seals in water around Cardy Rocks.
	5	13:10	-	VP1 (final scan)	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible from this angle.



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Table A-3 Seal Survey Counts July 2025

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
21/07/25	13:03	13:33	VP1	Falling	10	0	0	0	Seven grey seals, two harbour seals and one unidentified seal hauled out on Cardy Rocks.
	14:03	14:33	VP2	Falling	10	0	0	0	Seven adult grey seals, two harbour seals and one unidentified seal hauled out on Cardy Rocks.
	15:03	15:33	VP3	Low tide	10	0	0	1	Seven grey seals, two harbour seals and one identified seal hauled out on Cardy Rocks. One grey seal in water approx. 200 m from shore (within Seal Survey Area).
	16:03	16:33	VP2	Rising	10	0	0	2	Seven grey seals, two harbour seals and one identified seal hauled out on Cardy Rocks. Two grey seals in water (one grey seal around Cardy Rocks; one grey seal approx. 200 m from shore (within Seal Survey Area)).
	17:03	-	VP1	Rising	0	0	0	0	Seals not visible due to poor visibility.



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Table A-4 Seal Survey Counts August 2025

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
18/08/25	11:30	12:00	VP1:	Falling	0	0	0	0	Hauled out seals not visible from this angle. Hauled out on sheltered side of Cardy Rocks.
	12:30	13:00	VP2:	Falling	0	0	0	1	Hauled out seals not visible from this angle. Hauled out on sheltered side of Cardy Rocks. One grey seal in water approx. 100 m from shore (within Seal Survey Area).
	13:30	14:00	VP3:	Low tide	7	0	0	2	Two grey seals in water approx. 50-100 m from shore (within Seal Survey Area). Three harbour seals, two grey seals and two unidentified seals hauled out at Cardy Rocks.
	14:30	15:00	VP2:	Rising	0	0	0	0	Hauled out seals not visible from this angle. Hauled out seals on sheltered side of Cardy Rocks.
	15:30	-	VP1	Rising	0	0	0	0	Hauled out seals not visible from this angle. Hauled out



									on sheltered side of Cardy Rocks.
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Table A- 5 Seal Survey Counts September 2025

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
17/09/25	12:24	12:54	VP1:	Falling	0	0	0	1	One grey seal in water approx. 50 m from coast, outside of Seal Survey Area to the south.
	13:24	14:54	VP2:	Falling	0	0	0	1	One grey seal in water approx. 50 m from Cardy Rocks.
	14:24	14:54	VP3:	Low tide	0	0	0	1	One grey seal in water approx. 100 m from Cardy Rocks.
	15:24	15:54	VP2:	Rising	0	0	0	2	Two grey seals in water approx. 100 m from Cardy Rocks.
	16:24	-	VP1	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.



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Table A-6 Seal Survey Counts October 2025

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
15/10/25	11:00	11:30	VP1:	Falling	6	0	0	0	Six grey seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks.
	12:00	12:30	VP2:	Falling	8-9	0	0	0-1	One grey seal in water around Cardy Rocks comes onshore on Cardy Rocks at 12:28, giving a total of nine grey seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks at survey end time.
	13:00	13:30	VP3:	Low tide	9	0	0	0	Nine grey seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks. Two harbour porpoise sightings at 12:57, including splashing fluke (before Survey Hour 3) - outside of Seal Survey Area, approx. 300 m from coast at northern side of Bremore Point.
	14:00	14:30	VP2:	Rising	6	1	0	0	Six grey seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks. One grey seal in water around Cardy Rocks.
	15:00	-	VP1	Rising	6	0	0	0	Six grey seals hauled out on Cardy Rocks.



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Table A-7 Seal Survey Counts November 2025

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
12/11/25	08:10	08:40	VP1:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	09:10	09:40	VP2:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	10:10	10:40	VP3:	Low tide	0	0	0	3	Three grey seals in water approx. 20 m from coast at VP3 (within Seal Survey Area).
	11:10	11:40	VP2:	Rising	1	0	0	3	One grey seal hauled out on Cardy Rocks. One unidentified seal and two grey seals in water around Cardy Rocks.
	12:10	-	VP1	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.



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Table A-8 Seal Survey Counts December 2025

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
12/12/25	08:29	08:59	VP1:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	09:29	09:59	VP2:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	10:29	10:59	VP3:	Low tide	0	0	0	3	Three grey seals in water, northern side of Bremore point outside Seal Survey Area.
	11:29	11:59	VP2:	Rising	0	0	0	-	No seals visible.
	12:29	-	VP1	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.



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Table A-9 Seal Survey Counts January 2026

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
12/01/26	09:47	10:17	VP1:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	10:47	11:17	VP2:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	11:47	12:17	VP3:	Low tide	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	12:47	13:17	VP2:	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	13:47	-	VP1	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.



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Table A-10 Seal Survey Counts February 2026

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
13/02/26	07:29	07:59	VP1:	Falling	0	0	0	1	One grey seal in water approx. 300 m from shore (within Seal Survey Area).
	08:29	08:59	VP2:	Falling	0	0	0	1	One grey seal in water approx. 10 m from shore (within Seal Survey Area).
	09:29	09:59	VP3:	Low tide	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	10:29	10:59	VP2:	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	13:49	-	VP1	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.



Table A- 11 Seal Survey Counts March 2026
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Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
16/03/26	13:31	14:01	VP3:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	14:31	15:01	VP2:	Falling	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	15:31	16:01	VP1:	Low tide	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	16:31	17:01	VP2:	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.
	17:31	17:31	VP3	Rising	0	0	0	0	No seals visible.



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Table A- 12 Seal Survey Counts April 2026

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
13/04/26	13:09	13:39	VP3:	Falling	4	0	0	0	Four grey seals hauled out on Cardy rocks.
	14:09	14:39	VP2:	Falling	4	0	0	0	Four grey seals hauled out on Cardy rocks.
	15:09	15:39	VP1:	Low tide	4	0	0	0	Four grey seals hauled out on Cardy rocks.
	16:09	16:39	VP2:	Rising	2	0	0	2	Two grey seals on Cardy rocks. Two grey seals in the water adjacent (outside of Seal Survey Area).
	17:09	17:09	VP3	Rising	2	0	0	2	Two grey seals on Cardy rocks. Two grey seals in the water adjacent (outside of Seal Survey Area).



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Table A- 13 Seal Survey Counts May 2026

Survey date	Survey start time	Survey end time	VP	Tidal range	Onshore			In water	Notes
					Number of adults	Number of juveniles	Number of pups		
11/05/26	11:00	11:00	VP3:	Falling	2	0	0	0	Two grey seals hauled out the south side on Cardy rocks.
	11:22	12:22	VP2:	Falling	2	0	0	1	Two grey seals hauled out the south side on Cardy rocks. One grey seal loafing in water south of Bremore Point (within Seal Survey Area).
	12:22	13:22	VP1:	Low tide	4	0	0	2	Four grey seals hauled out the south side on Cardy rocks. Two grey seals loafing in water south of Bremore Point (within Seal Survey Area).
	13:22	14:22	VP2:	Rising	4	0	0	3	Four grey seals hauled out the south side on Cardy rocks. Three grey seals loafing in water south of Bremore Point (within Seal Survey Area).



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	14:22	15:22	VP3	Rising	3	0	0	1	Three grey seals hauled out the south side on Cardy rocks. One grey seal loafing in water south of Bremore Point (within Seal Survey Area).
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B Appendix B – Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results

Table B- 1 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results November 2024

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	12:14 - 12:44	Two small fishing boats	0	0	0	None	Already present	500-1,000
1.2	1	12:14- 12:44	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	700-1,500
1.3	1	12:14 - 12:44	One person collecting shellfish	0	0	0	None	Already present	1,400
2.1	2	13:14 - 13:44	Two small fishing boats	0	0	0	None	Already present	500-1,000
2.2	2	13:14- 13:44	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	700-1,500
2.3	2	14:14 - 14:44	One person collecting shellfish	0	0	0	None	Already present	1,400
3.1	3	14:14 - 14:44	Two small fishing boats	0	0	0	None	Already present	500-1,000
3.2	3	14:14- 14:44	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	700-1,500
3.3	3	14:14 - 14:44	One person collecting shellfish	0	0	0	None	Already present	1,400
4.1	4	15:14 - 15:44	Two small fishing boats	0	0	0	None	Already present	500-1,000
4.2	4	15:14- 15:44	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	700-1,500



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4.3	4	15:14 - 15:44	One person collecting shellfish	0	0	0	None	Already present	1,400
4.4	4	15:30-15:45	Four scrambler bikes on beach	2 (Grey seal)	0	0	Two grey seal lift head	New	1,200



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Table B-2 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results June 2025

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	9:10-09:40	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	New	1000
1.2	1	9:36	Small fishing boat leaves beach by Martello tower and moves slowly towards Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	New	500-1000
1.3	1	9:38	Motorboat over 1000 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	New	1000-2000
2.1	2	10:10: - 10:40:	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
2.2	2	10:23	Fisherman from small fishing boat approaches Cardy Rocks.	1 (Grey seal)	0	0	One grey seal lifts head.	Already present	100-200
2.3	2	10:23	Fisherman is approx. a distance of 100 m from hauled out seals on adjacent rock	1 (Harbour seal)	0	0	One harbour seal moves body	Already present	100-200
2.4	2	10:25		1 (Grey seal)	0	0	One grey seal flushes into water.	Already present	100-200
2.5	2	10:28		Fisherman on Cardy Rocks	0	0	1 (UnID)	One seal looks up and moves towards rocks.	Already present
2.6	2	10:28		1 (Harbour seal)	0	0	One harbour seal moves body	Already present	100-200
2.7	2	10:32	Fisherman throws lobster pot	1 (UnID)	0	0	One seal moves body	Already present	100-200



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2.8	2	10:36	Fisherman leaves Cardy Rocks at 10:38	1 (Harbour seal)	0	0	One harbour seal moves body.	Already present	100-200
3.1	3	11:10 - 11:40	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	700
4.1	4	12:16	One walker walks from VP1 onto Bremore beach	0	0	0	None	New	600



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Table B-3 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results July 2025 (Note: N/A is used for 'Reaction level' and 'Distance to stimuli (m)' when there are no seals recorded)

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	13:03-13:33	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	New	1000
1.2	1	13:07	Small vessel near Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	New	200
2.1		14:03-14:33	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
2.2	2	14:03	1 helicopter flying overhead of survey area. Height or distance unknown	0	0	0	None	New	Unknown
2.3	2	14:03	Small vessel approx. 400 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	400
3.1	3	15:03-15:33	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
3.1	3	15:03	1 small vessel sails past Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	200
4.1	4	16:03-16:33	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
4.1	4	16:03	Small vessel sails past Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	200
5.1	5	17:03	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A



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Table B-4 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results August 2025 (**Note:** N/A is used for 'Reaction level' and 'Distance to stimuli (m)' when there are no seals recorded)

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	11:30-12:00	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
1.2	1	11:32	2 kids on rocks	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
2.1	2	12:30-13:00	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
2.2	2	12:32	1 cyclist on shore	0	0	0	None	New	1000
3.1	3	13:30-14:00	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	700
4.1	4	14:30-15:00	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
5.1	5	15:30	2 walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A



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Table B-5 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results September 2025

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	12:24-12:54	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	New	500
1.3	1	12:24	Small commercial fishing vessel near Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	New	2000
2.1	2	13:24-13:54	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
3.1	3	14:24	5 small fishing vessels (potentially creel)	0	0	0	None	New	3000
4.1	4	15:24-15:54	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000



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Table B-6 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results October 2025

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	11:00-11:30	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	New	1,000
1.2	1	11:00	1 small fishing vessel approaching Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	New	1,000
2.1	2	12:00-12:30	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
3.1	3	13:00-13:30	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
3.1	3	13:00	2 small fishing vessels approaching Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	New	400
4.1	4	14:00-14:30	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
5.1	5	15:00	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000



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Table B-7 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results November 2025 (Note: N/A is used for 'Reaction level' and 'Distance to stimuli (m)' when there are no seals recorded)

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	08:10-08:40	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
2.1	2	09:10-09:40	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
2.2	2	09:10	1 person collecting shellfish in tidal rock	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
3.1	3	10:10-10:40	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
3.2	3	10:10	1 large vessel	0	0	0	None	New	1000
4.1	4	11:10-11:40	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
4.2	4	11:10	1 large vessel	0	0	0	None	Already present	1000
5.1	5	12:10	1 walker on shore	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A



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Table B-8 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results December 2025 (Note: N/A is used for 'Reaction level' and 'Distance to stimuli (m)' when there are no seals recorded)

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	08:29-08:59	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
1.2	1	08:29	1 small fishing vessel working/trawling	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
2.1	2	09:29-09:59	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
2.2	2	09:29	1 small fishing vessel working/trawling	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
3.1	3	10:29-10:59:	Presence of walkers/dog walkers	0	0	0	None	Already present	200
4.1	4	11:29-11:59	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
4.2	4	11:29	1 small fishing vessel	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
5.1	5	12:29	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
5.2	5	12:29	3 small fishing vessels 500 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A



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Table B-9 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results January 2026 (**Note:** N/A is used for 'Reaction level' and 'Distance to stimuli (m)' when there are no seals recorded)

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	09:47-10:17	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
2.1	2	10:47-11:17	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
3.1	3	11:47-12:17	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
4.1	4	12:47-13:17	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
5.1	5	13:47	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A



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Table B-10 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results February 2026 (**Note:** N/A is used for ‘Reaction level’ and ‘Distance to stimuli (m)’ when there are no seals recorded)

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	07:29-07:59	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	New	500
2.1	2	08:29-08:59	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	150
3.1	3	09:29-09:59	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
3.2	3	10:00	Small fishing vessel	0	0	0	N/A	New	N/A
4.1	4	10:29-10:59	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
4.2	5	10:29	Small fishing vessel	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
5.1	5	11:29	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A



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Table A- 14 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results March 2026 (**Note:** N/A is used for ‘Reaction level’ and ‘Distance to stimuli (m)’ when there are no seals recorded)

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	13:31-14:31	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
1.2	1	13:31-14:31	2 small fishing vessels 500 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
2.1	2	14:31-15:31	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
2.2	2	14:31-15:31	2 small fishing vessels 500 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
3.1	3	15:31-16:31	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
3.2	3	15:31-16:31	2 small fishing vessels 500 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
4.1	4	16:31-17:31	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
4.2	4	16:31-17:31	2 small fishing vessels 500 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
5.1	5	17:31	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A
5.2	5	17:31	2 small fishing vessels 500 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	N/A	Already present	N/A



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Table A- 15 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results April 2026

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	13:09-14:09	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650
1.2	1	13:09-14:09	Four small fishing vessels 300-500 m Northwest of Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	300-500
2.1	2	14:09-15:09	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650
2.2	2	14:09-15:09	Four small fishing vessels 300-500 m Northwest of Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	300-500
3.1	3	15:09-16:09	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650
3.2	3	15:09-16:09	Three small fishing vessels 300-500 m Northwest of Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	300-500
3.3	3	15:13-15:18	One small fishing vessel moving south 250 m from Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	New	250
4.1	4	16:09-17:09	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650
4.2	4	16:09-17:09	Three small fishing vessels 300-500 m Northwest of Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	300-500
5.1	5	17:09	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650



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5.2	5	17:09	Three small fishing vessels 300-500 m Northwest of Cardy Rocks	0	0	0	None	Already present	300-500
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Table A- 16 Seal Disturbance Monitoring Results May 2026

UID	Survey hour	Time	Potential disturbance stimuli	Species and no. impacted (adults) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (juvs) (onshore)	Species and no. impacted (adults) (offshore)	Reaction level	New activity or present before event?	Distance of stimuli (m)
1.1	1	11:00	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	150-200
2.1	2	11:22-12:22	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650
3.1	3	12:22-13:22	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650
4.1	4	13:22-14:22	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	150-200
5.1	5	14:22-15:22	Presence of walkers/dog walkers on shore	0	0	0	None	Already present	650

