

Responsible Seal viewing at Horsey

Disturbance is a major issue for seals and can lead to abandonment or crushing of pups, which can be fatal. Here's how you can help to minimise disturbance:

- Stay off the beach during the breeding season
- Use the roped paths on the dunes to access seal viewing areas
- Please be advised by seal wardens who are there to help visitors
- Keep your dog on a lead and safely away from seals – they bite!
- Please use the bin at Horsey Gap car park for disposal of dog waste
- Get good photographs from the dunes – do not approach seals
- Female seals with pups are aggressive when protecting their young
- Bull seals are huge and territorial – seals can move much faster on the beach than you can run
- Be warm and dry – winds off the sea can be very cold
- Take waterproofs with you and be aware of puddles during wet weather
- Please be aware there are no public toilet facilities on site.
- Roped areas are there to guide you and minimise wear on the dunes
- Distance: Be aware that the site at Horsey extends for more than one mile
- Be warm – be dry – be safe
- Please take litter home with you
- Car parking issues are dealt with by Horsey Estate (not by seal wardens)

A voluntary beach closure is in operation at Horsey from the start of November until late January to give grey seals the best chance to breed with minimal disturbance.

During the breeding season paths marked by ropes are opened on the dunes. They lead to the best places to view the rookery and watch the seals.

The dunes along the low-lying east coast act as a barrier against flooding in stormy weather. They are vitally important to the safety of the area and provide habitats for unusual plants and wildlife. Please keep within the roped paths to minimise wear and tear on the dunes. The paths are moved periodically to allow regeneration of worn areas.

We would prefer dogs to be left at home but if you do wish to bring them we ask that they are kept on short leads at all times. For their safety and your own do not allow your dog to approach a seal. They can move faster than you think and can bite.

Please do not approach seals to take photos. Mothers are protective and males are very territorial which could result in serious injury to you, and seal pups can be harmed or even die as a result of crushing.

This site is on private land. Please do not spoil its beauty by leaving litter.