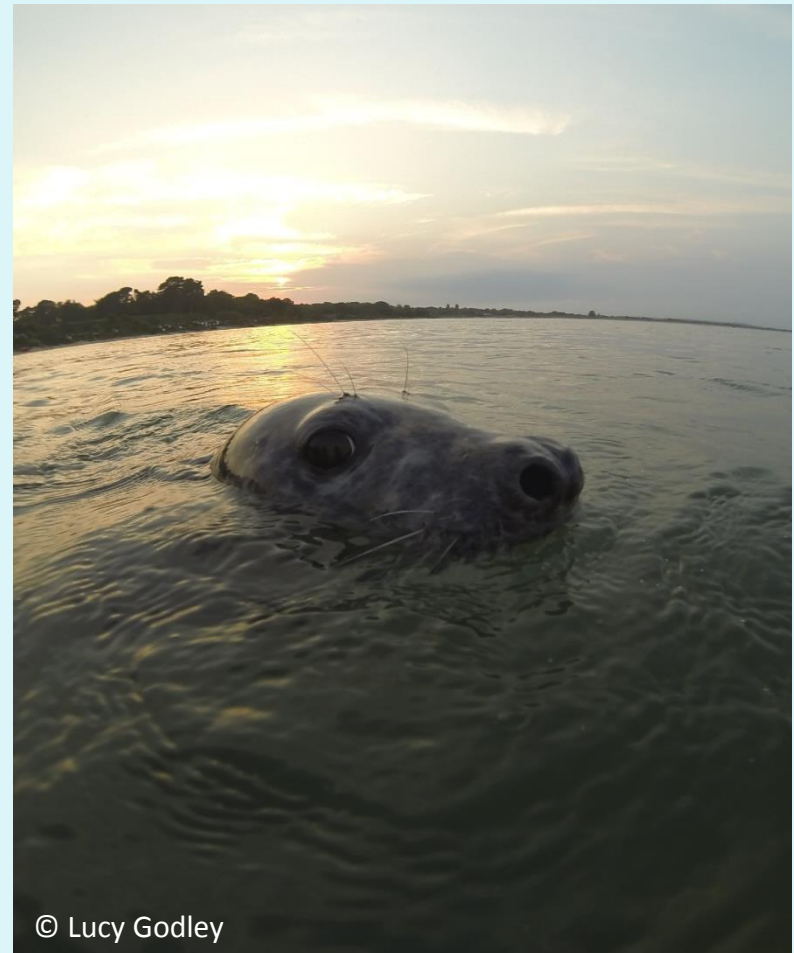


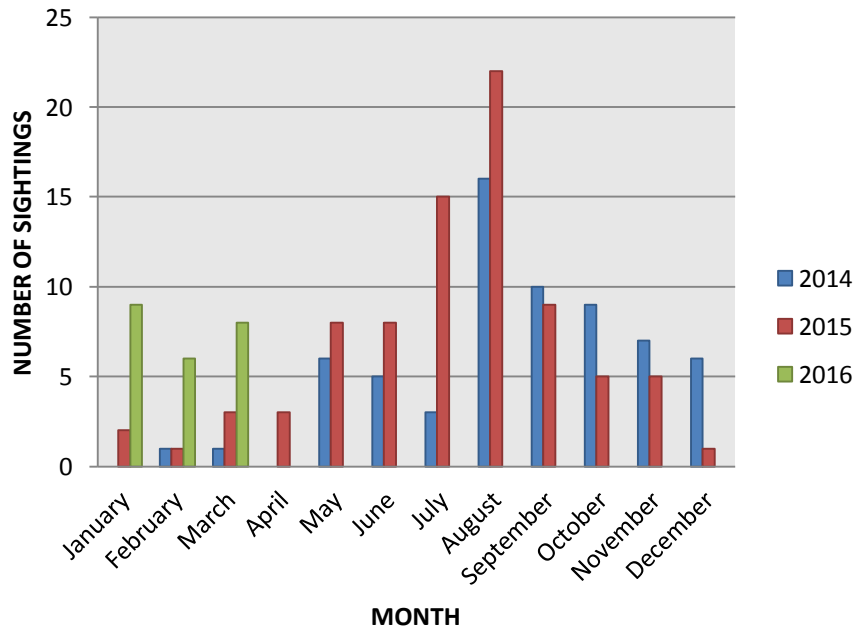
# Dorset Seal Project

- Started in 2014 following regular sightings of both seal species in Dorset
- No previous research carried out
- Is there a resident or semi-resident seal population?
  - Collect baseline data – record sightings
  - Create photo id catalogue



# **Dorset Seal Project**

Sarah Hodgson







© Sarah Hodgson



© Nina Hukkanen



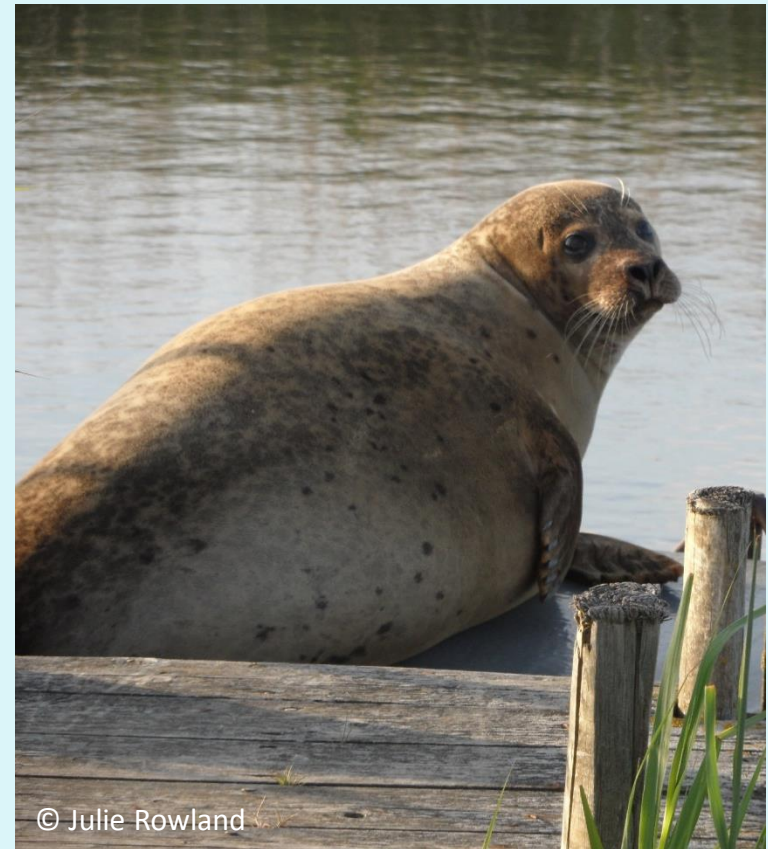
© Joanna Gilpin



© Michele Taylor

# What's next

- Continuing public engagement
- Promote a code of practice for photographing seals
- Establish a Dorset seal group
- Learn more about the common seals in Poole Harbour including photo id
- Work with recorders in Devon and Cornwall to cross-reference individuals



© Julie Rowland

[www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/Seals](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/Seals)



# **Bob Earll Seal Observations at Great Sleaden Rocks and Start Point & Start Point (Sea/I) rock**

**Good site for sea watching – summer in  
particular - coastal path – circular walk**

**Bob Earll**





May 2015 The seals haul out over the two and half hours before low water .... Largest totals at low water – We counted 14 max – hauled out and in the water – all sizes – Sue Gubbay, Alan Davis & Martin Brocklehurst





From Great Sleadon Rocks – switching the telescope at low water .... Seals hauled out on Sea (I) Rock at the foot of the lighthouse promontory ... another 10, making **24** in all Numbers .... Use of space... migration  
- Photo ID -> Sue Sayer - > Population size





**Study area for Seals & Human interaction** – drones – coasteering – observers – swimmers – kayaks – tourism – double bass ..... Does anything make much difference? They and in and out like yo-yo's with no human interaction



# Seals across the southwest

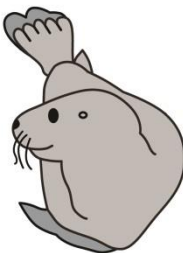
**Sue Sayer**

Interconnected sites

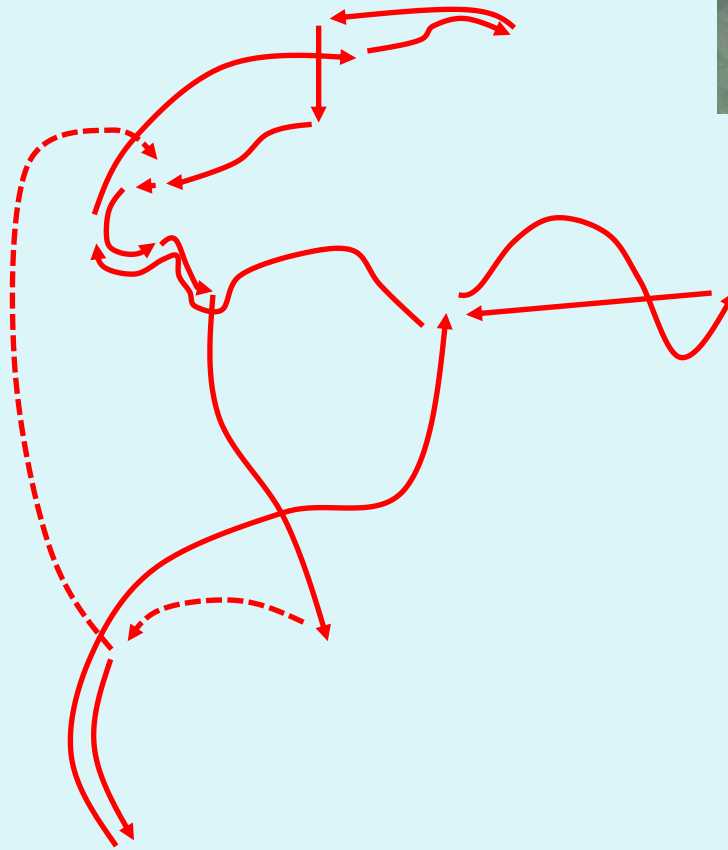
Large scale - spatial and temporal

Photo ID - a powerful research tool

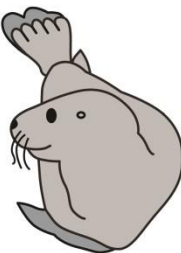
Cornwall  
**SEAL**  
Group  
Research  
Trust





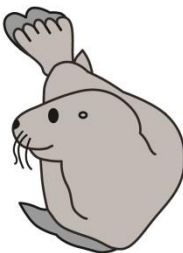


Huon et al 2015 Jun - Sep 2013: Apr and Jul 2015



# Photo ID

- Presence / absence
- Absolute abundance
  - Habitat use
- Movement / migration
  - Life history
  - Behaviour
  - Other







1

2



3

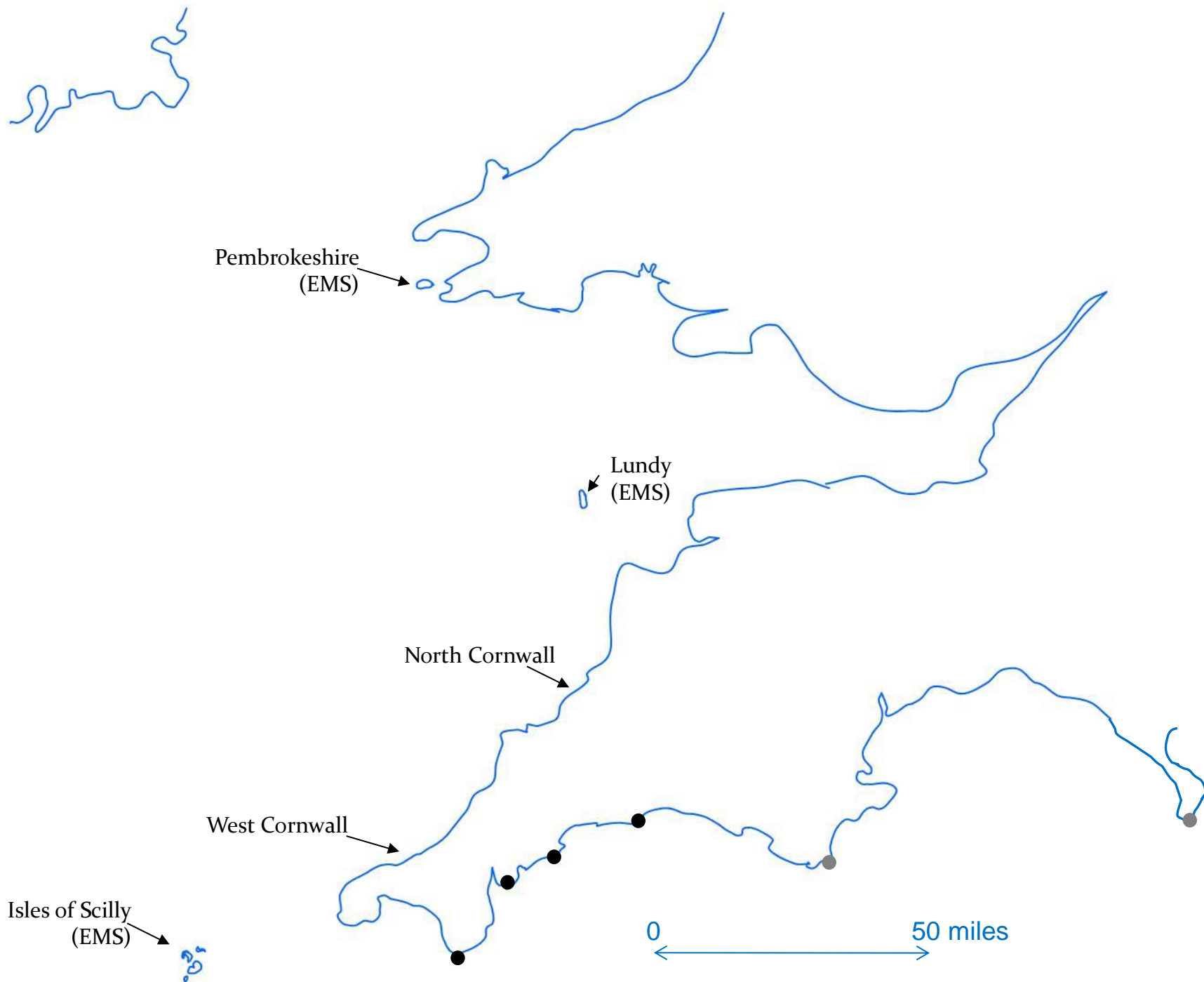


B

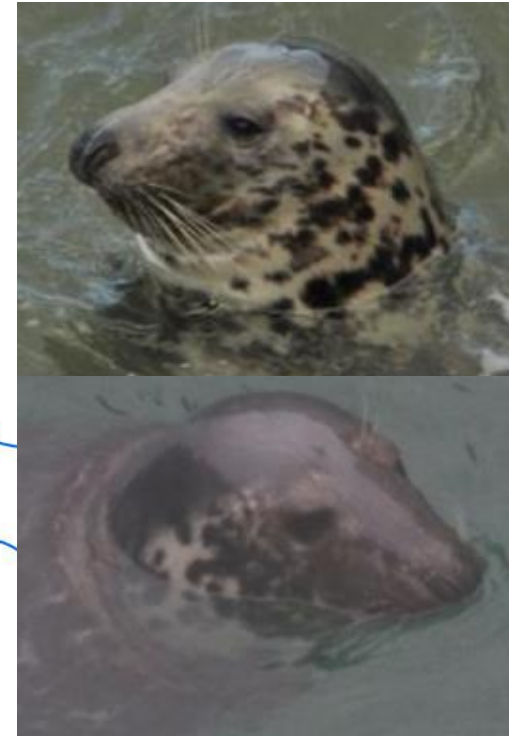
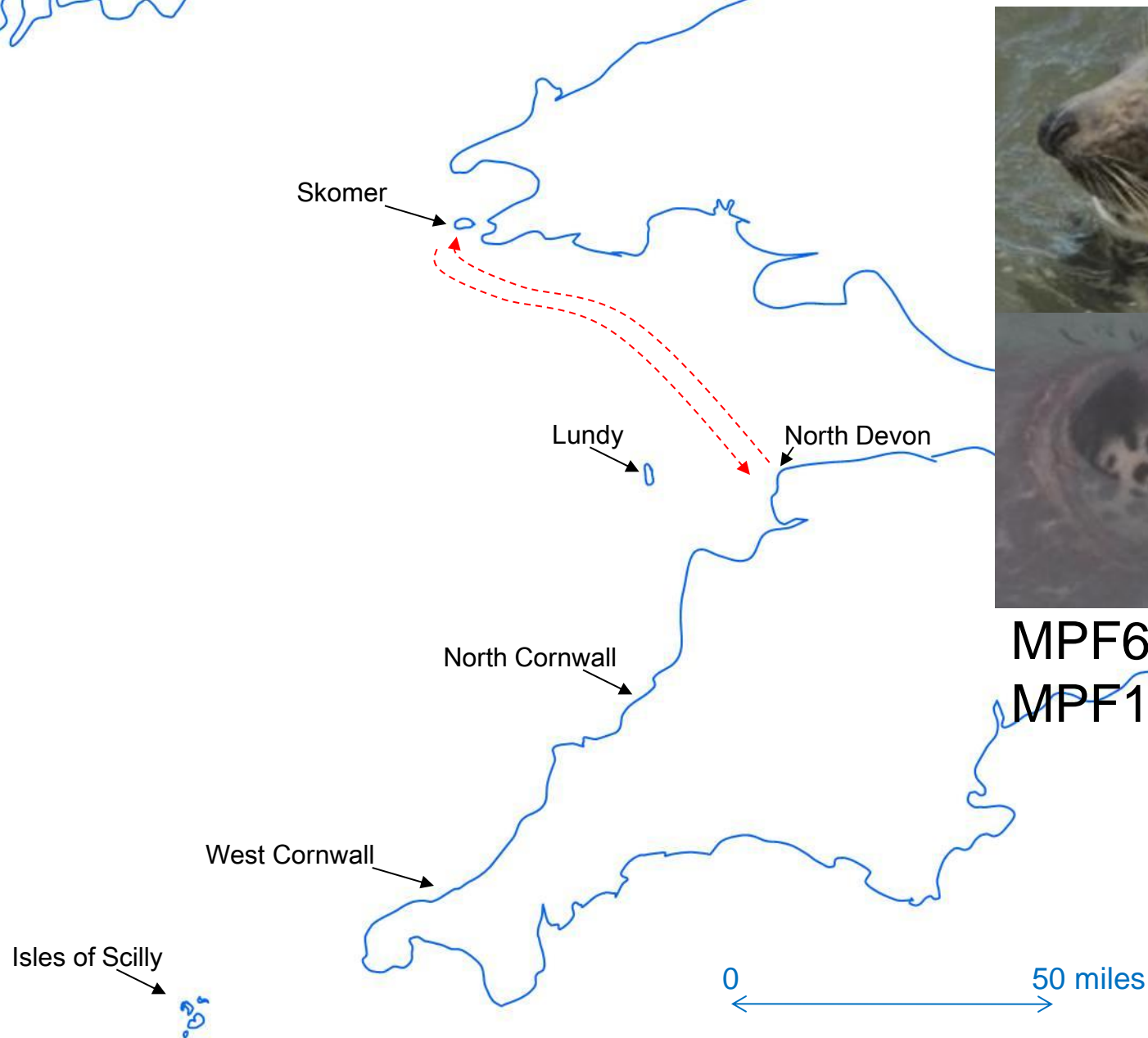








# Seal movements tracked by photo ID



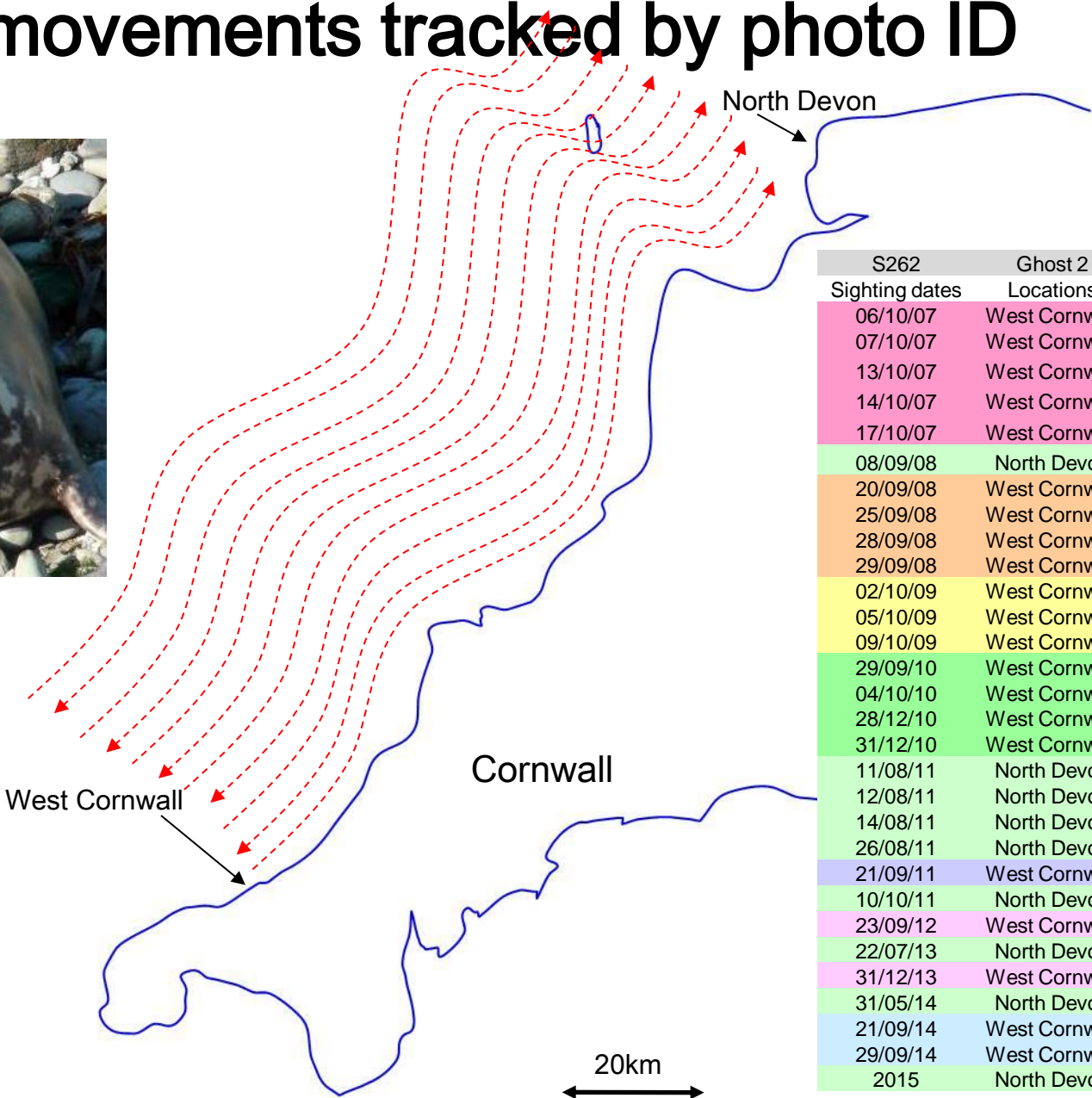
MPF61 C-

MPF127 Frog nettie



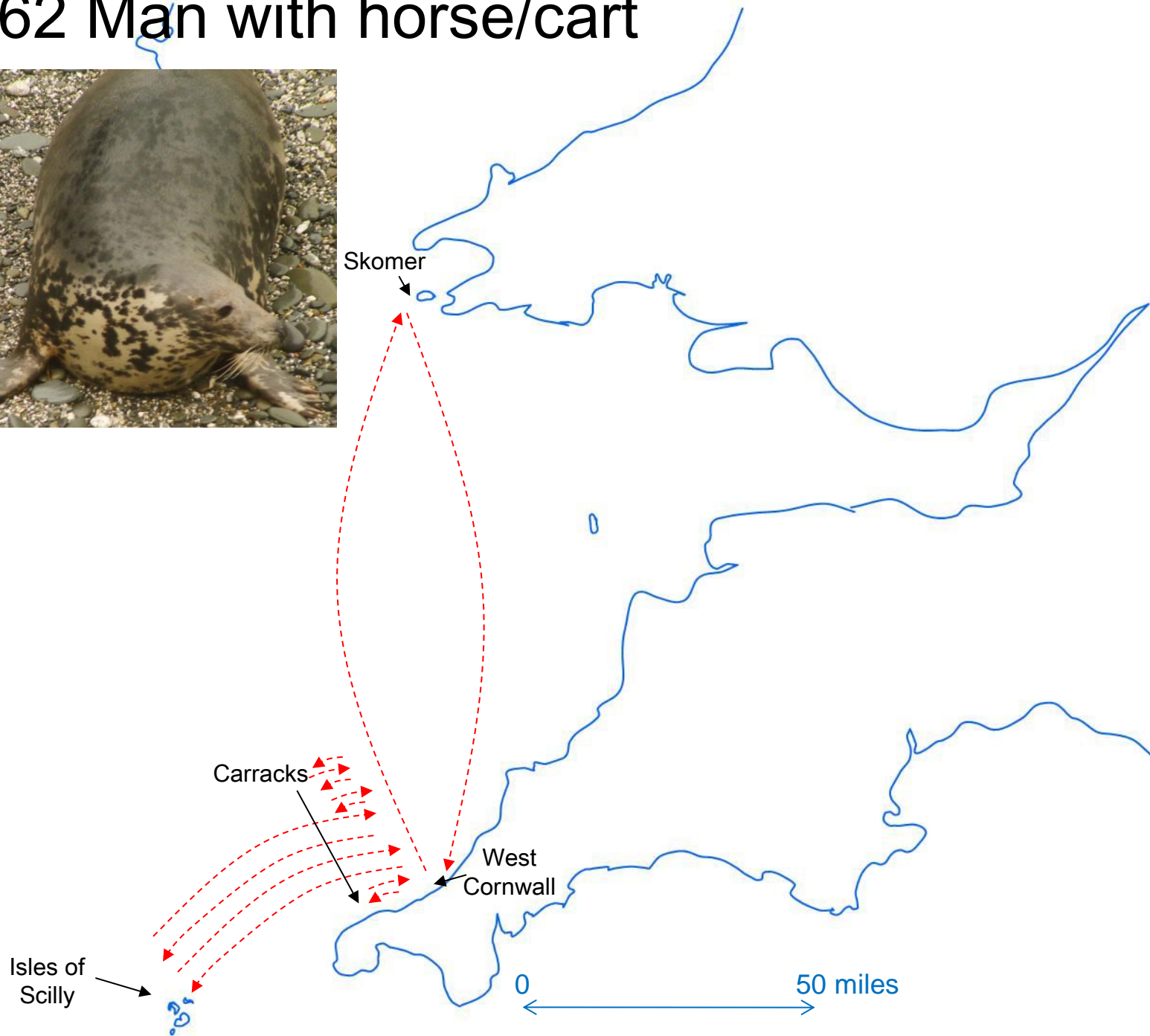
# SW seal movements tracked by photo ID

S262 Ghost 2



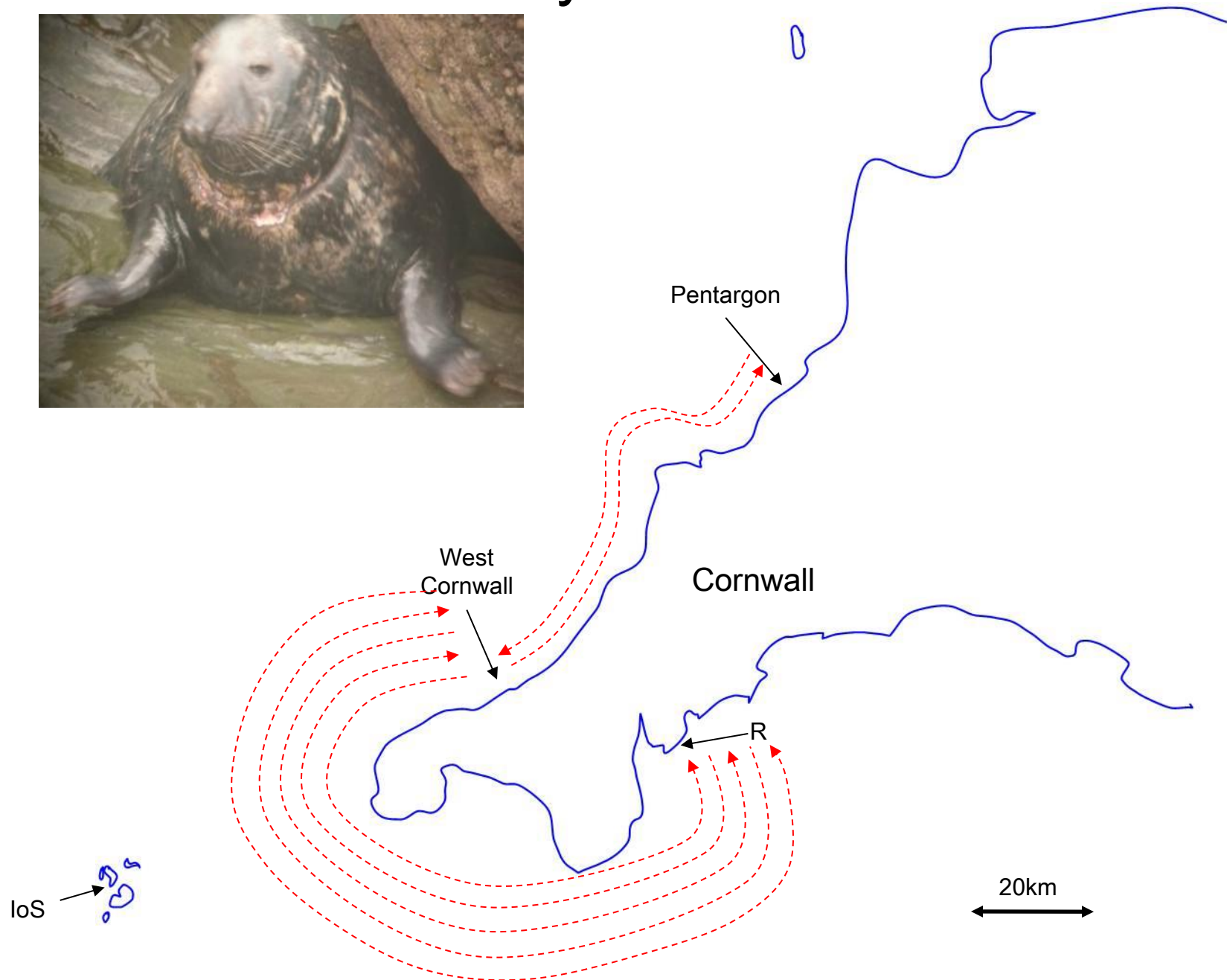
S262	Ghost 2	
Sighting dates	Locations	
06/10/07	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
07/10/07	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
13/10/07	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
14/10/07	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
17/10/07	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
08/09/08	North Devon	Rob Jutsum
20/09/08	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
25/09/08	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
28/09/08	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
29/09/08	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
02/10/09	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
05/10/09	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
09/10/09	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
29/09/10	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
04/10/10	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
28/12/10	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
31/12/10	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
11/08/11	North Devon	Dave Jenkins
12/08/11	North Devon	Dave Jenkins
14/08/11	North Devon	Dave Jenkins
26/08/11	North Devon	Dave Jenkins
21/09/11	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
10/10/11	North Devon	Dave Jenkins
23/09/12	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
22/07/13	North Devon	I & F Parrott
31/12/13	West Cornwall	Simon Bone
31/05/14	North Devon	Chris Bollen
21/09/14	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
29/09/14	West Cornwall	Sue Sayer
2015	North Devon	Dave Jenkins

# S62 Man with horse/cart

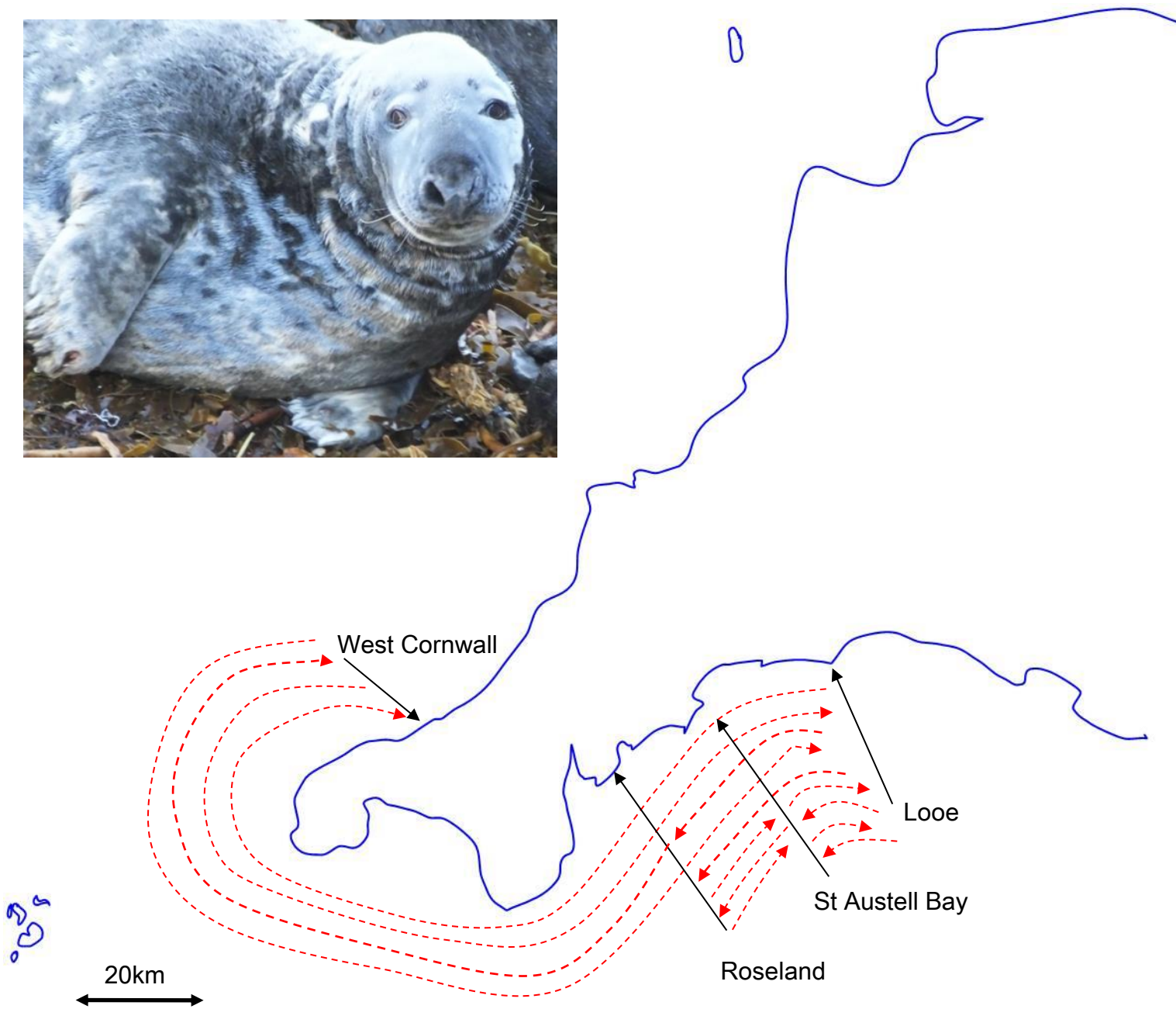




# DP200 Old Railway Arch



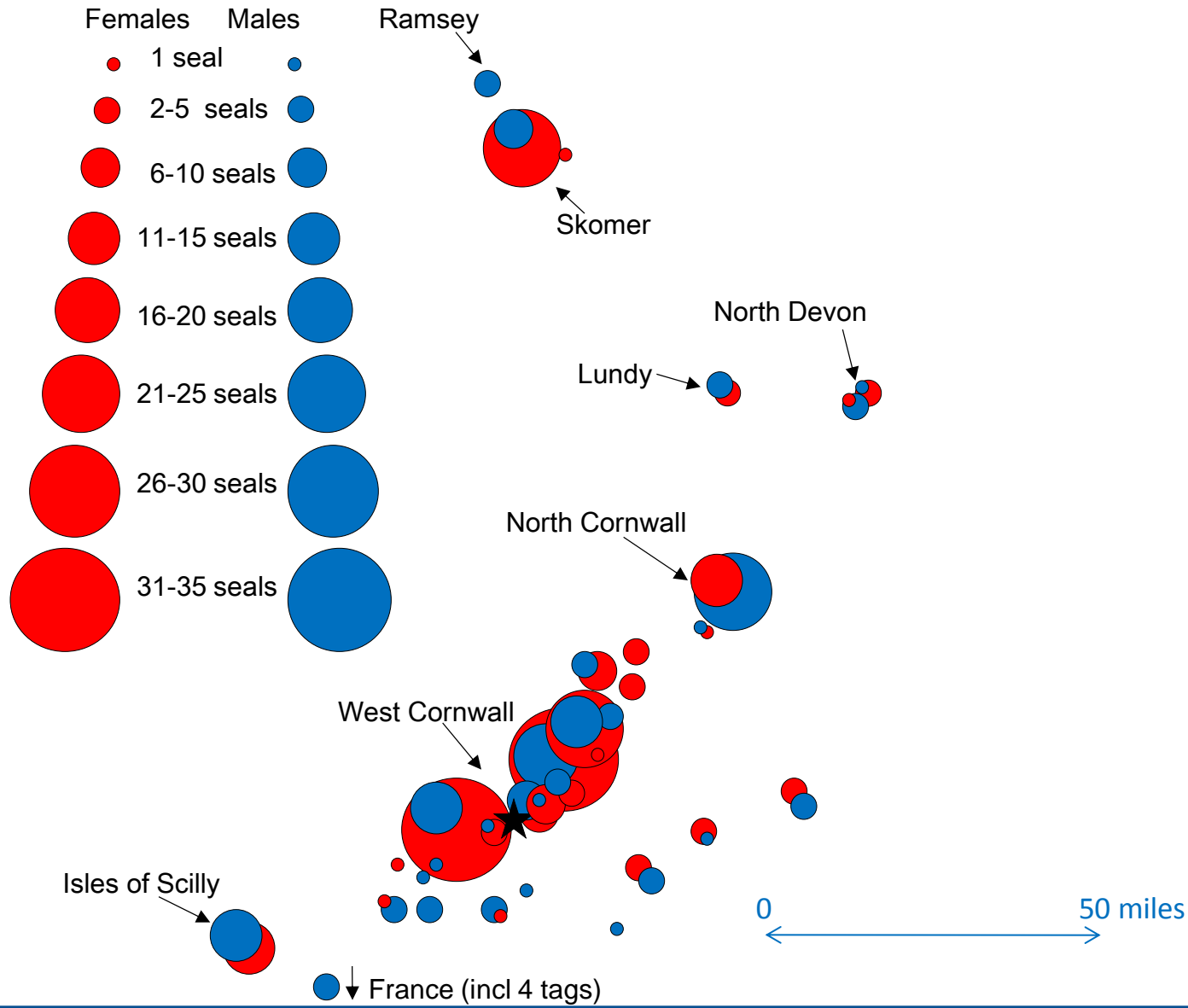
# DP427 Wotsit





# Other ID locations for seals seen at West Cornwall

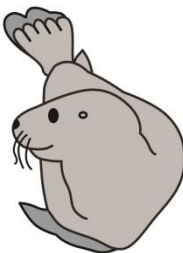
17/03/14



# Chasing the elusive south Devon link up!

Networking is the key!

Cornwall  
**SEAL**  
Group  
Research  
Trust





2016 05 25 GSR Bob Earll





2016 08 16 SP Bob Earll





# GSR9 AM Flying bird is ROF105

ROF105	Gull flying	
23/10/14	Roseland	Rob Wells
10/11/14	Roseland	Rob Wells
12/01/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
30/01/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
25/05/15	S Devon	Bob Earll
30/11/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
01/12/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
04/12/15	Roseland	Rob Wells



GSR1 AM chevron leaf stripes back C 3•  
 Flying and line m r  
 StABM100 is StABM144 J seahorse . T blob eye

StABM100 is  
 StABM144

J seahorse

14/02/15 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

22/05/15 GSR Alan Davies

25/05/15 GSR Bob Earll

08/12/15 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

23/12/15 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

28/12/15 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

06/01/16 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

13/01/16 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

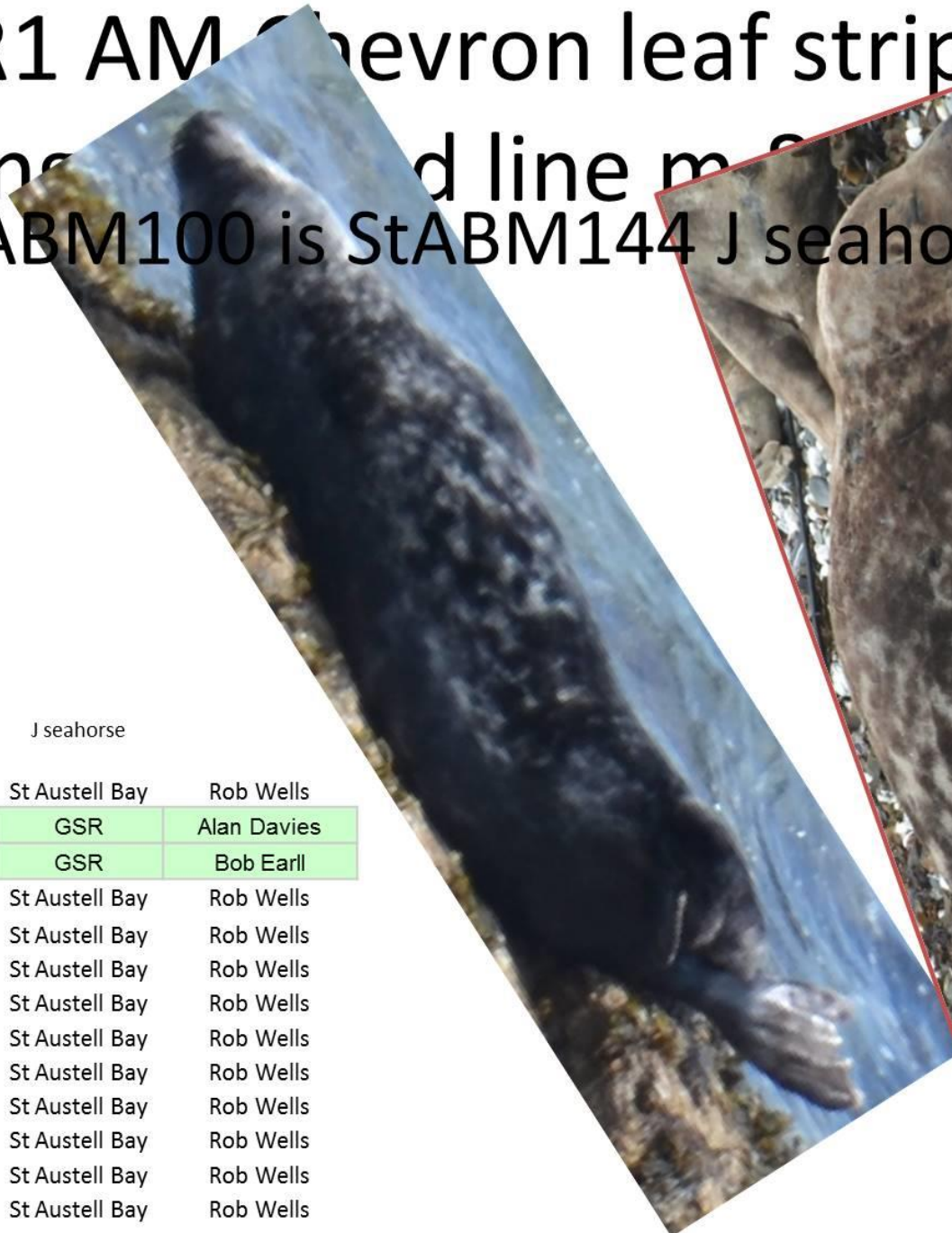
19/01/16 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

28/01/16 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

29/01/16 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

01/02/16 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

03/02/16 St Austell Bay Rob Wells

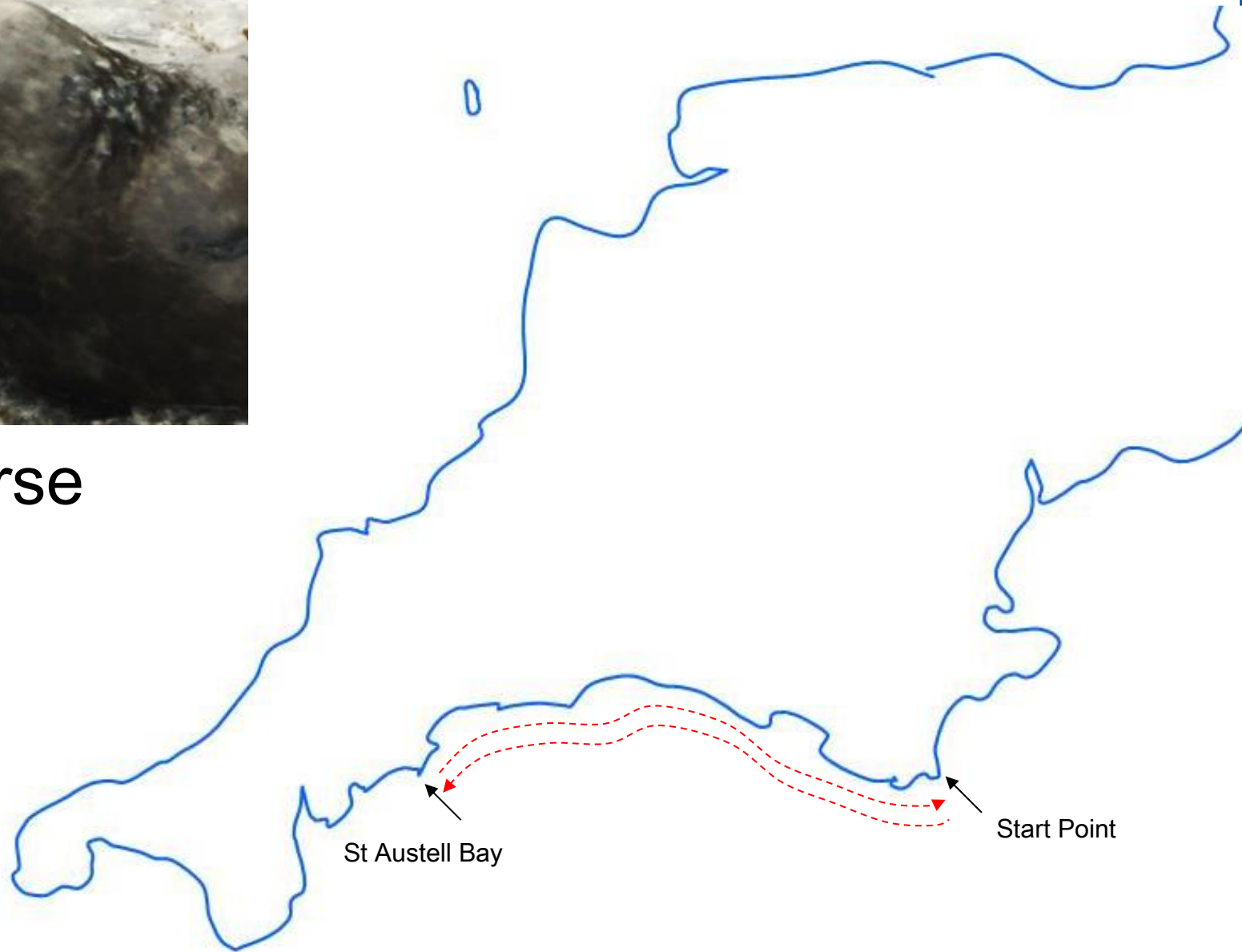




# Seal movements tracked by photo ID



J seahorse





# Seal movements tracked by photo ID



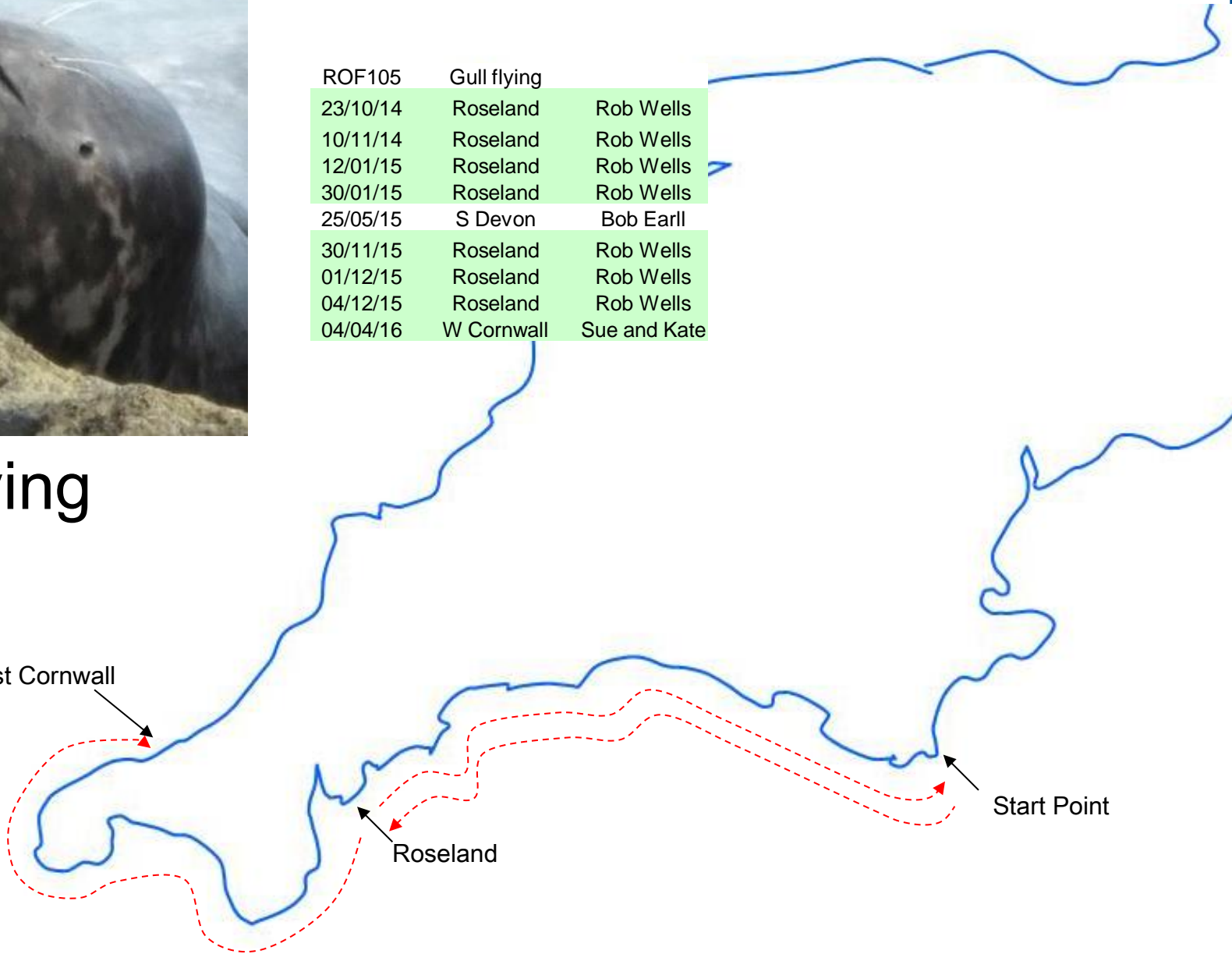
Gull flying

ROF105	Gull flying	
23/10/14	Roseland	Rob Wells
10/11/14	Roseland	Rob Wells
12/01/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
30/01/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
25/05/15	S Devon	Bob Earll
30/11/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
01/12/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
04/12/15	Roseland	Rob Wells
04/04/16	W Cornwall	Sue and Kate

West Cornwall

Roseland

Start Point



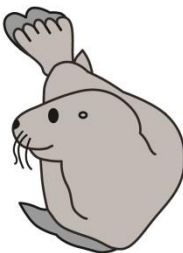
# Favourable conservation status at statutorily designated habitat at least partly depends on non designated habitat

Seals need an ecologically coherent network of sites

Seal not included in MCZ process ,not even as a mobile  
marine species - they were deliberately excluded by DEFRA

We don't even know what will happen  
when one site in  
their network is removed.

Cornwall  
**SEAL**  
Group  
Research  
Trust



So...we need your help!

# Basic seal monitoring data

Intra annual variation (1 / month)

Habitat use (Land / sea)

Inter annual variation (> 1 year)

Seal site links (photo ID)

Fancy joining the team effort?

Email [sue@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk](mailto:sue@cornwallsealgroup.co.uk)

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