

## GREY SEAL PUPPING ON LUNDY IN 1987

By  
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In the 1986 report of the Lundy Field Society I reviewed what was known of grey seal pupping on Lundy, and I identified a number of important new pupping sites. On 28th September, 1987, I made a search of the Lundy coastline, by small inflatable, for seal pups. This revealed (for location of caves see Willcox 1986):-

Seals Hole.	No pups visible although adult seals at the back of the cave could have obscured a pup (this is thought to be unlikely).
Deep Zawn.	1 pup.
Langham's Cavity.	No pups.
Unnamed cave close to the1 pup. North Light (GR131481).	
Puffin Gully.	3 live and 1 dead pup.
Halfway Wall Bay.	4 live and 1 dead pup.

The weather was not sufficiently good to allow the discovery of any new pupping areas, though these might well exist. However, all those sites identified in 1986 were re-examined. A total of 11 pups (two of which were dead) were located which compares with 14 from the same sites in 1986 (note that in 1986 a further 3 pups were found, 1 in the sea, 1 on the Landing Beach and 1 in an obscure cave close to Seals Rock, these bringing the total to 17). A closer comparison shows that the two important west coast sites which between them had 8 pups in 1986 had just 2 in 1987. However, Halfway Wall Bay had 5 pups this year, which is more than twice as many as have ever previously been recorded from this site.

During October the weather was unsettled, with moderate winds mainly from the west. The easterly weather which started in late October probably arrived too late to influence pup mortality in Halfway Wall Bay.

If any conclusions can be reached from these few observations they are:- Firstly, that grey seals seem to be loyal to a number of traditional pupping sites around Lundy. Secondly, the number of pups born each year may vary considerably, with different emphasis being put on different sites.

### REFERENCE

Willcox, N.A. (1986). *A Review of grey seal pupping on Lundy, and some new observations.* Rep. Lundy Fld. Soc. 37.