





Order Cetacea

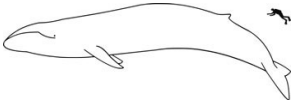


Suborder Mysticeti

Family Balaenidae

Common Name	Scientific Name	Size (meters)	Compared to a Human	Identifying Markers	Commonly Found	Seen in the UK	How Often?
Bowhead Whale	<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>	14-18		Grey or brown, no dorsal fin, large mouth	Arctic waters	Isles of Scilly (20 February 2015) and Cornwall (15 May 2016)	2 records
Northern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	13-16		Black with callosities, no dorsal fin, V-shaped blow	Deep offshore Atlantic waters	Western Scotland, Western Ireland	Very Rare


Family Balaenopteridae

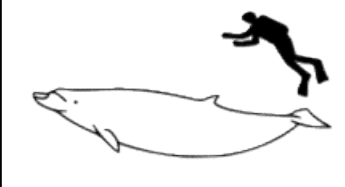
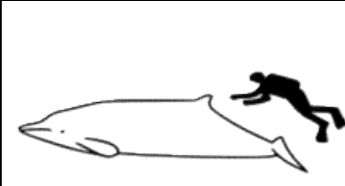



Common Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	6.9-8.5		Slender, pointed head with central ridge, tall dorsal fin two-thirds along body, diagonal white band on flippers	Mainly Temperate, Subarctic & Arctic waters	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, Eastern England, Channel Isles, Southwest England,, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland	Common
Sei Whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	12-18		Tall, sickle shaped dorsal fin two-thirds along body, bluish or dark grey coloration	Deep offshore Subtropical and Temperate waters; tend to avoid polar and tropical waters	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern England	Rare

Blue Whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	23-29		Broad, flat U-shaped head, v. small dorsal fin two-thirds along body, bluish-grey coloration	Breeds mainly in deep Tropical & Subtropical waters, migrating to feed in Temperate and Arctic waters	Western Scotland, Western Ireland	Very Rare
Fin Whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	22-26		Long and slender body, brownish-grey coloration but with white right lower jaw	Breeds mainly offshore in Tropics & Subtropics, migrating to feed in Temperate and Arctic waters	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern England, Southwest England, Wales, Isle of Man, and Republic of Ireland; rare elsewhere	Uncommon
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	12-16		Low dorsal fin two-thirds along the body, knobs on head and lower jaw, long flippers with white markings	Breeds in Tropics and migrates to feed in Temperate and Arctic waters	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, Eastern England, Southwest England, Wales, Republic of Ireland; rare elsewhere	Uncommon



Suborder Odontoceti

Family Ziphiidae


Sowerby's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	2.4-2.7		Small head, concaved forehead, slender beak, protruding jaw with two flattened teeth, slightly hooked fin	Deep Northern Atlantic waters	Republic of Ireland, Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Southwest England; Rare elsewhere	Rare
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Blainville's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon densirostris</i>	4.4-4.6		Beak, brownish body	Deep Subtropical and Tropical waters	Aberaeron, West Wales (July 1993)	1 record
Gervais' Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>	4.5		Very straight mouthline, small head, short beak	Deep tropical, Subtropical and Warm Temperate waters of the Atlantic	English Channel (1840), Ballysadare (Jan 1989)	2 records
True's Beaked Whale	<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>	5.3		Grey to brownish grey coloration, males have two teeth at tip of lower jaw	Deep waters of Northern Atlantic, Southern Indian Ocean and Australia	Western Ireland	Very Rare
Cuvier's Beaked Whale	<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	5.1-6.9		Small sloping head, triangular, slightly hooked dorsal fin, brownish coloration, older adults have white heads	Deep Warm Temperate, Subtropical and Tropical waters	Southwest England, Republic of Ireland, but very rare everywhere	Rare
Northern Bottlenose Whale	<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	7.5-9.8		Bulbous forehead, tall, erect, hooked dorsal fin, two-thirds along body, short dolphin-like beak	Deep Northern Atlantic waters	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Western & Southern Ireland; Rare elsewhere	Rare


Family Kogiidae





Pygmy Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia breviceps</i>	3-3.5		Shark-like head, false gill behind eye	Deep Tropical, Subtropical and Temperate waters	Southwest England, Wales, Western Scotland, Republic of Ireland	V. rare
Dwarf Sperm Whale	<i>Kogia simus</i>	2.7		Slightly smaller than Pygmy Sperm Whale, larger dorsal fin, white false gill behind eye	Deep Tropical and Subtropical Waters	Mounts Bay, Penzance, Cornwall (9 Oct 2011)	1 record

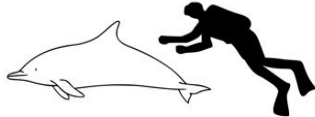




Family Physeteridae


Sperm Whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	11-16		Large square head, distinct triangular dorsal hump two-thirds down the body	Deep waters of Atlantic, Pacific & Indian Ocean	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, and Republic of Ireland	Rare
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Family Delphinidae

White-beaked Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	2.5- 2.8		Black with white on sides and over back behind fin, tall, curved dorsal fin, short, thick white tipped	Northern Atlantic waters	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, Eastern England, Southwest England, Republic of Ireland; Rare in Southeast & Southern England, Wales, Northwest England, and Northern Ireland	Common
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Atlantic White-sided Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	2.5- 2.8		Tall, curved dorsal fin, black back, white into yellow patches on side, no white on back behind fins	Northern Atlantic waters, mainly along shelf edge	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, Republic of Ireland; Rare elsewhere	Common
Risso's Dolphin	<i>Grampus griseus</i>	3.5		Adults heavily scarred around head & flanks, often grey or white body, large rounded head, no beak	Temperate, Subtropical and Tropical waters	Southwest England, Wales, Northwest England, Isle of Man, Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, Channel Isles, Republic of Ireland; Rare elsewhere	Uncommon
Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2- 4		Large, central dorsal fin, grey coloration, distinct beak and rounded forehead	Temperate, Subtropical and Tropical waters	Southwest England, Wales, Northwest England, Western Scotland, Eastern Scotland, Eastern England, Southern England, Channel Islands, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland; Rarely seen in Northern Isles, Southeast England	Common
Striped Dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	1.8-2.5		Dorsal fin slender and curved, distinct grey blaze and two black stripes	Temperate, Subtropical and Tropical waters	Southwest England, Republic of Ireland; Rare elsewhere	Occasional

Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	1.5- 2.5		Dorsal fin curved, hourglass pattern along body, cream flank markings	Temperate and Subtropical waters	Southern England, Southwest England, Wales, Northwestern England, Western Scotland, Eastern Scotland, Northern Ireland; Republic of Ireland; rare in Northern Isles	Very Common
Fraser's Dolphin	<i>Lagenodelphis hosei</i>	2.75		Light grey coloration along body, with dark grey band, often pink belly	Deep Tropical and Subtropical waters of Atlantic	South Uist, Outer Hebrides (1996)	1 record
Melon-headed Whale	<i>Peponocephala electra</i>	3.0		Melon head, tall, pointed dorsal fin, blunt head	Deep Tropical waters	Chsrlestown, Cornwall (Sept 1949)	1 record
False Killer Whale	<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	4- 5		Black with grey throat and neck	Deep Warm Temperate, Subtropical and Tropical waters	Southwest England, northern North Sea	V. rare
Killer Whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	6- 8		Black & white coloration, distinct white patch behind eyes, pale saddle patch behind dorsal fin, males have very tall erect dorsal fins	Mainly Deep Temperate & Arctic waters	Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, and Western Ireland; Rare elsewhere	Uncommon

<p>Long-finned Pilot Whale</p>	<p><i>Globicephala melas</i></p>	<p>5.8- 7.6</p>		<p>Bulbous head, backwards pointing low dorsal fin, very long pectoral fins</p>	<p>Deep Temperate waters of Northern Atlantic, Southern Atlantic & Pacific Oceans</p>	<p>Southwest England, Western Scotland, Northern Isles, Eastern Scotland, Republic of Ireland; rare elsewhere</p>	<p>Common</p>
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