

# RSPB The Lodge Nature Reserve



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RSPB The Lodge Nature Reserve and Gardens is a very special place, offering an exceptionally rich combination of wildlife and heritage experiences. The woodland, heath and acid grassland here cover an area of some 220 hectares, forming the largest stretch of heathland in Bedfordshire. The Lodge is home to breeding hobbies, ravens, common lizards, green tiger beetles and other invertebrates of bare, sandy soil. RSPB is restoring the reserve for breeding nightjars and woodlarks and it is already one of the best inland sites to spot natterjack toads.

Between December and January, the farmland areas come alive with hundreds of hungry finches among the wildbird crops. Winter thrushes feed on the acid grassland from January to March and you can see woodland snowdrops, daffodils and later, bluebells.

The gardens here are most colourful from May, with flowering of the rhododendron / azalea collection and start of the roses. Sand martins are busy feeding their young at Sandy Heath Quarry. Summer sees breeding and hunting hobbies over the heath, and the heather flowering in August. In a warm damp autumn you can experience some of the 600 species of fungi.



The Lodge by Martin Addison



# The Lodge Nature Reserve

## People Say:

“We love coming to visit to see the wildlife.”

“We enjoy walking here with the family at the weekend.”

“We love exploring the forest and the open heathland.”

“All the views are fantastic.”

## Action Points:



Download the Lodge Trail Guide [www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/reserves/the-lodge-trail-guide-2018.pdf](http://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/reserves/the-lodge-trail-guide-2018.pdf)

## Info and Resources:

**RSPB Website:**  
[www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/the-lodge/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/the-lodge/)