



Rye Meads

Parking addresses: Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, SG12 8JS

Parking: You can pay a small fee and park within the visitor centre, or else park on the layby just outside for free.



Visitor centre car park. There is usually enough spaces.



Or park for free just outside.

Walk: This well-maintained RSPB wetland reserve beside the River Lea is a big favourite with birdwatchers, walkers and photographers due to its trails and hides.

Common terns and other seabirds nest on specially made rafts during the summer, while snipe, green sandpipers, shovelers, gadwalls and tufted ducks move in during the winter.

There is an artificial sandbank and a hide where spotting Kingfishers is a good bet during the late spring, early summer. The sandbank has a tree nearby which makes for a natural perching point for Kingfishers; an ideal place to grab shots of the mating pairs. However, a decent lens is needed for a really good picture - probably 300-400 mm or more. The lens we took was too small for really good pictures.

If you particularly want to see a kingfisher, just wait in the hide and before long one will turn up – about every 20 minutes when we were there. Once the bird is perched, they tend to sit for a while, giving good photo opportunities. At least, that's what we found.

Food and drink:

The Rye House pub is a Greene King restaurant pub with garden. It's in the same road, not too far from the nature reserve.

Address: Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 0EH.

<https://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/hertfordshire/rye-house/>

Tel: 01992 465151