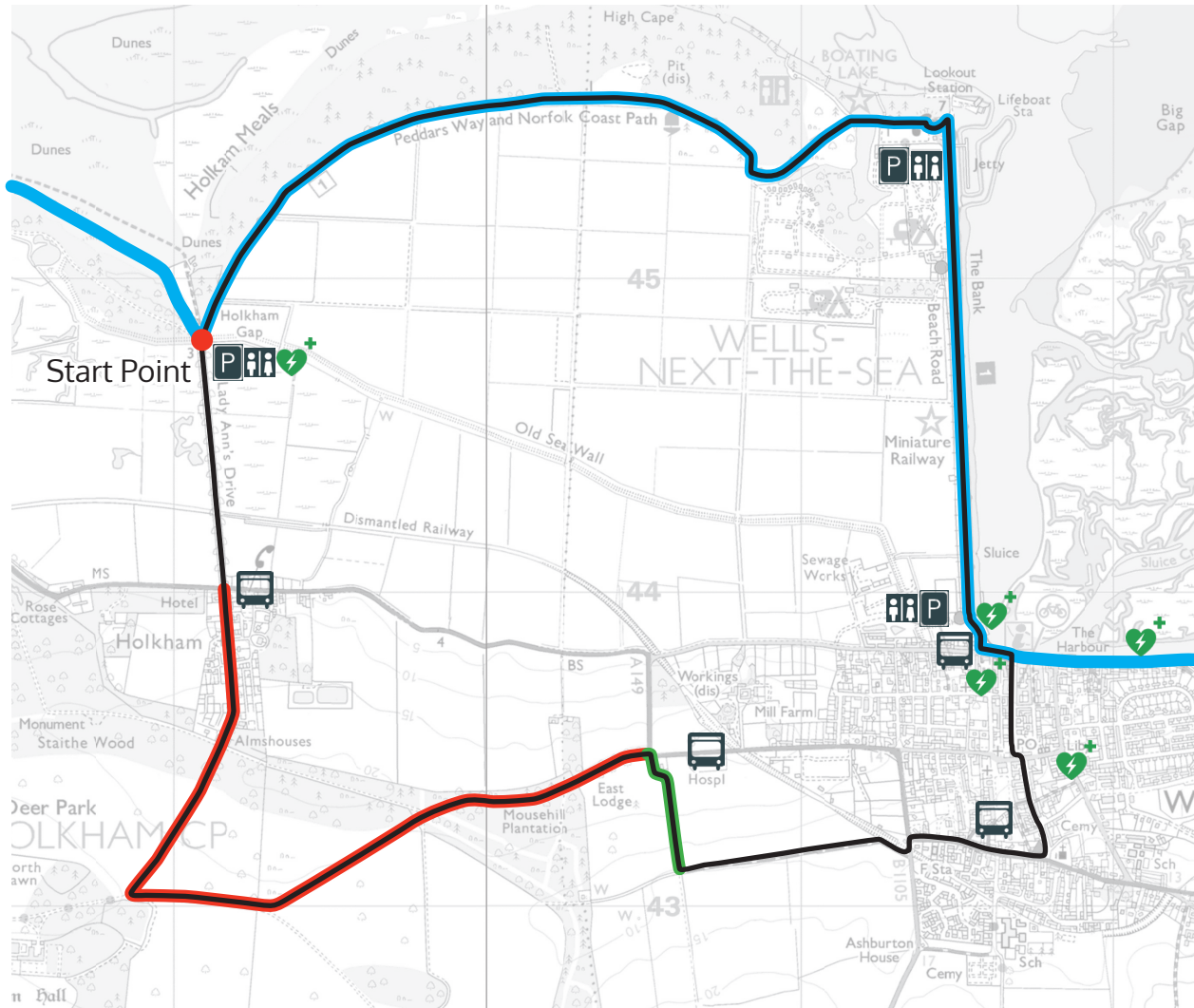


HOLKHAM

6.75 miles / 10.75 km



- Route ———
- Norfolk Coast Path ———
- Restricted access ———
- Access on foot only ———
- Start point ●
- Defibrillator (AED) 📍
- Bus stop 📍
- Parking 📍
- Public convenience 📍

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What to look out for:

Ecology

The pine trees along this section of the Norfolk Coast Path are an iconic feature of North Norfolk. Standing on the Holkham Estate, these distinctive trees were planted by the 2nd Earl of Leicester in the nineteenth century to help stabilise the sand dunes.

Whilst the natural habitat here would be sand dunes, with their own ecological niches and specialist species such as **natter jack toads**, **seals** and **nesting birds**, the introduced pine trees now form a narrow belt of mature pine woodland that arguably contains a more diverse range of species, with increased habitat for **nesting birds**, **bats**, **small mammals** and **invertebrates** such as **butterflies** and **moths** along the shrubby edges of the footpath.

The pine wood habitat contains **broom**, **heather**, **gorse**, **deadwood** and **bare sand** that provides important features for **reptiles** such as **adders**, **grass snake**, **slow worm**, and the mature trees themselves contain cavities for **nesting birds** and **bats**, and provide seeds and insects to eat.

Heritage

On Lady Ann's Drive and at Beach Road, Wells are a total of four rare types of pillbox, survivals from the concentration of defences placed there during the Second World War to supplement the beach defences of Holkham Bay. These defences included a Coastal gun battery, beach scaffolding, anti tank blocks and a minefield.

Much of the sparsely populated east coast of England was considered vulnerable to a landing of German invasion forces in 1940 and within the space of a year the Norfolk Coast was covered with a range of defences to prevent landing or guard against sabotage. When the threat of invasion had receded many defences were removed so that land could be restored to its former use, such as agriculture and transport. The decision to start removing the coastal defences within populated areas was made in 1944 and many of those survivals have since been subject to coastal erosion.

Getting Started

You can hop on or off this circular walk at many points along the route, but the recommended starting point is at the northern end of Lady Anne's Drive, near The Lookout (**TF890448**).

Getting There

There are bus stops near the route's starting point and in Wells-next-the-Sea centre served by Lynx Coastliner service 36.

Pay and display car parks can be found on Lady Anne's Drive, Beach Road and The Quay and in the town centre.

Facilities

Public toilets can be found at The Lookout, at both ends of Beach Road, and in Wells-next-the-Sea. The town centre is well serviced with shops, cafés, restaurants and a Tourist Information Centre.

National Trail

This walk is part of the 129.5 mile long distance route (shown in blue), Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path. For more info, visit www.nationaltrail.co.uk/peddars-way-and-norfolk-coast-path.

Restricted Access

Please keep dogs on leads at all times on the section shown in red. Please note that, for reasons of safety, this section will also be closed to pedestrians and cyclists during periods of high wind.

If cycling, please dismount from your bicycle and walk the section marked in green as this section is a Public Footpath.

Funding

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