

= Peter Holmes =

Peter James Holmes ( born 18 November 1980 ) is an English former professional footballer who played as a midfielder . He is a coach at National League South club Hemel Hempstead Town .

Holmes started his career with Sheffield Wednesday and after failing to make any first team appearances he joined Luton Town . He was released by the club due to financial reasons in the summer of 2003 , but was eventually handed a new contract in November . After being loaned out to Chesterfield and Lincoln City during the 2006 ? 07 season , Holmes left Luton , having made over 100 appearances for the club . He was signed by Rotherham United , who loaned him out to Conference Premier team York City in 2008 . He was released by Rotherham in 2009 and was signed by Harrogate Town , before joining Ebbsfleet United . Following Ebbsfleet 's relegation he signed for Hayes & Yeading United .

= = Club career = =

= = = Sheffield Wednesday and Luton Town = = =

Born in Bishop Auckland , County Durham , Holmes graduated through The Football Association 's School of Excellence . He started his career with Premier League club Sheffield Wednesday as a trainee in their youth system before signing a professional contract on 2 December 1997 , and was promoted to the first team for the 1999 ? 2000 season . After failing to appear for the team , Holmes was signed by Luton Town on 1 August 2000 on a three @-@ year contract for a nominal fee . Luton manager Ricky Hill had been impressed by the player while working as a coach at Wednesday . Holmes made his debut for Luton after being introduced as an 58th @-@ minute substitute in a 1 ? 0 defeat at home to Notts County in the Second Division on 12 August 2000 . He scored his first goal for Luton with their second goal in a 3 ? 2 home victory over Peterborough United on 26 December 2000 , and played his final game of 2000 ? 01 at Oldham Athletic on 23 January 2001 , where he was substituted for Liam George in the 55th @-@ minute . He was transfer listed in April 2001 by manager Joe Kinnear and completed his first season at the club with 22 appearances and one goal , after which Luton were relegated to the Third Division .

Holmes suffered from soreness in his leg after collapsing in a game against Rushden & Diamonds in December 2001 . He returned to action to score from the edge of the penalty area in a 3 ? 1 away victory against Swansea City on 30 March 2002 ; this goal secured Luton 's return to the Second Division . Holmes ' 2001 ? 02 season was ended with 10 appearances and one goal after suffering a knee ligament injury during Luton 's 4 ? 0 victory at Hull City on 6 April 2002 . He suffered a groin strain during the 2 ? 1 home defeat to Cambridge United in the Football League Trophy on 10 December 2002 . He made his return to Luton 's first team in a 3 ? 2 away defeat to Mansfield Town on 4 March 2003 after coming on as a 74th @-@ minute substitute . He then scored in the following game against Huddersfield Town , being assisted by an Ian Hillier cross in the 71st @-@ minute to help Luton to a 3 ? 0 victory on 8 March 2003 . He finished 2002 ? 03 with 23 appearances and two goals , but missed Luton 's final game of the season after picking up a hamstring injury during a 1 ? 1 draw with Stockport County on 26 April 2003 .

Holmes was released by Luton in July 2003 after the offer of a new contract was withdrawn because of financial difficulties at the club , but he continued to train with the team and eventually signed a contract in November . His first appearance of the season came after starting in Luton 's 0 ? 0 draw at Holmes ' former club Sheffield Wednesday , before scoring his first goal on 10 January 2004 with a header in a 2 ? 2 draw with Rushden & Diamonds . Holmes was the oldest central midfielder in the team after starting in the FA Cup match against Tranmere Rovers , due to other players being injured , during which he gave away the possession for Micky Mellon to score the winner for Tranmere in the 81st @-@ minute . He finished 2003 ? 04 with 20 appearances and scored three goals . Luton won promotion into the Championship in 2004 ? 05 after winning the League One title , while Holmes made 20 appearances and scored three goals . Following this

achievement , he signed a new one @-@ year contract with the club in June 2005 .

The winning goal for Luton in a 2 ? 1 victory over Cardiff City in October was scored by Holmes from close range , which brought an end to the opposition ' eight match unbeaten run . He suffered from a twisted knee during a match against Derby County on 26 December 2005 , eventually returning to action from a hamstring injury in February 2006 by playing in a reserve match against Southend United . His competitive return was in a 3 ? 3 draw against Cardiff , where he came on as a substitute for Dean Morgan on 82 minutes . He completed 2005 ? 06 with 25 appearances and scored two goals , when Luton finished 10th in the Championship . Following the conclusion of the season , he signed a new one @-@ year contract in June 2006 . He joined League One side Chesterfield on a one @-@ month loan on 12 January 2007 , making his debut the following day in a 1 ? 0 away victory over Rotherham United , in which he forced goalkeeper Neil Cutler into making a good save . Chesterfield were given the lead by Holmes in a match away to Huddersfield Town with a header from a Kyle Critchell cross , which eventually finished a 1 ? 1 draw . The loan was extended for a second month on 8 February 2007 , and Holmes said he would consider signing for the club permanently when the loan expired . He eventually finished his spell at Chesterfield with 10 appearances and scored one goal . He joined Lincoln City of League Two on loan until the end of 2006 ? 07 on 22 March 2007 . His debut came in a 3 ? 2 home defeat to Swindon Town and he completed the loan spell with five appearances .

= = = Rotherham United = = =

Luton released Holmes on 8 May 2007 following their relegation to League One , after he had spent nearly seven years with the club . He eventually signed for Rotherham United of League Two on a two @-@ year contract on 14 June 2007 . His debut for Rotherham was in a 0 ? 0 draw against Hereford United on 10 August 2007 and he scored his first goal for the team against Notts County on 22 September with a 25 @-@ yard shot into the far corner . Holmes finished 2007 ? 08 with 27 appearances and two goals . After making only one appearance during 2008 ? 09 , he joined York City in the Conference Premier on a one @-@ month loan on 22 September 2008 and made his debut a day later in a 2 ? 0 defeat to Kidderminster Harriers . He scored for the team in the following game with a six @-@ yard shot from a Craig Farrell pass , which finished as a 3 ? 3 draw with Stevenage Borough . He suffered from a hip injury , which resulted him in missing York 's 3 ? 1 defeat against Wrexham . His final game for York was a 2 ? 0 victory against Rushden & Diamonds and he finished the loan spell with five appearances and one goal , before returning to Rotherham on 18 October 2008 after being recalled by the club . Weeks after returning to Rotherham , it was suggested that Holmes might be loaned out again after failing to break back into the team . It was over a month before Holmes eventually made his first appearance for Rotherham since returning , after starting in the 2 ? 0 defeat at home to Bradford City on 21 November 2008 .

= = = Harrogate Town and Ebbsfleet United = = =

He was released by Rotherham at the end of the season , after not being offered a new contract by the club , and he was signed by Conference North team Harrogate Town on 25 September 2009 . Holmes made his first and only appearance for Harrogate in a 4 ? 0 away defeat to Bradford Park Avenue in the FA Cup second qualifying round on 26 September 2009 . He joined Conference Premier team Ebbsfleet United on 9 October 2009 , making his debut a day later in a 4 ? 0 defeat to Cambridge United . His first goal was with the winner in a 2 ? 1 victory over Mansfield Town on 28 November 2009 , scoring from close range from a Magno Vieira pass . He made 29 appearances and scored two goals for Ebbsfleet during the 2009 ? 10 as they were relegated to the Conference South .

= = = Hayes & Yeading United = = =

Holmes received a contract offer from Hayes & Yeading United in July 2010 and he signed for the

club on 2 August . He made his debut in the opening game of 2010 ? 11 , a 2 ? 1 home victory over Bath City on 14 August 2010 . His first goal for the club came a curling shot from a Jamie Hand assist in a 2 ? 1 defeat at Kettering Town on 2 October 2010 . Holmes finished the season with 47 appearances and five goals .

= = = Later career = = =

Holmes signed for Dunstable Town of the Spartan South Midlands Football League Premier Division in August 2011 . He spent 2011 ? 12 with Dunstable before signing for Southern League Premier Division club Hemel Hempstead Town in May 2012 . He made 28 appearances in 2012 ? 13 before joining the club 's coaching staff .

= = International career = =

Holmes made his debut for the England national under @-@ 16 team in a 1 ? 0 home defeat to France on 28 September 1996 . His final appearance came in a 5 ? 1 away defeat to Scotland on 6 March 1997 , meaning he finished his England under @-@ 16 career with four caps .

= = Style of play = =

Holmes was a hard working midfielder who possessed skill and could make neat passes , although he had been criticised for lacking in physical strength and tackling . He preferred to play as a central midfielder , although was able to play on the left side of midfield and was equally comfortable playing with either foot .

= = Career statistics = =

= = Honours = =

Luton Town  
Football League One : 2004 ? 05