

Careers behind the build: Wembley Stadium



“Wembley is
the cathedral of
football. It is the
capital of football
and it is the heart
of football.”

Pelé

Careers behind the build: Wembley Stadium

Wembley Stadium in London is one of the most famous venues in the world – and it's over 100 years old! First opened in 1923, it was originally built for an exhibition and was meant to be taken down. But people loved it so much that it stayed and became the home of some of the biggest moments in sport and music.

From England's 1966 World Cup win to huge concerts like Live Aid, Wembley has seen it all. It's hosted Olympic Games, NFL games, world-title boxing matches and unforgettable performances by artists like Beyoncé and Ed Sheeran.

The current Wembley Stadium, rebuilt in 2007, is a modern engineering marvel with its iconic arch, a sliding roof and space for 90,000 fans. Behind it all? A team of skilled professionals, including architects, engineers, electricians and facilities managers.

Let's meet some of the construction roles behind the build!



Architect

Dreams the design

What they do

Architects imagine how a building will look and how people will use it. They draw up detailed plans that show where walls, windows, doors and walkways go. They think about space, light, safety and style, making buildings that are both useful and beautiful.

At Wembley

The architect designed everything from the flow of people to the shape of the famous arch. They had to think about views from every seat, how crowds would move and how to make the stadium feel inspiring to walk into.

Average salary

£39,800–£46,550 depending on experience and project size.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Art & Design: Architects sketch ideas and use computer design software (like CAD)

Maths: For scaling, angles, symmetry and spatial awareness

Geography: Understanding how people move and behave in spaces

If you're creative and like drawing or imagining new spaces, this could be the job for you.



Yaqeen Alshafie Architect

Yaqeen Alshafie is a CIOB member and architect who designs spaces that are practical, creative and improve people's lives. She has worked on affordable housing and regeneration projects that help transform communities.

"Every project is a chance to solve problems in a creative way and leave a positive impact."

She works with clients, engineers and consultants to develop designs that meet people's needs while following important regulations and standards.

"I've always loved both art and problem-solving. Architecture is the perfect combination."

Her advice to students: "Be curious and get as much real-world experience as you can. Being on site really helps you understand how everything comes together."

BIM Specialist

Builds it virtually first

What they do

BIM (Building Information Modelling) specialists create 3D digital versions of the building before construction starts. These models include everything: pipes, wires, walls, windows, and help different teams work together and spot mistakes early.

At Wembley

With so many complex systems (roof, screens, sound, lights), building a digital model helped teams plan without waste or error.

Average salary

£34,000–£47,000+ depending on experience and project size.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Computer Science/IT: To support with the software you will be using

Maths: For measurements, accuracy and data

Graphics or Art & Design: Visualising structures and thinking in 3D

If you love computers, gaming, 3D design or tech, this role mixes construction with digital skills.



Gayathre Padmanabhan Senior BIM Consultant

Gayathre is a CIOB member and senior BIM consultant supporting firms across the Middle East and Asia with digital project delivery. She helps teams use Building Information Modelling (BIM) and Integrated Digital Delivery (IDD) to improve how they design, plan and build, making projects more efficient, accurate and collaborative.

“What I enjoy most is helping teams unlock the real value of their design and construction data. It’s fulfilling to see the shift from disconnected designs to integrated, insight-driven delivery.”

She’s worked on major projects, including a landmark airport in one of India’s biggest cities and top-tier developers in UAE. Her role often involves helping teams set up clear digital processes so that everyone can work together more efficiently and avoid mistakes on-site.

Gayathre started in architecture but was drawn to how things are delivered, not just designed. A Master’s in Project Management and Digital Transformation gave her a broader view of how projects work, and she now helps drive digital transformation across the construction industry.

Site Manager

Keeps the build moving

What they do

Site managers lead teams on the construction site. They schedule who's working when, make sure materials arrive on time, solve daily issues and check that everything meets safety standards. It's a fast-paced, people-focused job.

At Wembley

With thousands of workers on site, someone had to coordinate everything, from crane deliveries to health and safety checks.

Average salary

£36,000-£54,000 depending on experience and project size.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Business Studies: Managing people, time and resources

PE or PSHE: Leadership, teamwork, communication

DT: Understanding building processes and materials

If you're organised, a natural leader or enjoy working with people, this could be a career path for you.

Joshua Nelson Apprentice Site Manager

Josh is a CIOB member who manages teams on site to make sure homes are built safely, to a high standard and on time. He's worked on a wide variety of projects, from heritage castles to new housing developments.

"I really like that no two jobs are the same. You get to meet different people, work in different places, and there's always something new to learn. That variety is what keeps me in this industry."

Josh didn't follow the traditional A-level path. After GCSEs, he took a Level 3 diploma in Construction and the Built Environment at college, then completed a Higher National Certificate (HNC) while working, which gave him the practical knowledge and experience to step into management roles.

"Working with my family early on gave me a real feel for the industry. College and experience helped me see different roles and find what I enjoy. Keep an open mind – you might discover something new."

His advice to students: "Get some work experience. Being on site can open your eyes, and you could find a role that suits you better. Try different things, speak to people and keep your options open."



Quantity Surveyor

Balances the budget



What they do

Quantity surveyors work out how much a project will cost and make sure it stays on budget. They measure and price materials, estimate labour costs, and help spot where money could be saved without cutting corners.

At Wembley

They helped plan a budget for the entire stadium and made sure every bolt, beam and light was accounted for.

Average salary

£51,355 depending on experience and project size.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Maths: Estimating costs, measuring and working with data

Business: Budgeting and contracts

Geography: Understanding the land and development costs

If you like working with numbers and enjoy real-world problem solving, this role could suit you.

Reagan Williams Assistant Quantity Surveyor

Reagan is an assistant quantity surveyor and joined CIOB as a Student Member. His role focuses on managing the finances of construction projects, visiting sites to check progress, valuing the work and preparing reports to keep projects on track.

"I love being able to visit the projects I'm working on. Seeing them come to life is fascinating and fills me with pride."

Reagan has worked on a number of school and education projects, which he finds especially rewarding. "It's great to know that the work you do is helping create high-quality spaces that make a real difference in local communities."

His interest in buildings started at school, where he wanted to do something outside the usual subjects. He was drawn to construction, particularly the financial side of how buildings are planned and delivered. Looking back, he says, "I would have chosen an apprenticeship rather than a traditional degree. It would have given me more hands-on experience and helped me step into the professional world earlier."

His advice to students: "Put yourself out there and get as much experience as you can while you're still in school. Whether it's through work experience or by joining CIOB as a student member, it all helps."

Sustainability Manager

Builds for the planet

What they do

Sustainability managers make sure construction projects are environmentally friendly and meets legal requirements. They look for ways to save energy, reduce waste, use recycled materials and lower carbon emissions.

At Wembley

They made sure 90% of the old stadium materials were reused – a huge win for the environment.

Average salary

£41,000–£60,000 depending on experience and project size.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Geography: Climate, sustainability, waste and land use

Science: Energy, materials, and environmental systems

PSHE or Citizenship: Understanding your impact on the world

If you care about the planet and want to make buildings greener, this is a future-focused job.



Hattie Thompson Senior Sustainability Manager

Hattie is a CIOB member and senior sustainability manager. She works with design and construction teams to reduce the environmental impact of projects, whether that's cutting carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency, or making sure building sites have the right pollution-prevention measures in place. She supports projects from the very first idea through to construction and handover.

"Every day is different. My job is really varied, and I get to explore lots of exciting sustainability initiatives. I also work with some really passionate people, which makes the job really enjoyable."

Hattie didn't start her career in construction. After studying Biomedical Science at university, she tried several different jobs, including Cabin Crew for British Airways and working at the Science Museum in London. She eventually discovered the built environment sector and moved into sustainability because she wanted to make a difference.

Hattie is glad she took her time to find the right path. "I wouldn't change anything. It's important to take your time in finding the right career, and I'm glad I tried a few different jobs before settling where I am now."

Her advice to students: "Don't put pressure on yourself to know exactly what you want to do. It took me a while to find an area I enjoy working in, and it's better to take your time and find something you really want to do."

Planning Consultant

Helps get permission

What they do

Planning consultants help building projects follow the law. They advise on what can be built where, handle applications and talk with local councils to get permissions granted.

At Wembley

They ensured that the stadium met rules for height, transport, noise levels and public use.

Average salary

£44,596 depending on experience and project size.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Law or Citizenship: Understanding rules and local government

English: Writing reports and communicating clearly

Geography: Knowing how cities grow and change

If you like writing, rules, or working with big ideas and policy, this might be your pathway.



Hady Berjaoui Senior Forensic Planning Consultant

As a Chartered Member of CIOB, Hady works as a senior forensic planning consultant, uncovering the causes of delays on major projects. Based in Qatar for the past 10 years, his experience includes World Cup-related developments and regional programs such as NEOM and The Red Sea Project in Saudi Arabia.

"Every project brings a new challenge. I enjoy digging into the details and building a clear, evidence-based story."

Hady began his career in project planning and cost management, but his interest in the legal side led him to study construction law. Combining technical and legal knowledge has become central to his work.

"Curiosity led me to pursue a Master's in Construction Law and Arbitration, and eventually specialise in forensic delay analysis. If I could go back, I would have explored the legal and contractual side of projects much earlier."

His advice to students: "Learn what happens on site, but also understand how delays are handled in contracts. It makes you much more versatile and valuable."

Project Manager

Brings it all together

What they do

Project managers oversee the entire construction process, from planning to delivery. They organise teams, set timelines, monitor budgets and solve problems as they come up. They keep clients updated, make key decisions and ensure everything stays on track. It's a leadership role with a big-picture focus.

At Wembley

With a stadium as complex as Wembley, someone had to take charge of the overall build. The project manager worked closely with architects, engineers and contractors to make sure everything was completed safely, on time, and within budget.

Average salary

£52,292 depending on experience and project scale.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Business Studies: Project planning, managing people and risk

Maths: Tracking costs, schedules and quantities

English: Communicating with clients and writing reports

If you're good at juggling lots of tasks and enjoy being in charge of big ideas, this could be your path.

Benjamin Lunn Project Manager

Ben is a CIOB member and project manager working on high-end homes in Sydney. His projects range from modern waterfront houses to restoring historic Victorian buildings, often worth between £500,000 and £4 million.

"No two days are ever the same. Every project brings new challenges and chances to learn."

Ben manages the whole construction process, from the first plans to the final result, working with architects, engineers and builders to keep everything running smoothly. His interest in how things are built led him to study construction at university. Getting hands-on experience while studying helped him hit the ground running.

His advice to students: "Get as much real-world experience as you can while studying. It makes a big difference and helped me understand how things work in the real world, not just in textbooks."



Construction Health & Safety Advisor

Protects people on site

What they do

Health & Safety Advisors make sure building sites are safe for workers and the public. They check equipment, train staff and inspect working conditions. They create safety plans and ensure the site follows health laws and regulations. It's a vital job, no building gets made without safety first.

At Wembley

With thousands of people working with cranes, machinery and materials, the safety advisor made sure everyone was trained, protected and working under safe conditions.

Average salary

£34,000–£54,000 depending on experience and project size.

Subjects that may help you in this career

Biology or Science: Understanding health, human biology and risk

PSHE or Citizenship: Learning about responsibility and laws

English or Communication: Writing reports and giving clear safety instructions

If you care about people, enjoy solving real-world problems, and want to protect others, this job makes a huge impact.



Abbi Bird

Health and Safety Building Assurance Advisor

As a member of CIOB, Abbi helps ensure the safety of people working and living in buildings across the UK. At Orbit, she advises on health and safety matters, completes site audits and monitors compliance with key regulations.

“I’m proud that the work I do helps prevent accidents and keeps people safe. It’s rewarding to know you’re making a real difference.”

Abbi left school at the age of 17 and started her career through a Level 4 Apprenticeship, gaining on-site experience while completing her HNC and working towards CIOB membership.

Her advice to students: “Determine what you enjoy the most to learn and explore the career avenues and opportunities presented.”



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