

48 Facts about the 48 Olympic Steps

Construction

1. The Olympic Steps will be completed by 10 June 2021
2. Quintain, the owner and developer of Wembley Park, is delivering the Olympic Steps, as part of its masterplan that delivers the London Borough of Brent's Area Action Plan
3. There are 48 steps in total (4 flights of 12)
4. Each step is 40m wide
5. By removing the pedway, The Olympic Steps have liberated over 12,150 sqm of new public space at ground level – an area bigger than The SSE Arena, Wembley
6. The Summer Olympic Games, after which Olympic Way was named, were held in 1948; the Steps have also taken this Olympic name
7. 48 new trees have been planted in pairs along Olympic Way
8. The trees are a variety of species selected from the temperate zones around the world and benefit from specialist root containers providing the environment for them to thrive
9. A site-wide tree planting strategy has been in place at Wembley Park since 2005. In 2017, it won the Trees and Development Award at the London Tree and Woodland Awards at City Hall
10. The total cost of the steps, which includes the demolition of the Pedway and the construction of the new steps, is £39m. The project is co-funded by Quintain and Brent
11. Dixon Jones, the architects for the Steps and Olympic Way, were also the architects behind Somerset House's masterplan, the redesign of the Royal College of Music and The East Wing Project at the National Gallery
12. The project was given planning permission by Brent Council in 2018
13. Throughout the project Quintain has worked in collaboration with Brent Council and the FA, owners of Wembley Stadium
14. The Pedway was a monolithic 1970's concrete ramp that predated the 2007 National Stadium and was built to bridge across the coach parking facilities underneath which no longer exist
15. It was the final remnant of the old Wembley Stadium which was rebuilt in 2007 to become the iconic National Stadium we know today
16. 6,000 Tonnes of pedway concrete were removed and recycled during the demolition process
17. The Olympic Steps are due for completion in early June 2021, which means they will be ready for the UEFA Euro 2020 Championships
18. Quintain received unanimous planning consent for the removal of the Pedway in September 2018, however, plans have been in the pipeline for over a decade
19. No days of construction have been lost to lockdown
20. Brent Council is using Community Infrastructure Funding which is a development-related tax that must be used to provide the infrastructure that is required to support development in the Borough

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Public Realm

21. The area of new public realm that the steps sit within is as big as the pitch inside Wembley Stadium
22. 10 new lampposts will have light a beacon on top, which can change colour and be programmed in a variety of rhythmic patterns to create light shows
23. Semi-translucent pavement lights will bathe the Olympic Steps undercroft with natural light, uniting the two new tiers of public space
24. The new steps will provide space for an increase in the programme of free, community events hosted throughout the year
25. The undercroft will provide covered space for events such as open-air markets and busking
26. The removal of the pedway allows for a significant extension to the recently transformed Olympic Way so it can meet Engineers Way, uniting the east and west of Wembley Park with an inviting, distinctive and accessible public space
27. Already home to The SSE Arena, Wembley, London's most iconic concert and events venue and Wembley Stadium, Wembley Park is building on its international reputation for music and sporting events and becoming a landmark destination with culture, entertainment and community at its heart
28. Wembley Park includes 4,500 new homes, shops, and places to work, as well as attractive public spaces, with parks and gardens, public squares and wide boulevards for locals and visitors alike to enjoy
29. When completed, nearly half of Wembley Park's 85-acre site will be open space
30. The new location will play a significant part for many of Wembley Park's future events, including providing the backdrop for Winterfest, the neighbourhood's immersive winter light trail
31. The steps, which can host outdoor performances, will perfectly complement the area's existing venues, such as the Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre or The SSE Arena, Wembley, as well as the National Stadium
32. Wembley Park is home to London Designer Outlet (LDO), which includes over 70 shops and restaurants with premium brands at discount prices, Amazon Fresh, BOXPARK Wembley, Fuller's White Horse Pub, Black Sheep Coffee, Bread Ahead, Pasta Remoli, Twenty3c, Chop-Chop London and MoreYoga studio. The destination also plays host to Wembley Park Market, a boutique shopping experience that provides lifestyle, fashion, food, arts and crafts, health and wellness options to the area's discerning residents

Social Distancing

33. Site hoarding and increased wayfinding signage has been designed to allow social distancing to continue to take place across Wembley Park
34. The 40m wide new steps will allow for Wembley Park visitors to easily practice social distancing
35. Olympic Way (known by football fans as 'Wembley Way') has been widened by 50%

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Accessibility and Health & Safety

36. The Olympic Steps will provide better access for the needs of older and disabled people with the introduction of four new lifts from ground level to the Wembley Stadium concourse
37. Each lift can take three wheelchairs, giving a total capacity of 12 wheelchairs at a time
38. During 2018, Quintain met and consulted with Level Playing Field, an organisation that promotes a positive, inclusive experience for disabled sports fans
39. A final design incorporating Steps and Lifts was chosen in compliance with The Green Guide
40. The steps have been designed to meet industry best practice and guidance alongside all relevant safety standards
41. A Crowd Movement Report has been prepared which sets out the design considerations concerning capacity and crowd flows and details how the steps maximise the safety of users
42. Rigorous testing, in conjunction with the FA, is taking place before the Olympic Steps are in regular use
43. Every consideration has been made to minimise disruption to Wembley Park's residents and visitors from the construction activity
44. Any lighting on the construction site has been positioned to avoid glare to nearby residential properties
45. A proportion of the construction of the steps is being carried out off-site and noise and vibration monitoring stations are in place in several locations which are closely monitored by contractors and the ENS team at Brent Council
46. Rigorous testing was carried out from balconies across the residential buildings deemed to be most affected by noise from the demolition
47. Given the busy events programme at the National Stadium in 2021, there is only a small window for this complex programme of work to be completed
48. The Olympic Steps have been designed to the standards of Green Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds