

Airport civil engineer

Airport civil engineers contribute to airport infrastructure projects through engineering analysis, design development and project support. Graduate and experienced chartered posts can sit in the same career family but have different responsibility and entry criteria. This guide covers career preparation, not pavement design, structural calculation or construction approval.

What the role does

- Support or lead assigned civil-infrastructure design work according to experience and authority.
- Coordinate technical information across project disciplines.
- Document assumptions, design decisions and project deliverables for review.

Where the work happens

Design offices, multidisciplinary project teams and authorised construction/site settings; some consultants work on client secondment.

Employer example 1

AECOM Infrastructure and Environment UK Limited • United Kingdom • Graduate Aviation Civil Engineer - Croydon (2027 start)

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer • Checked 2026-10-27 [E045-AECOM]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	Civil Engineering/Engineering Science BEng at 2:1 or equivalent; IT, communication and teamwork skills. The advert requires permanent UK work rights and states no visa sponsorship for this post.
Desirable in this source	Relevant MEng/MSc, report-writing and AutoCAD experience are described as advantageous/beneficial.

2027-start employer advert; title says Croydon while location metadata says Manchester. Exact location and continuing availability require clarification.

Employer example 2

Waterman Aspen • United Kingdom - London • Airport Civil Engineer

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer • Checked 2026-10-27 [E045-WATERMAN]

Category	What this employer states
Essential in this source	Degree-qualified Chartered Civil Engineer; relevant airfield/complex-highways and pavement-design experience. Standards application, delivery track record and communication.
Desirable in this source	Named airport/client experience, project lifecycle, UK driving licence, relevant design software and client-development experience.

Experienced post with expressly separate essential/desirable headings; not a graduate baseline.

PREPARE AND VERIFY

Separate requirements from preparation

United Kingdom: professional registration: Engineering Council explains CEng as demonstrated professional competence and commitment, with academic and individual assessment routes. Waterman makes chartered status an employer requirement; AECOM's reviewed graduate post does not. Do not turn either into a worldwide entry rule. [O045-ENGCC]

Still to verify: AECOM's location fields conflict and no closing dates were visible. International qualification equivalence and specific project sign-off duties remain outside this introductory comparison.

Explore a realistic entry route

- Compare an early-career and an experienced vacancy side by side. Separate academic entry, practical experience and professional registration. This helps prevent applying senior requirements to every newcomer or assuming a graduate degree already demonstrates independent professional competence.
- Build a portfolio from work you genuinely completed, showing assumptions, checks, feedback and your contribution. Clearly identify student work and supervised tasks. Do not share proprietary drawings, security-sensitive layouts or client material without authorisation.
- Investigate the relevant professional body and recognised education routes in your intended jurisdiction before paying for study. Ask the employer about mentoring, review responsibility and registration support. Resolve location or credential ambiguities in an advertisement rather than treating this guide as an eligibility decision.

Build evidence of your skills

- Write a fictional design-review note for a non-operational classroom problem, identifying missing inputs and questions for a qualified reviewer. Keep it conceptual and do not provide aircraft pavement specifications or safety-critical calculations.
- Prepare a project reflection showing how you responded to review comments and maintained a clear revision record. Explain what was your work and what a supervisor checked.

Prepare for an interview

Reflection prompts only, not questions claimed to be used by an employer.

- Preparation prompt: describe a time new evidence changed your proposed solution. Explain how you documented the change and sought review without overstating your authority.
- Ask about the expected project types, supervision, technical checking and development pathway. Clarify whether registration is essential on appointment or a supported longer-term goal.

Investigate possible next roles

Investigate technical specialisation, chartered development or project leadership as appropriate to jurisdiction and experience; none is automatic or interchangeable with aircraft maintenance certification.

Sources and scope

[E045-AECOM] [AECOM Infrastructure and Environment UK Limited Graduate Aviation Civil Engineer - Croydon \(2027 start\)](#)

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer. United Kingdom. Checked 2026-10-27.

[E045-WATERMAN] [Waterman Aspen Airport Civil Engineer](#)

Vacancy status unconfirmed not an offer. United Kingdom - London. Checked 2026-10-27.

[O045-ENGCC] [Engineering Council Chartered Engineer \(CEng\)](#)

Professional-registration body's competence and qualification explanation. CEng registration is not automatically awarded by a degree. This is not a global engineering-licence equivalence assessment. Checked 2026-10-27.

Educational requirements guide, not operational instruction or an employment guarantee. Verify current requirements with the relevant authority and employer. Conditions belong to the named employer, post and jurisdiction. They are not worldwide eligibility rules; check the current advertisement and local authority before making training or application decisions. No job guarantee.