



*Case Study*

**Steven Horton, first “SOA” placement recruited by SkyBlue for the Library of Birmingham project**

Super Output Areas (SOAs) is a new term created by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) to identify pockets of deprivation within cities. Historically, residents of SOAs have had difficulty finding employment.

Award winning recruitment agency SkyBlue, specialists in the Construction, Highways, Utilities, Rail and M&E sectors, has been appointed sole recruitment supplier by parent company Carillion to target candidates from SOA's for the Library of Birmingham construction project.

The Library of Birmingham is a major regeneration project for the city - occupying a prime site on

Centenary Square at 31,000 sq metres. The building will provide 20% more space than that of the existing Birmingham Central Library and will be capable of taking up to 10,000 visitors a day.

SkyBlue's Birmingham Branch worked in partnership with Jobcentre Plus to source willing candidates from the local area.

Steven, who comes from a SOA in Birmingham, qualified with the necessary tickets for the job, including the Construction Plant Competence Card (CPCS).

He successfully passed the registration and reference process and after going through a Health and Safety assessment on site, he commenced his duties as a 360 Degrees Excavator on the pre-construction phase of the Library of Birmingham project.

“Steven was extremely competent operating his excavator and was given the additional responsibility of training an apprentice on general labouring and site safety,” says David Marriott, Recruitment Consultant at SkyBlue’s Birmingham Branch.

Steven says, “SkyBlue provided the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed for my job and kept me up to date prior to starting on site. I was also visited every week by David.”

Principal contractor for the project, Carillion, and recruitment agency SkyBlue, have joined forces with Birmingham City Council Employment Team to maximise the positive impact of the Birmingham Library project in the local community. As a result, over 250 jobs are being sourced in SOAs and ethnic minority groups in Birmingham. This strategy will continue throughout the construction phase of the project, which is due to be completed in March 2013.

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SkyBlue provides temporary and permanent labour for clients in Construction, Civil Engineering, Highways, Utilities, Business Services, Facilities Management, M& E, Rail and Welding.



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