



## **Ground breaking partnership for Ground Works training**

Steve Hoskin Construction, one of the largest ground works companies in the South West, has appointed Skills Group to help with the upskilling of its workforce.

Tracing its origins back to the mid-Seventies in Cornwall, Steve Hoskin Construction (SHC) has remained a family-run firm that has specialised in providing the ground works for development projects. This preparation involves all the earthworks, excavations, civil engineering works and street works required before the house builders can begin. Despite the economy slowing in many sectors, the company has seen continued growth in the demand for its services and now has a workforce of approximately 300.

Reflecting on the growth of the business, SHC's SHEQ Manager, Colin Vout, said: "As the company expands, we need a structure that enables us to recognise the skills of our employees and provide them with progression opportunities. Our partnership with Skills Group will help us confirm the skills of many of our staff, while also offering them the possibility of acquiring new skills and expertise that will help them progress in the business.

"As a local company that serves the premier house builders of the South West, we were looking for a partner with a similar footprint and with the vision and agility to be able to respond to our very specific requirements.

"I'm really impressed with how quickly Skills Group has responded to our initial enquiry, and believe, given their experience and success in delivering apprenticeship training across the region, that together we can continue to develop the skilled ground workers this region need – especially with the number of significant projects that are in progress."

Skills Group are running bespoke apprenticeship training for SHC in ground works, trowel occupations and site supervision for approximately 250 SHC employees. The training has been tailored to meet the needs of SHC, based on the profile of its existing staff and the projects the company has in the pipeline.

Mark Boulting, Skills Group's Managing Director, said: "The Skills Group partnership with Steve Hoskin Construction is fantastic news for the South West.

"Here we have a major local employer showing their commitment to the ongoing skills development of their team through apprenticeship training, and putting in place a structure that recognises the achievement of work-based qualifications.

"I believe this will inevitably have a positive knock-on effect in the region's construction industry, and enable us to collectively attract more young people into an industry sector which has a skills shortage."

Skills Group is a leading apprenticeship training provider, offering training in business administration, care and early years, construction, engineering and automotive, hairdressing, sport and leisure, and teaching and education. We currently have over 180 vacancies across Devon and Cornwall, which can be seen on its dedicated recruitment website, [www.apprenticeships4me.com](http://www.apprenticeships4me.com).

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Steve Hoskin Construction website: [www.shc-ltd.co.uk](http://www.shc-ltd.co.uk)
- Skills Group apprentice achievement rates are 91%, the best in the South West and nearly 20% above the national average (Skills Funding Agency apprenticeship achievement rates 2014/15).
- Skills Group was rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.
- Skills Group trains more than 2,000 apprentices every year in Business, Care & Early Years, Construction, Engineering & Automotive, Hairdressing, Sport & Leisure and Teaching & Education across Devon and Cornwall.
- Skills Group has state-art-of-the-art construction, engineering and automotive training centres and a gym at Langage, Plymouth, and hair academies in Plymouth, Exeter and Newton Abbot.
- Employer website: [www.skillsgroupuk.com](http://www.skillsgroupuk.com)
- Apprentice website: [www.apprenticeships4me.com](http://www.apprenticeships4me.com)