



“Apprentice to Branch Manager before the age of 24”

Name: Jack Lomas | **Job title:** Branch Manager, Manchester | **Length of service:** 16 years

Despite doing very well in my GCSEs at age 16, I was bored with education and keen to get a head start in my career. I decided an apprenticeship was the best way to do this as I could learn a trade working alongside other professionals in the field whilst being supported via a structured training programme – a bonus of course was being paid a wage at the same time.

Omega Red Group supported this journey by putting me through a two-year apprenticeship, involving working in the field and six months studying at the NCC facility in Kings Lynn towards NVQ Level 2 in Access & Rigging – Lightning Conductor Engineer. Upon completing my training, I won several accolades such as ‘Best Apprentice’ and ‘Best Academic Ability’ which was testament to the input of other staff members whilst I was away from college undertaking ‘on the job’ training.

Once qualified at 18, I became a fully-fledged Fitter, and later Foreman running numerous high value power earthing projects, responsible for several teams of engineers and sub-contractors in the energy, nuclear and utilities sector. This led to a nationwide position as a Test Engineer, commissioning power earthing and lightning protection systems across large infrastructure sites.

At age 21, I moved into an office-based role and took a position within the Manchester branch as an Estimator. This new role, which involved designing and costing high value and complex tenders, added a new dimension to my experience and opened doors to new opportunities.

Within a year I was promoted to Senior Contracts Supervisor – responsible for the operational management of approximately 120 projects from the Manchester branch.

By age 24 I became the youngest ever Branch Manager within Omega, holding responsibility and accountability for profit and loss of a large geographical region across the north of England, Wales and Ireland. The role involves management of staff members across all business functions including onsite operations, technical design, sales, stores / inventory, material supply and administration.

My career is still developing at Omega. At age 32 I have been lucky enough to receive one-to-one mentorship from a senior manager employed by our parent company, SSI Services, to work on companywide processes and procedures. The business has put trust in me to implement my ideas and concepts which has been a fantastic experience for me. I am truly passionate about supporting our staff in achieving their own career ambitions – my own career journey is testament to the fact that if you work hard, you really can achieve anything.

I’m in no doubt, Omega is a great place to work and is a business that genuinely puts employees, and their development, at the heart of what they do. Indeed, I have no hesitation in recommending them as employers to anyone who is looking for a progressive and rewarding career!