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Academy conservation project wins community award

Work to help transform an Aberdeenshire nature reserve into a haven for local wildlife has earned OPITO – The Oil & Gas Academy a regional community challenge award.

Skills Development Scotland has awarded the Academy the 2008 Modern Apprenticeship Community Challenge (East Region) accolade in light of work carried out at Portlethen Moss by apprentices on the industry's upstream technician training course.

The modern apprentices, who are training to become offshore maintenance technicians, designed and installed a notice board and seating area to help keep visitors to the Moss abreast of ongoing community efforts to conserve the area.

The awards, which are open to any company with staff currently following a modern apprenticeship scheme, require participants to identify a project which benefits the local community and put into practice the skills they learn as part of their course.

Academy chief executive David Doig said: "We are delighted to have been presented with this award which not only showcases the diverse talents of the young people entering the workforce today but also helps to foster strong links between local companies and the communities in which they operate."

The Portlethen-based Academy manages the [technician training scheme](#) on behalf of the UK oil and gas industry.

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