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*A. W. Skempton*

## PAST PHEW CHAIRMAN RECEIVES MILLENNIUM HONOUR

by Mike Chrimes

Professor Sir Alec Skempton, Past-Chairman of PHEW was Knighted in the Millennium honours list for 'services to engineering'. Professor Skempton, best-known internationally as one of the founders of modern 'soil mechanics', has made an enormous personal contribution to the study of engineering history in this country, transforming it from the world of the amateur to a serious academic subject.

His work, spanning five decades has covered early cements, the origins of steel frames, the development of geotechnics, history of steam dredgers, but most particularly the work of eighteenth century engineers, whose world he has illuminated as never before. He has recently been acting as Chairman of the Editorial Board for the *Biographical Dictionary of Civil Engineers*.



Members of the Laigh Milton Project 'Team'  
at the viaduct

Photograph by courtesy of James Yee (SAC)

## LAIGH MILTON VIADUCT RECEIVES SALTIRE COMMENDATION by The Chairman

Five civil engineering projects received recognition in the 1999 Saltire Awards, which were announced last November by Alasdair Morrison, Deputy Minister for Enterprise in the Highlands and Islands.

The Laigh Milton project, involving the restoration of the world's oldest surviving public railway viaduct dating from the early 1800s received a Conservation Commendation and also received praise from the adjudication panel for 'skill in restoring a structure on the verge of collapse'. The project was initiated by PHEW whose initials are incorporated into the malleable cast iron commemorative plaque. The design was by Barr Technical Services; Barr Construction undertook the construction and the work was commissioned by the Laigh Milton Viaduct Conservation Project whose Company Secretary is Panel Chairman Roland Paxton. Roland received the award on behalf of the project from ICE President, Professor George Fleming.