

# Whirlwind Fighter Project



## P7056 Club Newsletter Spring Update 2024

With the continuous sound of hammering, drilling and swearing coming from the workshop over the last few months, Pete Smith has emerged from his self-imposed exile to bring you the latest pictures of the rear fuselage – lower section.

Piece-by-piece, 12 foot panel-by-12 foot panel, Pete has been refining the components made some years ago by Airframe Assemblies into parts that will fit together as close to the original design as we can get them. Or, at least, as close as we can get given the lack of engineering drawings. No-one has done this for 80+ years, and the plans were lost to a flood at Westland's a long time ago. We feel we're pretty damn close, though.

Assembling the lower fuselage cradle.

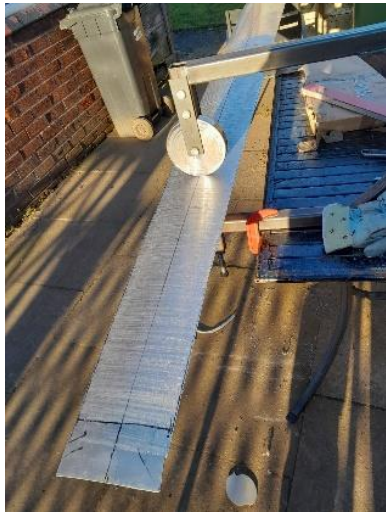


As a picture says a thousand words – we'll let the pictures tell the story!

Laying out the lower skins for trimming.



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T-stringers after rolling for the correct radius profile.



Fine-tuning the curvature of one of the lower skin planks on a cross-plane English wheel.



Trimmed panels and stringers coming together in the cradle.



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The upper and lower fuselage halves, currently pinned but complete, have been green-fitted together to see how things match.

There is still a long way to go, what with having to drill a further 3500 holes for rivets, make an internal frame to support the top half, fit the frame 10 doubler and attach it all together.

Once complete it will be taken down to the Kent Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge where it will be attached to the existing cockpit section. Our chairman, Dave Brocklehurst MBE, will then arrange to get both sections sprayed in the camouflage colours of the time.

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In the above picture you can clearly make out the access hatch for the radio, the small circular hatch for loading the signal flares and the hole in the top of the fuselage for the flares to exit.

*The next P7056 Club meeting will be held on Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 20:00hrs. Please join us online if you can for the latest updates from Pete Smith and any other news that may be of interest. As members you will get a much more detailed update and talk through with more images.*

*A Zoom link will be sent to all members in the days before the meeting.*

There have been published more of Pete's detailed videos – we are now up to 20 videos. Nos 19 and 20 discuss in detail the considerations behind the construction of the upper rear fuselage.

<https://www.youtube.com/@whirlwindfp/videos>

As usual the money pit needs topping up if anyone can help it would be much appreciated - considering that the next phase after the rear fuselage/tail plane is the main spar!

***There have been some notable donations of late – for which we are deeply grateful.***

***Thank you all for your support so far – we can't do this without you.***

Peter Lancaster/Chris Hayward

Membership update: 20 lifers and 52 annual members!

Honorary President Tom Eeles

Honorary Vice president Jim Munro

Member of the Aviation Heritage UK

Charity number EW37349

Secretary C.J.M.Hayward, 57 Bramblefield lane, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2SX.

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