



Westland Whirlwind Mk.I, P7056 'Pride of Yeovil'

Whirlwind Fighter Project

Autumn Update 2025

This newsletter is focused on the events of 22nd and 23rd September 2025 i.e. the installation of the rear wheel compartment and tail fin (lower) to the rear fuselage of P7056.

We have trailed and advertised this as the milestone it was always meant to be; and so, it came to pass. A good weekend was had by all – but, I think, this was most meaningful to Pete Smith and his wife, Alma. The work Pete has put in to making this a success, supported by his family – has been supreme.

There was essential help offered by the Chair of our project and of the Kent Battle of Britain Museum, and by Del, Mitch, Alex and Graham – volunteers at the Museum.

IT all started on the 22nd as Pete and Alma drove the completed section down to Kent from Lancashire; it was off-loaded and kept in the hangar. A small amount of preparatory work was completed.

The main stage of work was started and largely completed on the Sunday, 23rd.

I will demonstrate the effort put in place by using a lot of the images taken by Del, Dave and myself. You will see the personal effort put in by all the participants.

Gently does it – offering up one to the other.



It's a tight fit – a little persuasion required to get the fin into place.



Get some clecos in – then attend to other details.



Many bolts needed.





Clecos replaced by many attachment bolts – the fin is on.

Offering up the fin nose.



Mark up - trim to fit.



Final trial fit prior to attachment...



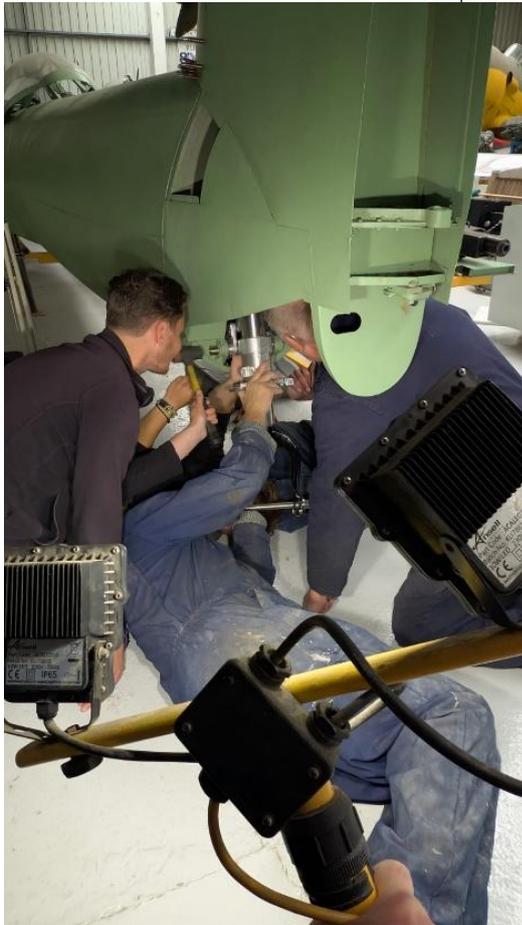
Nose clecos are in – onto the next task.





... which is – installing the tail wheel.

Fiddly work in a tight space.





Tail wheel in place... what's next?
Rear compartment doors..



Rear compartment doors in place,
with wheel connecting rods

Pete with P7056 – tail fin and wheel installed.



The fin nose rivets had to wait il the next day.



This has been a very pictorial approach – but each picture tells a thousand words, as they say.

Really – thousands of hours of work have been expended up to now – and a lot of funding supplied largely by you, the members of this project.

On view to the general public the very next day.



The project team of the Whirlwind Fighter Project thanks you for your support.

The Whirlwind Fighter Project is registered with the Charity Commission
Charity number 1212316

The Whirlwind Fighter Project is a member of Aviation Heritage UK
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