The 1964 Linnet Aircraft Project

The objective of this project is to rebuild a vintage aircraft with local young people aged 14 to 21, to flying condition. The project organisers aim to be able to fly it at Air Displays and Shows. The aeroplane is constructed from wood and doped linen (fabric covering) and powered by an 0200 Rolls-Royce engine.

The aircraft was constructed in 1964 by Fairtravel Limited at Blackbushe Airport where the Horsa Glider was built and tested. This was the last Linnet that was made out of only five in total. There are only two surviving planes, one flying, and this one.

The aircraft has been dismantled, brought to site and placed in a suitable purpose-made workshop. The aircraft parts have been assessed for serviceability. A team has been assembled and DBS checked with volunteers from the Rotary Club, the Scouts, the Middlesbrough Tools Workshop Charity, three STEM Ambassadors and the Project Founder, who is a pilot and experienced aircraft builder. The project also has the support of the local LAA Inspector, as well as "The Light Aircraft Association" and "The Vintage Aircraft Club" who are happy to promote the project and offer engineering support.

The team has had enthusiastic offers of collaboration from the local Secondary School Science Department and the local University and now needs to select suitable candidates and supervising teachers. The first ten introductory skills training sessions and assessments have been planned.

Following that, the three main steps are:

Step 1: Clean the fuselage and make repairs where required. Recover the fuselage.
Step 2: Repair the main wing and cover it.
Step 3: Rebuild the engine.

This is an extremely unusual project, hoping to restore a rare British-built vintage aircraft to flying condition. Further, this excellent project will inspire and encourage the next generation of young engineers, flight enthusiasts and restorers to give them a unique opportunity to develop their skills and confidence, and the chance to see the project they have worked on actually fly!