

# PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024

# Sywell Aviation Museum wins restoration award for its 1969 Handley Page Jetstream

This ambitious project, being undertaken by volunteers from the Sywell Aviation Museum (SAM), Northamptonshire, has seen the disassembly of the rare Jetstream aircraft from Cranfield airfield and re-erection at Sywell Aviation Museum with work now underway to restore the aircraft to be used as a classroom for the Museum's Young Aviator Tours. The HP.137 Jetstream was HP's last design, a small turboprop-powered airliner. Development began in 1965 and the first flew in 1967. This particular aircraft was assembled at Radlett during 1968 and first flown on 17th April 1969.



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NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "Progress to date has seen the disassembly, transport and re-erection completed, and it is worth noting that had Sywell not rescued it then it would likely have been scrapped. The tailplane has been refurbished and installed, and the elevators are refurbished and ready to fit. All passenger windows have been replaced and fitted, and the cockpit overhauled. SAM has taken 17,000 young people round the airfield from 2001 on its 'Young Aviator Tours' and won the Northants Heritage Awards 'Community Award' for these tours in 2014 and was Highly Commended for 'Best Special Project' for the Jetstream Project in 2021.

"The whole point of the Jetstream is to use it as a classroom (since 'live' aircraft are used on the tours the children cannot sit in them) and to permit children to work the controls etc. With 'airstairs' and fitted seating it is a natural classroom. Hence, not only is it an important Sywell 'artefact,' but in its own right it

will enhance the visitor experience by permitting something not possible before and also increases display space. Part of cabin will be seating, part will be displays on the Jetstream. As a result the Trust is delighted to recognise the project with a restoration award."

## **Photographs**

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#### **The National Transport Trust**

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

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