

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/94

Ref: EW/G94/03/13

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Luscombe 8A Silvaire, G-AGMI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental A65 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 26 March 1994 at 1035 hrs

Location: Biggin Hill Airport, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damaged beyond economic repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,245 hours (of which 205 were on type)
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and enquiries by AAIB

At the time of the accident the aircraft was taking off from Runway 03 at Biggin Hill for a planned flight to Sandown, Isle of Wight. Weather conditions were fine with a surface wind of 340°/10 kt gusting to 15 kt. The pilot reports that shortly after takeoff he encountered severe turbulence and control of the aircraft was lost. It then struck the grass surface area on the west side of the runway. The pilot had been secured by a lap and diagonal restraint harness which held throughout the accident sequence and he released himself from the wreckage without injury. An eye witness, who is a qualified pilot, reported that after lift-off the aircraft climbed steeply before appearing to stall and descend steeply to the ground.