

No: 8/88

Ref:EW/G88/06/06

Category:1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Maule M4-210C, G-MAWL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental Motors Corp IO-360-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1968

Date and Time (UTC): 19 June 1988 at 1830 hrs

Location: Southend Airport

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers -3

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to the undercarriage, wing tip and aileron

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 343 hours (of which 230 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB liaison with the maintenance organisation

During the take-off roll at Le Tourquet the aircraft had become a little directionally unstable at around 35 mph, but no particular significance was attributed to this. The aircraft made a good three-point landing at Southend and was rolling at about 25 mph when the left wing dropped heavily and directional control was lost. As the pilot applied the brakes, the aircraft slewed to the right and stopped. There was no fire or injuries.

Both tubes comprising the left 'A' frame had separated at the weld near the axle. Marked corrosion was present on the fractured surfaces of both tubes when they were examined by the AAIB Inspector, precluding any detailed metallurgical assessment of the associated failure mode. The left oleo strut had failed in bending in two places. The right oleo strut and 'A' frame were bent. The aircraft had flown a total of 4793 hours.