

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/94

Ref: EW/G94/06/38

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: DH87B Hornet Moth, G-AHBL

No & Type of Engines: 1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 1F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1936

Date & Time (UTC): 7 June 1994 at 0955 hrs

Location: Langham Airfield, Norfolk

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Extensive

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

Commander's Age: 80 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 4,250 hours (of which 3,296 were on type)
Last 90 days - 39 hours
Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on final approach to Langham after a flight from Gamston Airfield. The approach was being made to the grass Runway 20, with the surface wind reported as 230 to 250°/15 kt. The pilot reported that she approached too slowly with an aircraft that was more heavily loaded than usual. Too much attention was paid to wind direction and not enough to monitoring the airspeed. Consequently, the aircraft stalled at a height of approximately 50 feet, some 50 metres short of the runway threshold. This resulted in a heavy landing which caused extensive damage. There was no fire, and the pilot vacated the aircraft by the normal means.