

No: 10/84

Ref: EW/G84/06/25

Aircraft type and registration: Druine D31 Turbulent G-ARCZ (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1960

Date and time (GMT): 1 June 1984 at 1745 hrs

Location: Near Stapleford aerodrome, Essex

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — 1 (serious) Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's total flying experience: 74 hours (with no previous experience on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Pro-forma submitted by the pilot.

During a previous flight, a part owner of the aircraft had noticed that the airspeed indicator (ASI) was not functioning correctly. He cleared the pitot tube and believed that this had solved the problem.

After the pilot on the accident flight had taken off from runway 22 he noticed that during the climb out the ASI needle was fluctuating between 50 and 65 kt, and would not remain steady.

A circuit was carried out at 900 feet agl, and after a gentle turn on to the final approach path had been accomplished, power was reduced to 2,000 rpm. The pilot recalls trying to keep the ASI needle above 55 kt on the approach, and passing 600 feet. He remembers nothing of the accident.

The aircraft struck the ground approximately 100 yard north east of the M25 motorway, and almost on the extended centre line of runway 22. The pilot's upper torso restraint failed and he was thrown clear of the aircraft receiving serious injuries to his legs and chest. The aircraft was destroyed but there was no fire.

Eye witnesses reporting a possible crash remarked on the steep nose down attitude of the aircraft, and no fluctuation in the note of the engine. Unfortunately, one eyewitness directed the rescue services to a location 2 miles from the actual scene of the accident. The pilot and wreckage were finally located at approximately 0100 hours the following morning.