

No: 5/92

Ref: EW/G92/03/06

Category: 4

Aircraft Type and Registration: Socata TB10 Tobago, G-HILT

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1982

Date & Time (UTC): 8 March 1992 at 1145 hrs

Location: Earls Colne airfield, Essex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Propeller and spinner damaged beyond economic repair; small dent in the right wing leading edge.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 157 hours (of which 64 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on final approach to grass runway 06 at Earls Colne. An electricity cable crossed the final approach path and the right hand supporting pole was just to the right of the centreline. The surface wind was 010°/15 kt and the visibility more than 8 km.

The pilot assessed that he was slightly high and fast and reduced power to correct his approach path. At the same time he turned left in order to pass over the electricity cable at the mid point between the two supporting poles. As a consequence of these actions the aircraft sank slightly and the propeller and spinner struck the cable and severed it. The aircraft continued on its approach path and a normal landing ensued.

The pilot reported that, having adjusted his flight path to pass between the two poles, he lost sight of them and had no reference to the position of the cable which was itself not visible to him.