

No: 6/89

Ref: EW/G89/04/09

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Gulfstream AA-5B, G-BFXW

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4K piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and Time (UTC): 15 April 1989 at 0810 hrs

Location: Brands Hatch, Kent

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Nose landing gear detached, one propeller blade bent, and minor damage to underside engine cowlings

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC Rating

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 900 hours (of which 300 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a flight from Leeds/Bradford Airport to the uncontrolled grass landing strip at Brands Hatch. The pilot reports that he checked the surface wind at London City Airport (using Thames Radar) and after arriving overhead Brands Hatch flew two go arounds in order to assess the actual wind and surface conditions. He decided to land on the south-easterly runway which has an available length of 600 metres.

The aircraft touched down approximately 150 m from the threshold, appeared to decelerate normally, and the pilot anticipated no problems. However at a speed of about 30 knots when the brakes were applied no further deceleration was felt. The pilot shut down the engine shortly before the aircraft ran into a bank along the airstrip boundary. All four occupants, who were wearing full upper torso restraint harness, vacated the aircraft without injury.

The south-easterly runway at Brands Hatch has a slight down slope and, at the time of the accident, the moderately long grass surface was wet.