

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	BA Swallow 2, G-AFCL	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Pobjoy Niagara III piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1937	
Date & Time (UTC):	27 August 2009 at 1845 hrs	
Location:	Niden Manor, near Daventry, Northamptonshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to the propeller, both wings, forward fuselage and the right main landing gear assembly	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	37 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	9,000 hours (of which 100 were on type) Last 90 days - 150 hours Last 28 days - 42 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

After a normal landing on a grass airstrip, the aircraft veered to the right and departed the right side of the runway. It struck a fence at slow speed and sustained damage to its propeller, forward fuselage, both wings and the right main landing gear. The pilot, who had been unable to correct the aircraft's turn to the right, reported that the cross-strut on the right main landing gear had failed, probably during the landing, altering the landing gear's geometry. He was unable to explain the cause of the failure but did not consider that it was a result of the landing, which had been normal.

History of the flight

The aircraft, which had already been flown twice without incident, was returning to a private airstrip after a five-minute flight in good weather. The grass runway, which was orientated east/west, was reported to be 800 m in length and 20 m wide. The pilot, for whom this was the first flight of the evening, flew a curving approach to the westerly runway, to avoid obstacles under the final approach path, and completed a normal landing. He estimated that the surface wind was from the south-west at about 10 to 15 kt. Immediately it touched down the aircraft entered a slow turn to the right, which the pilot was unable to correct. The aircraft departed the right side of the runway, mounted an earth bank and struck a fence at slow speed. The

pilot, who was uninjured, shut the aircraft down and vacated it normally. The aircraft was reported to have sustained damage to the propeller, the leading edges of both wings, the forward left fuselage and the right main landing gear assembly.

probably on touchdown, resulting in the right main gear folding outwards, causing the loss of control. He did not consider that the landing had been abnormal or firm and, as such, could not explain the failure of the cross-strut.

Following the accident, the pilot determined that the right main landing gear cross-strut had fractured,