

# Luscombe 8E, G-BSSA

**AAIB Bulletin No: 9/97 Ref: EW/G97/06/05 Category: 1.3**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Luscombe 8E, G-BSSA
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Continental C85-12 piston engine
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1946
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	9 June 1997 at 1605 hrs
<b>Location:</b>	Runway 26, Popham Airfield, Hampshire
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None - Passengers - None
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Damage to propeller, tailwheel, left main landing gear and shock loading to engine
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	44 years
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	528 hours (of which 185 were on type) Last 90 days - 7 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After an uneventful flight from White Waltham the aircraft landed on grass Runway 26 at Popham and ended its ground roll some 150 to 200 metres before the end of the runway. The pilot vacated the runway immediately to his right and entered an area of long grass. Approximately 2 metres from the edge of the mown area of the runway the aircraft's left main landing gear dropped into a large rabbit hole (18" wide by 24" long by 14" deep). The aircraft stopped immediately causing the tail to lift allowing the propeller to come into contact with the surface. As the aircraft returned to the three point attitude the tailwheel detached. The pilot and passenger vacated the aircraft without injury.

The runway and recognised taxi paths at Popham, indicated by areas of mown grass, are inspected regularly by the airfield manager. The areas of long grass are not inspected and are not intended for use. Furthermore the runway turnoff points are clearly marked by CAA approved markers.