

No: 3/90

Ref: EW/G90/01/06

Category: 1a

Aircraft Type and Registration: Shorts SD3-60, G-OLGW

No & Type of Engines: 2 Pratt and Whitney PT6A-67R turboprop engines

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date and Time (UTC): 25 January 1990 at 1250 hrs

Location: Bristol Lulsgate Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 3 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to left outer mainplane and aileron and left landing gear

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence with Instrument Rating

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 6,082 hours (of which 437 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft landed on runway 27, taxied to the passenger terminal and parked on a heading of approximately 230°. The wind velocity was 230°/25 to 40 knots. The engines were shut down and the passengers disembarked but the operating crew were still on board. A few minutes later the commander sensed the aircraft lurch to the left and, looking up, he saw that the wind had veered and increased in strength. The aircraft then suddenly lurched to the left, stopped and then rolled to the left until the left wingtip rested on the ground. The aircraft had been yawed by the wind through approximately 40°. The crew left the aircraft via the main door. The aircraft was then dragged into wind and secured to a fire tender.

Strong winds had been forecast but the severity of the wind change was not expected. The local meteorological office could give no further information about local wind velocity because electrical power had been lost. A member of the air traffic control staff later said that he had abandoned the control tower when the wind strength rose above 70 knots and the airport buildings began to suffer structural damage.