

No: 1/93

Ref: EW/G92/11/12

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Fournier RF5B Sperber, G-KCIG

No & Type of Engines: 1 Sportavia-Limbach SL 1700-E piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date & Time (UTC): 15 November 1992 at 1258 hrs

Location: Bodmin Airport, Cornwall

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Extensive airframe and engine damage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 44 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 213 hours (all on type)
Last 90 days - 14 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot reports that he had set the aircraft in position for a glide approach to runway 32, with the engine at idle power and the speed and height controlled by use of air brakes. At a distance of about 40 metres from the threshold he realised that the aircraft was too low and increased the engine power. At the same time he encountered what he describes as light turbulence when the aircraft struck the tops of trees that line the road that crosses the southeastern aerodrome boundary. As the aircraft struck the trees it slewed to the left before crashing into the banking along the roadside. The cockpit canopy sprang open during the impact and, after turning off the fuel and ignition, the pilot was able to release himself from the wreckage with only minor injury. The pilot considers that his full restraint harness, which held throughout the accident sequence, undoubtedly saved him from serious injury.

Runway 32 has a Landing Distance Available of 540 metres with the threshold displaced and clearly marked with a large arrow, 30 metres from the aerodrome boundary. The weather at the time was fine with a surface wind of 320°/08 kt.