

CAP 131, F-GKKI

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/99 Ref: EW/G99/05/01 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: CAP 131, F-GKKI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming AEIO-540-L1B5D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1992

Date & Time (UTC): 1 May 1999 at 1552 hrs

Location: Elstree Aerodrome, Borehamwood

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to left wing, landing gear and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 910 hours (of which 212 were on type)
Last 90 days - 37 hours
Last 28 days - 7 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was taxiing to park after landing on Runway 26; being a tailwheel aircraft it was taxied in a zigzag manner. The pilot noticed a pile of bricks and sand on the taxiway edge to his right. Shortly after he had turned left away from this, the aircraft stopped suddenly and tilted about 45° nose down; the propeller struck the ground. The left main gear had dropped into a hole at the side of the taxiway. The pilot shutdown the aircraft and vacated it without injury.

The airfield operator reported that the excavation at the side of the taxiway had been made to check the flow in a drain. Small yellow cones, of the type normally placed along a roadside to indicate a temporary no waiting area, marked it. The hole should have been converted into an inspection chamber some time prior to the day of the accident, but the work had not been completed.

Whilst the markers were conspicuous under normal circumstances, the limited forward visibility from a taxiing tailwheel aircraft and the pilot's preoccupation with avoiding other hazards on or near the taxiway were factors in him not noticing them.