

Cessna 150M, G-BFLM

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/97 Ref: EW/G97/01/03 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 150M, G-BFLM
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental O-200-A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1974
Date & Time (UTC):	14 January 1997 at 1225 hrs
Location:	Bodmin Airfield, Cornwall
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor) - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Aircraft destroyed
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	69 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	164 hours (of which 152 were on type) Last 90 days - 4 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further enquiries by the AAIB

The pilot had intended to fly circuits at Bodmin Airfield where the runway in use was Runway 14 with a right hand circuit. The weather conditions included a surface wind of 140°/10 kt and a visibility on the airfield of 8 to 10 km but with some patchy, light mist in the area.

After take off, at a height of 500 feet, the pilot commenced a right turn onto the crosswind leg and then realised that the visibility was poor when flying towards the sun. He therefore decided to complete a low level circuit and land as soon as possible. He began the downwind checks but had difficulty in finding the airfield and was further distracted when another aircraft called that it was approaching finals. Because he could not see this aircraft the pilot decided to complete a left hand orbit on the downwind leg after which he briefly spotted the runway and repositioned for a landing. Shortly afterwards the aircraft struck the ground firmly and bounced over a hedge and stone wall before coming to rest in the next field; the pilot remembered hearing the stall warning immediately

prior to impact. The aircraft had suffered substantial damage to the propeller, the engine, the undercarriage and the fuselage and the door had fallen off but the aircraft had remained upright throughout. The pilot, who was wearing a lap strap and diagonal harness, stepped out of the aircraft unaided. The aircraft had crashed half a mile north-west of the threshold of Runway 14.