

No: 4/89

Ref: EW/G88/12/11

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Luscombe Silvaire Model 8A, G-AKTI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental Motors Corp A65 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1947

Date and Time (UTC): 12 December 1988 at 1415 hrs

Location: Hunday Airstrip, 8 miles west Newcastle Airport

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Right landing gear collapsed, damage to fuselage, propeller and outboard panels of both wings

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 47 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 90 hours (of which 7 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was landing on grass runway 35, 415 metres long and with a slight uphill gradient. The wind was 280°/6-8 mph. The approach was normal but the aircraft "floated" for about 50 metres. The subsequent touchdown was slightly heavy but, in the pilot's opinion, should not have caused any damage.

However, on contact with the ground, the right landing gear collapsed, the aircraft dropped onto its right wing, veered to the right and tipped onto its nose before dropping back onto its belly.

Subsequent examination showed that the landing gear collapse was precipitated by failure of the drag-brace strut locating the leg in the fore and aft plane. The lower end of the strut terminates in an eye-end fitting, and although this had indications of a small pre-existing crack on the fracture face, it was evident that it had been subjected to high overload forces causing gross deformation prior to failure.