

Druine D31 Turbulent, G-ARRU, 8 July 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/96 Ref: EW/G96/07/08 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Druine D31 Turbulent, G-ARRU

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1600 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1975

Date & Time (UTC): 8 July 1996 at 1704 hrs

Location: Private strip, Nr Lamberhurst, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Complete disruption of wings and engine

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence with IMC Rating

Commander's Age: 29 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 438 hours (of which 136 were on type)

Last 90 days - 151 hours

Last 28 days - 47 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

When giving permission to the pilot to use the airstrip, the owner had stipulated that he was not to fly circuits or cause excessive noise because of previous complaints by local residents. The aircraft arrived overhead the airfield at 2,500 feet to enable the pilot to observe the windsock and he planned his subsequent approach so that he could use a low engine power setting throughout. The descent was flown at 60 kt with a tight turn onto the final approach path to avoid overflying a house. As the turn was completed the pilot realised that the sink rate was excessive and he attempted to apply enough power to correct this. However he was unable to prevent the aircraft hitting the ground, left wing first, in the undershoot. In his report the pilot attributed the accident in part to wind shear caused by a line of trees along one side of the runway.