

No: 7/91

Ref: EW/G91/05/02

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Fred Series 3, G-USTY

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1834cc piston engine with Peacock conversion

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 6 May 1991 at 1505 hrs

Location: Near Netherthorpe Airfield, Nottinghamshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to the landing gear and attachment points plus a broken propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 269 hours (of which 39 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was positioning to land on runway 06 at Netherthorpe when the engine began to misfire. The pilot diagnosed carburettor icing but corrective action was ineffective and the aircraft continued to descend. The engine stopped at about 400 ft agl. There was insufficient height available to glide to the airfield and after a left turn through 90°, a forced landing was carried out in a field some distance from the runway threshold. The aircraft touched down well into the field and entered a hedge at the far end at a speed of approximately 10 mph. The pilot, who was wearing a full harness and protective helmet, was uninjured.

A strip of the aircraft's fuel system revealed a blockage just upstream of the fuel on/off selector valve at the junction of twin feed pipes leading from the fuel tank. The blockage was caused by cotton fibres of unknown origin which, the pilot believes, may have been present for some time. He has since attributed the onset of fuel starvation to a low head of fuel (estimated 10 lb) in the gravity feed system. To prevent a recurrence, he intends to fit fuel filters to each of the tank outlet pipes.