

Aircraft type and registration: Britten Norman BN-2B Islander G-BFNU (light twin engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and time (GMT): 26 December 1984 at approx 1130 hrs

Location: St Mary's Aerodrome, Isles of Scilly

Type of flight: Non-scheduled cargo

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Mainplane wrinkled and flaps damaged

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 36 years

Commander's total flying experience: 1620 hours (of which 38 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form completed by the pilot and the operators

At the completion of a flight from Land's End to St Mary's Aerodrome, Isles of Scilly, the commander made an approach for landing on runway 28. Although the weather was fine there was a strong surface wind from 230° at 25 kt with gusts to 35 kt. The commander reports that, during the final stages of the approach, as he was lowering the left wing prior to touch down the wing was further pushed down by a lateral gust. This caused the left main landing gear wheel to strike a runway threshold light. Deceleration and stopping were not affected; however, it was later found that the mainplane had wrinkled and that the flaps were damaged.

There are considerable lateral and longitudinal gradients on St Mary's Aerodrome which could well increase the adverse effects of low level turbulence. The runway threshold light had a maximum height of 46 centimetres above the landing surface.