

Aircraft type and registration: Beech 76 G-BGHP

No & Type of engines: 2 Lycoming 0-360-A1G6D (Port) LO-360-A1G6D (Starboard) piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and time (GMT): 6 December 1987 at 1829 hrs

Location: Southend Airport

Type of flight: Avionics Test Flight

Persons on board: Crew — 2 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Minor damage to nose area, hydraulic pump & reservoir

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Instrument, IMC, Night and Full Instructor's Ratings

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 2450 hours (of which 180 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

On approaching the airfield the landing gear was selected down but only the two main landing gear green lights illuminated. The nose light was checked and numerous efforts, including emergency (gravity) lowering, were made in order to extend the nose landing gear but without success. The actuating motor finally burnt out and the associated circuit breaker tripped.

Two low passes over the airfield confirmed that the nose landing gear had not extended. After having allowed a number of commercial flights to land an approach was made to runway 06. One engine was shut down and the propeller motored to the horizontal. On short finals the other engine was shut down, and its propeller also motored to the horizontal. The aircraft touched down on the main wheels and the nose then sank onto the runway. The aircraft came to rest in an estimated 100 metres just past the runway 33 intersection. The occupants diagonal upper torso restraint held on impact and they were uninjured. There was no fire. The hinge on the nose landing gear door had frozen such that the landing gear would not extend.