SD3-30 Variant 100, G-BHHU

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/99 Ref: EW/G99/01/21 Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration: SD3-30 Variant 100, G-BHHU

No & Type of Engines: 2 Pratt & Whitney PT6A-45R turboprop engines

Year of Manufacture: 1980

Date & Time (UTC): 6 January 1999 at 1414 hrs

Location: Luton Airport

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to rear fuselage

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 57 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 10,600 hours (of which 3,250 were on type)

Last 90 days - 100 hours

Last 28 days - 47 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was being used for pilot training on Runway 26 with a forecast surface wind of 230°/16 kt. During a practice flapless landing, some turbulence was experienced during the latter part of the approach. At the flare, the airspeed reduced rapidly and the pilot was unable to prevent a heavy landing. Post flight inspection revealed that the rear fuselage had struck the runway causing substantial damage.

Shortly after the accident, a vigorous weather front reached the airfield and the pilot considered that the cause of the accident was wind sheer associated with this front.