

No: 9/84

Ref: EW/G84/04/14

Aircraft type and registration: Grumman AA5 G-BBGH (Light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1973

Date and time (GMT): 11 April 1984 at 1635 hrs

Location: Portmoak

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 3

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — Nil

Nature of damage: Nose undercarriage collapsed, dent in mainplane, cracked wingtip.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 24 years

Commander's total flying experience: 111 hours (of which 7 hours were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Pro forma

The aircraft was on a pleasure flight from Glenrothes when, during the return part of the flight, the engine began to lose power. Efforts made to restore power, which did not include use of the electric fuel pump, were unsuccessful and the pilot decided to land at Portmoak gliding site which was nearby. Engine power continued to decrease and on final approach the engine stopped completely causing the pilot to undershoot his intended landing position. The landing was made within the airfield with the stall warning sounding continuously. The pilot found that he was unable to flare the aircraft and as a result the nose undercarriage collapsed.

Examination of the aircraft revealed evidence of particle and water contamination throughout the fuel system together with several leaks of long standing between the tank outlets and the engine driven pump inlet giving rise to the possibility of air entrainment into the fuel supply to the engine.