

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Auster 5J1 Autocrat, G-AMTM	
No & type of Engines:	1 Blackburn Cirrus Minor II piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1952	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 April 2006 at 1910 hrs	
Location:	Oaklands Farm Strip, Stonesfield, Oxfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Left main landing gear, left wing tip and propeller	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	63 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,125 hours (of which 1,050 were on type) Last 90 days - 10 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further enquiries by the AAIB	

Synopsis

Upon landing at Oaklands farm strip, the aircraft's left main landing gear struck a wooden electricity pole. The pole was lying on the ground across the beginning of the strip.

Background

Early in March 2006 the pilot, who was the farm strip owner, had placed two wooden electricity poles across the beginning of Runway 30. This was to stop vandals from gaining access to the strip from an adjacent road and using it as a skid pan for their cars. Since the poles were in place, the pilot reported that he had landed on Runway 30 two or three times before without incident.

History of the flight

After an uneventful flight from Hinton-on-the-Hedges the pilot positioned for a straight in approach to land on Runway 30 which is 400 m in length. The wind was calm and the weather was CAVOK but the grass surface was damp. The pilot reported that he normally plans to "float" across the field, road and poles in the undershoot before touching down at the beginning of the strip.

When the aircraft was on final approach, at approximately 150 ft height, the pilot was distracted by a runner, on his right, going around the edge of the field in the undershoot.

As the aircraft touched down the left main landing gear struck one of the poles. As a result, it was bent rearwards and the left wing tip touched the ground. The aircraft then veered to the left and went into an arable field that surrounds the strip. As the aircraft came to a stop the main landing gear dug into the soil, causing the aircraft to briefly tip over onto its nose before coming to rest on its tail wheel in its normal three-point attitude. The pilot and his passenger vacated the aircraft uninjured.

Damage was sustained to the left main landing gear, left wing tip, propeller and nose cowling. The engine was shock-loaded when the propeller touched the ground.

Discussion

In an open and frank report the pilot believes that he was initially distracted by the runner he noticed during the final approach. Although he has landed on this strip “hundreds of times” before, when he was distracted he forgot about the poles. He also stated that he was complacent due to the calm wind. He feels that had the wind been more demanding, by way of a crosswind, or by being stronger, he would have been concentrating more during the approach and landing, and the accident would not have happened.