

Aircraft type and registration: Jodel D119 G-ATJN (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1959

Date and time (GMT): 27 October 1985 at 1620 hrs

Location: Biggin Hill Aerodrome

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Substantial — to main spar

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 145 hours (of which 31 were on type)

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

The aircraft was returning to Biggin Hill after a short local flight. The weather was fine with visibility 7 km, and the wind from 360° at 5 kt. The aircraft was cleared to join the circuit for runway 03 (grass), and positioned for a glide approach. At the runway threshold the pilot realised that the aircraft was high, and left of centreline and executed a go-around (missed approach).

A second circuit was flown, and at the threshold the aircraft was at the right height, on the centreline, and the approach to the flare was continued. The aircraft was flared high and a heavy landing ensued. As there was no immediately apparent damage the aircraft was taxied clear of the runway, and was subsequently re-fuelled to full tanks. During refuelling the pilot carried out an inspection of the aircraft and found no damage.

The aircraft was then removed to a hangar and the pilot carried out a further inspection during which he found a tear in the fabric near the left undercarriage leg. The main spar was then found to have been substantially damaged.