
ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	BFC Challenger II, G-MGAA	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1997	
Date & Time (UTC):	13 August 2009 at 1100 hrs	
Location:	Private farm strip near Yarmouth, Isle of Wight	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to port wing, fuselage and nose landing gear	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	67 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	290 hours (of which 290 were on type) Last 90 days - 4 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft's left wing struck a hedgerow whilst landing at a farm strip. The aircraft was damaged but there was no fire and the pilot was uninjured.

History of the flight

The aircraft was landing at a grass farm strip when the accident occurred. The strip, which was orientated 17/35, was about 460 m long and ran across three fields. The central portion of the strip was 230 m long. At either end of the central portion, the strip passed through gaps made in substantial hedgerows that separated the fields. The northerly gap was the smaller of the two, at about 20 m wide.

When the aircraft took off, the surface wind was almost calm, the strip was dry and the weather fine. On returning to the strip 50 minutes later, the windsock indicated a stronger surface wind, being easterly and gusting to an estimated 15 mph. The aircraft touched down on the northerly runway, about mid-way along the central portion of the strip.

Before the aircraft had fully settled on the ground, and with the 20 m gap in the hedgerow approaching, it began to veer to the left. The pilot attributed this deviation to a gust of wind. He was unable to correct the swing with rudder, and nosewheel steering was ineffective because the nosewheel was not in contact with the ground at this point. The aircraft's left wing

struck the hedge to the left of the gap at an estimated 35 mph. The aircraft suffered damage to the left wing, the fuselage and the nose landing gear. There was no fire and the pilot was uninjured.