

No: 10/88

Ref: EW/C1081

Category: 1a

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

No & Type of Engines: 2 Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A turboprop engines

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and Time (UTC): 17 August 1988 at 1410 hrs

Location: Southend Airport

Type of Flight: Scheduled passenger

Persons on Board: Crew -3 Passengers - 16

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Small puncture in skin on left forward fuselage

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 4383 hours (of which 2634 were on type)

Information Source: AAIB Field Investigation

Following a visual approach to runway 06, the aircraft touched down in a surface wind of 150°/5 to 10 kt. Initial touchdown was on the right wheel, with the aircraft banked slightly into the crosswind. When all three wheels were on the ground, the commander selected ground fine pitch and felt the aircraft veer to the right. He applied full left rudder and, when this failed to straighten the aircraft, he applied full left brake. When the speed declined to about 50 kt, he tried to realign the aircraft with the runway using the nosewheel steering but was unable to prevent it leaving the runway at an angle of about 10° to the centreline. The left side of the nose struck a small radar reflector before the aircraft came to rest some 30 metres to the right of the runway edge. The passengers disembarked through the normal exit and were taken to the passenger terminal by coach.

During subsequent examination it was found that the right mainwheel tyre had deflated and, when it was reflat, air was found to be escaping from a small hole in the base of one of the tread grooves. The wheel rims were undamaged. No other defects were found in the engines, flying controls or ground steering system.