

## **Druine D.31 Turbulent, G-ARBZ**

**AAIB Bulletin No: 10/99**      **Ref: EW/G99/07/25**      **Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Druine D.31 Turbulent, G-ARBZ

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Ardem 4C02 MK.1B piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1960

**Date & Time (UTC):** 17 July 1999 at 1700 hrs

**Location:** East Mersea, Colchester, Essex

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - Serious - Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Aircraft destroyed

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 38 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 416 hours (of which 165 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 22 hours  
Last 28 days - 13 hours

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

The pilot had planned a cross country flight from White Waltham airfield with the intention of landing in a field near East Mersea. The field was approximately 450 yards long and orientated east-west. The forecast meteorological conditions for the flight were CAVOK with a light south-westerly wind. The final stage of the approach to land in the field was over a set of telephone wires approximately 15 feet high. Because of the obstruction on the approach and the restricted landing distance the pilot elected to use a minimum safe approach speed of 55 kt. The pilot reported that from this stable approach condition the aircraft struck the ground heavily, in a three-point attitude, despite the application of full throttle and full aft stick. The pilot believed that a gust of wind from the rear of the aircraft caused a loss of airspeed and resulted in the aircraft impacting the ground.

After impact the front section of the fuselage became detached but the 4-point harness worn by the pilot remained intact. The pilot suffered serious back injuries and was assisted at the scene by local police, ambulance and fire services.