

No: 10/90

Ref: EW/G90/08/06

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Beech A23-19, G-AVHF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1967

Date and Time (UTC): 1 August 1990 at 1900 hrs

Location: Spanhoe Airfield, Northamptonshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damaged beyond economic repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 137 hours (none on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent AAIB enquiries

Spanhoe Airfield had a concrete runway, designated 09, which was 500 metres long and 10 metres wide. To the north of the runway, about 200 metres from the threshold and 15 metres from the edge, was a windsock. Running north from the windsock, at right angles to the runway, was a tall, mature hedge. To the south of the runway were various buildings and hangars. The surface wind was light from the south-east and the temperature was about 18° C.

It was the pilot's first flight on type and, on the first circuit, everything appeared normal until shortly before touchdown. He reported that a gust of wind, from the south, caused the aircraft to veer to the left and leave the runway. The right wing struck the windsock pole, about a metre from the top, and the left wing went through the hedge. The aircraft came to rest on rough ground, north of the runway, beyond the hedge. The pilot, who was wearing a lap strap only, escaped without injury.