

Fournier RF3, G-BNHT

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/2000 **Ref: EW/G99/10/23** **Category: 1.3**

Aircraft Type and Registration: Fournier RF3, G-BNHT

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rectimo 4AR-1200 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date & Time (UTC): 26 October 1999 at 1030 hrs

Location: Little Gransden Airfield, Bedfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller, damage to undercarriage doors

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 92 hours (of which 17 were on type)
Last 90 days - 0 hours
Last 28 days - 0 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had been unable to fly the aircraft for several months due to maintenance work and was keen to do so to maintain his currency. The wind was 260°/10 to 12 kt, there was scattered cloud at 1,000 feet, broken cloud at 2,000 feet and the visibility was 5 km. He took off for a short local flight to the west of the airfield but once airborne realised that the weather was worse than he had anticipated. He returned to the circuit, but on the downwind leg was distracted by the turbulent conditions and forgot to select the undercarriage down. The subsequent wheels up landing caused some damage to the propeller and undercarriage doors. The pilot, who was wearing a full five point harness, was able to vacate the aircraft through the canopy in the normal manner. He considered that he had put himself under pressure by deciding to fly when he could have waited for calmer weather conditions.