

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Morane Saulnier Rallye 235E, G-MELV	
No & type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-540-B4B5 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1981	
Date & Time (UTC):	24 August 2006 at 1130 hrs	
Location:	New road, ½ mile south of Leominster, Herefordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Severe damage to both wings and landing gear	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	68 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,207 hours (of which 186 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 pilot unintentionally landed on a road which he had misidentified as Shobdon's Runway 27. The aircraft ran over a speed bump which caused the aircraft to veer off the road and hit a lamp post and a tree.

History of the flight

The pilot was on a cross-country flight from Coventry to Shobdon Aerodrome. The weather was good with a visibility greater than 10 km, a cloud base of 3,000 ft, and a northerly wind of 15 to 20 kt. The pilot had not recently flown to Shobdon and had only landed there three times in his previous 27 years of flying. On approaching Shobdon he contacted Shobdon Radio and discovered that there were three other aircraft and a microlight also on approach to the airfield. Runway 27

(paved) was in use, with a landing distance available of 842 m and a width of 18 m. When the pilot believed that he had the runway in sight he manoeuvred the aircraft to enter the circuit on a left base for Runway 27 and announced his intentions over the radio. Once on final approach he reported 'finals' but did not receive a reply. The 'runway' ahead was clear so he proceeded with the landing. When close to touchdown the pilot noticed that the airfield was different from what he remembered. After touching down, the pilot noticed a kerb to the side and lamp posts to his left. The pilot had unintentionally landed on a new road that had not yet been opened. Shortly after touching down, the aircraft ran over a speed bump which caused it to veer left and leave the road. The left wing hit a small tree and the right wing hit

a lamp post, causing the right wing to shear off almost completely. Once the aircraft came to rest the pilot was able to exit unassisted via the sliding canopy.

The road that the aircraft had landed on was 4 nm east of Shobdon airfield. It was approximately 600 m long and was positioned in the same east-west direction as

Runway 27 at Shobdon. The road was closed with concrete blocks and gates positioned at each end.

Pilot's assessment of the cause

The pilot reported that he misidentified the road for the runway because of its similar length and orientation.