

Auster AOP 9, G-BGTC, 2 October 1996

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Aircraft Type and Registration: Auster AOP 9, G-BGTC

No & Type of Engines: 1 Blackburn Bombardier 20801 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1961

Date & Time (UTC): 2 October 1996 at 1725 hrs

Location: South Lodge Farm Airstrip, Widmerpool, Nottingham

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damaged beyond economical repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 67 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 481 hours (of which 174 were on type)

Last 90 days - 3 hours

Last 28 days - 0 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft had been airborne from the airstrip for 25 minutes and was fully serviceable. The grass airstrip is orientated East/West and is 550 yards long; the eastern end has an upslope and is bounded by a major road. On the evening of the accident, the weather was good with a surface wind of 270°/05 kt.

The pilot was making an approach to the westerly runway but reported that he was high and a little fast over the threshold. He landed long and bounced twice before deciding to go-around. After retracting flap to the take-off position, he commenced his go-around but failed to climb sufficiently to clear cars which were parked at the western end of the airstrip. The left wing hit the roof of one car, causing damage to the left aileron. With the pilot unable to maintain control, the aircraft stalled and crashed into the adjoining field.

The pilot stated that the accident was caused by a poor approach and landing. He also stated that cars are now precluded from parking at the runway ends.