

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper L18C (Modified) Super Cub, G-BJWX

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rolls-Royce Continental O-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1952

Date & Time (UTC): 20 July 1995 at 1629 hrs

Location: Godstone, Surrey

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - Minor

Nature of Damage: Extensive

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 21 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 505 hours (of which 113 were on type)
Last 90 days - 104 hours
Last 28 days - 33 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was making an approach to a private landing site after a flight from Redhill Aerodrome. A previous approach and go-around had been carried out in order to assess the conditions. On the final approach, the aircraft was set up in a glide with carburettor heat selected to hot. The speed was a little too high, despite sideslipping. The decision to go-around was made at about 50 feet above the surface. The carburettor heat was selected to cold and the throttle opened slowly. Despite this, the engine ran roughly and did not produce sufficient power to enable the aircraft to climb away. The landing strip runs uphill in a northwesterly direction and has some tall trees in the overshoot area. The aircraft was turned towards the lowest of the trees, but the aircraft stalled or mushed into the ground. Contact was made first with the right wingtip, then the nose. The aircraft came to rest and the occupants vacated unaided. The wearing of full harnesses by both occupants prevented any injuries.

The weather report for Gatwick Airport at the time of the accident indicated that the surface wind was from 210°/5 kt (variable from 160° to 260°), visibility 40 km, scattered cumulus base 5,000 feet. The temperature was 29.4°C, the dewpoint 17°C and the QNH 1016.5 mb. In view of the ambient conditions, a rich cut of the engine could not be discounted as a causal factor.