

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Rockwell Turbo Commander, N51WF	
No & Type of Engines:	2 Garrett 330 turboprop engines	
Year of Manufacture:	1975	
Date & Time (UTC):	29 January 2008 at 1204 hrs	
Location:	Fairoaks Airfield, Surrey	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Severe distortion to rear fuselage structure and abrasion through underside of fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	75 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,744 hours (of which 696 were on type) Last 90 days - 10 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent AAIB enquiries	

Synopsis

Landing in benign conditions, the pilot flared "too high" and the aircraft landed heavily, its tail contacting the ground.

History of the flight

The pilot reported that he positioned the aircraft on a left base for landing on Runway 24. The weather conditions were benign; visibility was good and the wind was calm. The approach proceeded normally, and the aircraft was

configured for landing. However, the pilot stated that he flared "a little too high" and possibly at a slightly lower speed than normal. The landing was heavy and the tail of the aircraft contacted the ground, causing the fuselage to wrinkle and buckle around its circumference, just aft of the point at which the underside contacted the runway. The pilot stated that he believed he should have applied more power to arrest the sink rate.