

Aeronca Champion 7FC, G-ARAS

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/98 Ref: EW/G98/05/03 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Aeronca Champion 7FC, G-ARAS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C90-12F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1960

Date & Time (UTC): 4 May 1998 at 1230 hrs

Location: Headcorn Airfield (Lashenden), Kent

Type of Flight: Type familiarisation

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to airframe

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 57 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 97 hours (of which 7 were on type)

 Last 90 days - 8 hours

 Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Two members of the group which owned the aircraft flew from Clipgate to Lashenden in fine weather with a westerly surface wind of about 12 kt. After completing a normal circuit to land, the aircraft was over the threshold of Runway 29 when the pilot noticed that he had allowed the aircraft's airspeed to decay below stalling speed. His passenger also noticed the low airspeed and called for corrective action but the aircraft touched down extremely heavily before the pilot reacted. The pilot completed the landing roll and then noticed that the cabin door was damaged. After taxiing to the normal parking area and shutting down the aircraft, the full extent of the airframe damage became apparent. The airframe had suffered structural deformation during the heavy landing.