

No: 1/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Scheibe SF 25E G-BFHN motor-glider

No & Type of engines: 1 Limbach SL 1700 EA1

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date and time (UTC): 15 November 1986 at 1155 hrs

Location: Shrivenham

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 2 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Extensive

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 51 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 710 hours (of which 120 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The purpose of the flight was dual instruction of a pre-solo student pilot. The weather was good with a 10 knot wind, excellent visibility and no significant cloud. At 250 feet on the fourth circuit of the session, the instructor closed the throttle to simulate a cable-break and instructed the student to make an approach to a field adjacent to the airfield. The student initiated a poorly co-ordinated turn to the left and extended the spoilers. These actions generated a very high rate of descent and the instructor decided to abandon the approach by applying power and instructing the student to close the spoilers. Despite these actions, the aircraft struck the ground heavily in a normal landing attitude and the propeller hit the ground. After striking the ground, the aircraft bounced to such a height that the instructor considered that a landing in the chosen field was no longer possible. Although the engine was now delivering reduced power, height could be maintained and the instructor elected to turn through 180 degrees and land back on the airfield. During this turn however, the left wing dropped and struck the ground causing the aircraft to crash short of the airfield. The aircraft sustained extensive damage but both occupants evacuated the wreckage without significant injury.