

Auster J/1 Kingsland, G-AJIT

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/2000 Ref: EW/G2000/08/38 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Auster J/1 Kingsland, G-AJIT

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

Year of Manufacture: 1946

Date & Time (UTC): 24 August 2000 at 1125 hrs

Location: Fenland Aerodrome

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Bent propeller. Dent in the left cowling. Engine crankshaft cracked

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 51 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 490 hours (of which 300 were on type)
Last 90 days - 18 hours
Last 28 days - 7 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was taxiing for departure from Runway 36 at Fenland for a flight to Earls Colne.

While concentrating on several factors, such as avoidance of a drain which ran parallel to the runway, marker boards and a helicopter hovering close by, the pilot did not see a LITAS approach aid light unit to the side of the taxiway, near the holding point for Runway 36.

The aircraft impacted the light unit with its left main wheel, which caused the aircraft to tip onto its nose. The propeller struck the ground and the engine stopped instantly. The aircraft came to rest with its left wheel up against the steel upright of the light unit.

Subsequent engineering inspection ascertained that the engine crankshaft was cracked in four places.