

No: 12/90

Ref: EW/G90/04/19

Category: 1b

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cessna 340, N24EC

No & Type of Engines: 2 Continental TSIO-520-J piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date and Time (UTC): 9 April 1990 at 1745 hrs

Location: Leavesden Airport, near Watford, Hertfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Right wing, engine and propeller, landing gear

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night ratings

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 520 hours (of which 78 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries

The pilot reported that a normal landing was carried out. During brake application, the right main landing gear collapsed causing the right propeller to strike the runway, so stopping the engine. The aircraft came to rest on the grass at the right side of the runway. The left engine was shut down, fuel and electrical equipment were turned off and the aircraft was evacuated.

Enquiries have indicated that following the landing, the aircraft was raised and the right landing gear was jammed down with some difficulty, using a section of timber. The aircraft was then cleared from the runway area. To date no repairs have been carried out and no technical report on the landing gear mechanism is available, although failure to enter downlock or release from downlock is suspected. Visual inspections have failed to identify the cause due to extensive damage to the locking mechanism and also due to further damage which occurred during initial attempts to clear the runway. The pilot reported that on the two previous flights gear unsafe indications had occurred and this was attributed to a faulty microswitch. He further reported that on the accident flight, a gear unsafe indication occurred when the landing gear was lowered, but this was cleared by re-cycling the system and three green lights were obtained on final approach.