

Beagle B121 Series 2, G-AZCL, 21 June 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/96 Ref: EW/G96/06/31 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Beagle B121 Series 2, G-AZCL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-A2B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1969

Date & Time (UTC): 21 June 1996 at 1315 hrs

Location: Henstridge Airfield, Somerset

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to left wing.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 65 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 575 hours (of which 187 were on type)

Last 90 days - 4 hours

Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Henstridge Airfield is both an industrial estate and an unlicensed airfield. The aircraft was on the approach to paved runway 25; the wind was calm and the weather was good. The pilot saw a car moving along a disused runway which intersects the active runway and is orientated about 010°(M). The car appeared to stop short and the pilot continued his approach to touch down "on the numbers". He then noticed that the car had moved onto the runway and was crossing his path from left to right. It was too late to go around so he braked heavily and turned the aircraft to the right; the left wing tip struck the car and caused damage to the windscreen, bonnet and door. Neither the pilot nor the car driver was injured.

The driver was delivering a package to a company on the industrial estate. He asked directions and was told to turn right by some portakabins; the correct turning was before the portakabins, however, the driver misunderstood, turned after passing them and entered the active runway. He did not see the aircraft until it was too late to take avoiding action.

There had been a fence along the runway, 40 metres from it, but this had been removed some time previously to allow access for emergency vehicles. It was later replaced by a temporary fence, which had itself recently been removed to allow cropping of the area. Immediately after the accident an earth bank was constructed across the disused runway.