

No: 10/88

Ref: EW/G88/08/17

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type  
and Registration:**

Luton Minor LA4A , G-AWIP

**No & Type of Engines:**

1 Rolls Royce Continental Motors Corp A65 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:**

1970

**Date and Time (UTC):**

20 July 1988 at 1710 hrs

**Location:**

Holm on Spalding Moor

**Type of Flight:**

Private (pleasure)

**Persons on Board:**

Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:**

Crew - None                Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:**

Aircraft extensively damaged

**Commander's Licence**

Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:**

44 years

**Commander's Total  
Flying Experience:**

276 hours of which 11 were on type

**Information Source:**

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB  
telephone enquiries

The aircraft had taken off from a private airstrip at Sproatly when, whilst cruising at a height of 1600 feet and at a speed of 60 kt, the engine lost power and then stopped. The pilot selected a field for a forced-landing. However, on late final-approach he made a gentle turn to the right to avoid some trees. The aircraft lost speed, the pilot was unable to level the wings and the aircraft touched down "right wing low". It cartwheeled through a standing crop of barley and was extensively damaged. The pilot, who was wearing a full harness, received minor injuries to his head due to contact with the padded facia. There was no fire.

At the time of the engine failure the pilot reported that there had been at least 5 gallons of MOGAS on board the aircraft. The fuel normally used was AVGAS 100LL.

A later examination, by the pilot, of the aircraft's fuel system revealed the fuel filter to be blocked. The material causing the blockage was traced to the sealing agent that had been used sometime previously in the fuel tank. The pilot believed that the recent change to MOGAS fuel was responsible for the degradation of this agent. No other reason for the engine failure was found. The air temperature at the time was reported as +18°C.