

No: 5/89

Ref: EW/G89/03/06

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Luscombe 8E, G-AKUI

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

Year of Manufacture: 1946

Date and Time (UTC): 26 March 1989 at 1650 hrs

Location: Old Sarum Airfield, Wiltshire

Type of Flight: Private(pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - 1(minor) Passengers - 1(minor)

Nature of Damage: Aircraft damaged beyond economic repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 41 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 70 hours(of which 8 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot lined up on runway 24 at Old Sarum Airfield. The runway surface was short, dry grass and the wind was southerly at 5 to 8 kt. Full power was applied and, at about 40 mph, the control column was moved forward to raise the tail. The pilot reported that the aircraft accelerated to 50 mph, but he had difficulty it keeping the tail up and he thought that the take-off run seemed longer than normal. At 55 mph he decided to take off, although he realised that the speed was 5 mph slower than that recommended. The aircraft became airborne but he was unable to maintain control and, shortly afterwards, it struck the ground, on the airfield, to the right of the extended centreline. The right wing tip and nose area impacted first, but it did not cartwheel and came to rest the right way up. Both occupants were wearing diagonal upper torso restraint and escaped through the left door, sustaining only minor injuries.

The pilot stated that he had only recently purchased the aircraft and, at the time of the accident, he had still not received the aircraft log books. When calculating the aircraft's take-off weight he had used 850 lb as the basic weight, a figure which he had extracted from the Pilot's Handbook. When he subsequently received the log books he discovered that the basic weight was 997 lb. He calculated that his take-off weight for the accident flight had been 1530 lb, 130 lb above the maximum of 1400 lb. The temperature was reported to be 15°C.