

No: 8/92

Ref: EW/G92/07/04

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Partenavia P68B Victor, G-BFBD

No & Type of Engines: 2 Lycoming IO-360-A1B6 piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date & Time (UTC): 5 July 1992 at 1310 hrs

Location: Caernarfon Airfield, Gwynedd

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - 3

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to right main landing gear, right aileron and right wing tip

Commander's Licence: Private pilot's Licence with IMC rating

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 200 hours (of which 7 were on type)
Last 90 days - 11 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

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

After landing on runway 08 at Caernarfon, where the weather conditions were good and the paved surfaces were dry, the aircraft taxied for parking on stand number 4.

The air traffic controller in the tower viewed the aircraft's progress along the tarmac taxiway but his attention was diverted momentarily as he replied to another aircraft who transmitted for a pre-flight radio check. He returned his attention to the aircraft only to see it turn to leave the tarmac surface. As it taxied onto the grass, the controller transmitted "BRAVO DELTA CAUTION RABBIT HOLES". The aircraft continued the manoeuvre to line-up and rejoin the tarmac in line with its designated parking spot. As the aircraft's right main landing gear approached the lip between the grass and the tarmac it encountered a rabbit hole. The step formed between the hole and the tarmac was such as to stop the aircraft. As the pilot applied more power to overcome the obstruction the right main landing gear collapsed causing the right wing-tip and aileron to strike the ground. Several minutes later the occupants vacated the aircraft .

The UK Air Pilot and Pooley's Flight Guide notify that all aircraft movements at Caernarfon airfield are restricted to paved surfaces as grass surfaces are unsuitable. This movement restriction is further emphasised by the inclusion of a white dumb-bell in the signals square.