

Luscombe 8E, G-BUKT

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2000 **Ref: EW/G2000/08/14** **Category: 1.3**

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

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C85-12F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1946

Date & Time (UTC): 12 August 2000 at 1745 hrs

Location: Birds Edge farm strip, near Huddersfield

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Significant structural damage to left side; canopy shattered

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 270 hours (of which 200 were on type)

 Last 90 days - 16 hours

 Last 28 days - 9 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was making a landing on Runway 23 of a private farm strip near Huddersfield. The grass strip undulates with a marked uphill slope in the first portion of the landing area, and a wall crosses the approach path just short of the runway threshold. The pilot had landed at the strip previously and was aware of the challenges that the strip presents. In the light wind conditions, he was keen to land as close to the correct touchdown point as possible having safely cleared the wall. He was also aware of the importance of having the correct threshold speed for the flare since the Luscombe 8E, not being fitted with flaps, has a tendency to float on landing if the speed is high.

The approach proceeded normally and, having cleared the wall at the correct threshold speed, the pilot flared the aircraft into the landing attitude. Touchdown did not occur immediately and, as the speed reduced, the aircraft dropped the remaining few feet and landed heavily on the runway threshold causing moderate damage to the left door pillar, the windshield and some lower fuselage skin. In his report the pilot considered the cause of the accident to be an early landing flare leading to an uncorrected loss of airspeed.

