AAIB Bulletin No: 1/94 Ref: EW/G93/11/10 Category: 1.1

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Douglas DC-6B, G-SIXC

No & Type of Engines: 4 Pratt & Whitney R2800-CB3 piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1958

Date & Time (UTC): 5 November 1993 at 1310 hrs

Location: Coventry Airport, Warwickshire

Type of Flight: Public Transport (Freight)

Persons on Board: Crew - 4 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor to tail cone

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 31 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 2,625 hours (of which 1,250 were on type)

Last 90 days - 83 hours Last 28 days - 44 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following a routine flight, the aircraft was manoeuvring to park in its normal dedicated parking position. The area is restricted and requires a minimum radius turn through more than 180° to achieve the required parking heading. On the day of the accident, the area was further restricted by the presence of a Hi-Loader freight handling vehicle. During the parking manoeuvre, the left wingtip of the aircraft passed over the Hi-Loader but thereafter the vehicle could not be seen by the flight deck crew. The Hi-Loader was routinely parked in this position and the aircraft commander stated that if the wingtip passes over the vehicle, then the tail of the aircraft will also clear it. However, on this occasion the tailcone of the aircraft contacted the vehicle. The Hi-Loader is now parked off the manoeuvring area to prevent a repetition of this accident.