

Aircraft type and registration: Boeing 727-200 VR-C8Q (Multi-jet public transport aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and time (GMT): 8 July 1985 at 1354 hrs

Location: Luton Airport

Type of flight: Business executive

Persons on board: Crew — 5 Passengers — 9

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Leading edge slat punctured, underside of wing scored, and damage to trailing edge of aileron

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 9333 hours (of which 3740 hours were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

After landing and clearing the runway the aircraft was led towards the parking area by a "Follow Me" vehicle. The vehicle drove parallel to a security fence on its left hand side before turning right through 90° onto the intended parking stand. The marshaller then got out of his vehicle and began giving hand marshalling signals to the aircraft. As the 727 turned right onto the stand the left wing tip struck the barbed wire supports on top of a gate in the security fence. The crew felt some slight bumps but they attributed them to the nosewheel skipping sideways during the hard right turn. It was not until after the passengers had disembarked that the crew were aware that the left wing tip had hit the fence.

No nosewheel guidance markings were displayed in the immediate area of the accident. According to the Airport Authority, this is because of the widely varying size of aircraft parked in this area, which is used for long-stay aircraft.