

No:7/88

Ref: EW/G88/05/02

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Jodel D120, G-BANU

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C90-14F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1963

Date and Time (UTC): 12 May 1988 at 1836 hrs

Location: Isle of Man (Ronaldsway) Airport

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew -1 Passengers -None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to undercarriage and wing structure

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 47 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 11,400 hours (of which 30 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot and telephone conversation with the pilot.

The aircraft had not been flown for 5 years but had undergone a Permit to Fly inspection in April 1988. The pilot carried out extensive ground runs and taxi checks for approximately one hour; the aircraft departed and climbed without incident, reported downwind and was cleared to final approach. At approximately 600 feet the engine rpm fell from 1200 to 800 and would not respond to throttle movement. A 70° turn to the left was made to avoid running across a main road bordered by high stone walls, and the aircraft was landed in a small field at about 40 mph. At about 20 mph the aircraft hit a 3 feet high fence which initially had appeared to be a hedge, but was in fact a dry stone wall covered in vegetation. The aircraft stopped with the undercarriage legs forced back, and the pilot evacuated the aircraft without injury.

The pilot considers that the most likely cause of the accident was that a foreign body in the fuel system became dislodged as a result of the change in aircraft attitude during the approach.