

Aircraft Type and Registration: Gulfstream AA-5A Cheetah, G-RJMI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2G piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date & Time (UTC): 20 June 1995 at 0923 hrs

Location: Blackbushe Airport, Surrey

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Nose leg and fork severely damaged

Commander's Licence: Student pilot

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 46 hours (of which 10 were on type)
Last 90 days - 10 hours
Last 28 days - 9 hours

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

Following a dual instructional flight, which included various types of circuits, the student pilot commenced a solo flight to practice circuits on Runway 26 at Blackbushe. The weather was good with excellent visibility and a surface wind of 270°/05 kt. On his fifth circuit, the pilot was carrying out a glide approach and had selected full flap; he considered that he made a good touchdown with mainwheels first. However, as the nosewheel was lowered to the ground the pilot stated that the mainwheels seemed to lift off and then, as they touched down again, the nosewheel lifted off and then collapsed as it contacted the ground again. The pilot steered G-RJMI onto the grass and shut down.

The student's instructor had been monitoring the circuits and considered that all the student's landings were good. Although his view of the final manoeuvres was obscured by a vehicle, the instructor stated that he did not think that the collapse was due to a porpoise. However, there were no visible signs of damage noted prior to the flight and the repair agency could identify no visible evidence of any pre-existing weakness.