

No: 4/83

Ref: EW/G83/03/09

Aircraft: Wittman W8 Tailwind G-BCBR (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date and time (GMT): 26 March 1983 at 1145 hrs

Location: East Fortune Aerodrome, E Lothian, Scotland

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - nil Passengers - nil

Nature of damage: Undercarriage and propeller destroyed; one engine bearer and one longeron slightly bent

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 23 years

Commander's total flying experience: 173 hours (of which 7 hours were on type)

Whilst making a final approach and landing at East Fortune Aerodrome runway 29, the aircraft stalled onto the runway, causing the undercarriage to collapse. The weather at that time was CAVOK with mild turbulence and wind 280°/10-15 kt.

The pilot states that he had been maintaining the normal approach speed of approximately 70 kt and was unaware of any reason for the stall. However, following the accident, the aircraft was seen to have flaps retracted but it was not possible to ascertain whether this had been a pre- or post-impact condition. The stalling speed in the landing configuration is 58 kt which rises to 68 kt when flapless.