

No: 6/88

Ref: EW/G88/03/15

Category:1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Socata TB10, G-BHGP

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1980

Date and Time (UTC): 17 March 1988 at 1400 hrs

Location: North Connel Airfield, by Oban, Argyll

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor - to right wing leading edge, right flap, leak from integral fuel tank

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and night ratings

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 264 hours (of which 49 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft had been flown from Edinburgh to Connel Airfield, and a descent to 2000 feet carried out. Earlier attempts to contact the airfield operator by telephone were unsuccessful and the airfield was overflowed for an inspection. Sheep were observed in the vicinity of the runway 02 threshold, and 2 approaches and low go-arounds were carried out in order to try to move them. A third approach was made, the intention being to land off it, but as the pilot was unhappy with the proximity of the sheep, he initiated a go-around and diverted to Glenforsa (Mull).

Arriving overhead Glenforsa, the pilot saw sheep spread over the landing area and he decided to return to Edinburgh. However, as Connel was close to his return route he decided to make one last approach, and as the sheep had moved from the threshold, to land.

Well into the landing run a sheep broke from left to right across the runway ahead of the aircraft. The pilot braked hard, and the nose and propeller missed the sheep, but the animal jumped and was caught by the right wing leading edge and right landing flap, causing minor damage to the aircraft.