

Aircraft Type and Registration: Slingsby T67A Firefly, G-BJXA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1982

Date & Time (UTC): 18 July 1994 at 1500 hrs

Location: Blackpool Airport, Lancashire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor structural damage to box section behind front bulkhead

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 88 hours (of which 19 were on type)
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 0 hours

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

While taxiing out, prior to a local flight, the pilot noticed that he needed to use brakes to keep his speed down and, during his power checks, noted that the engine was idling at higher RPM than normal. After flying locally for approximately 1 hour, he returned to the circuit; the runway in use was 10 and the weather was good with a surface wind of 100°/05 kt. On his first landing, the pilot reported that he flared as normal but that the aircraft floated and then stalled from a height of 2 to 3 feet. He considered that it was a moderately heavy landing on the main gear and was not aware of any significant impact on the nose gear. As he did not consider the landing any heavier than he had experienced during his training, he continued with his circuit practice. His three subsequent landings each resulted in a prolonged float but with gentle touchdowns. While taxiing in, the pilot found that he could not reduce his engine below 1,500 RPM and, with ATC approval, parked the aircraft on the taxiway. After disembarking, he noted that G-BJXA was sitting tail high. The pilot stated that his landing could not have been responsible for the damage to the aircraft and that the aircraft structure must have been severely distressed prior to his flight. The repair agency considered that the damage was unlikely to have occurred as the result of one landing.