

No: 2/84

Ref: EW/G84/01/05

Aircraft type and registration: Britten Norman Islander, BN2A-8, G-BJWL (light twin engine public transport aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1970

Date and time (GMT): 23 January 1984 at 1445 hrs

Location: Sanday, Orkney Islands

Type of flight: Scheduled Passenger

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 8

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — Nil

Nature of damage: Starboard wing, ribs and aileron damaged and cracked mainwheel

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's total flying experience: 4100 hours (of which 410 were on type)

Intending to fly the eight passengers from Sanday to Kirkwall, the pilot used the grass runway 21 for take-off. There was a shower of sleet at the time and the pilot estimated the wind to be 170°—210°/30 kt; however, a local observer who had watched many such departures particularly noted that there was a strong crosswind. Kirkwall meteorological office reported that at North Ronaldsway, 10 miles distant from Sanday, the wind was predominantly south easterly at 25 knots gusting to 52 knots.

Just as the aircraft became airborne, in spite of corrective action being taken, it rolled sharply to the right. The pilot, believing that an engine had failed, immediately closed both throttles and landed starboard wheel first with about 15° of bank on the remaining length of runway. He then taxied the aircraft back to the apron and inspected the aircraft for damage. Seeing none, he taxied out to runway 17 and took off.

Subsequent examination of the aircraft revealed that the starboard wingtip and two ribs were distorted, the top surface of the wing was wrinkled, the aileron hinge assembly needed replacement and there was a hairline crack in the starboard wheel. The damage sustained and the presence of mud on the wingtip clearly indicated that the wing had struck the ground although the pilot states that he was unaware of this either at the time of impact or following his inspection of the aircraft prior to the second take-off.