

Aircraft type and registration: Cessna 340A G-FBDC

No & Type of engines: 2 Continental Motors Corp TS10-520-N piston engines

Year of Manufacture: 1987

Date and time (GMT): 4 May 1987 at 1516 hrs

Location: Somerford, Nr Congleton, Cheshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 3

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Left main gear separated, right main gear collapsed, both propellers and left wing structure damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Instrument, IMC and Night Rating

Commander's Age: 64 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 3121 hours (of which 444 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following an uneventful flight from Jersey, with an intermediate landing at Exeter, the aircraft made a left circuit at Somerford onto a 1 mile final approach to runway 36.

Somerford is an 800 metre by 21 metre grass runway, bounded by a belt of 50—60 feet high trees at the southern end of the runway with a field of soft ground on the west side. The wind was 330°/13 kt and the temperature was 12°C.

As the aircraft crossed the trees, at normal approach speed and rate of descent, the pilot reduced power for the landing and the aircraft suddenly dropped to the ground at the runway threshold. The left main gear separated at impact and when the wingtip struck, the aircraft swung to the left into the soft ground, causing the right gear to collapse.

All the occupants' diagonal upper torso restraints held on impact and the crew and passengers left the aircraft via the normal exits.