

Socata TB20, N700S

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/98 Ref: EW/G98/06/25 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Socata TB20, N700S

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-540-C4D5 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1986

Date & Time (UTC): 18 June 1998 at 0830 hrs

Location: Craiganlet Hills, near Newtownards, Northern Ireland

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC Rating

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 800 hours (of which 650 were on type)

Last 90 days - 6 hours

Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a private flight from Wellesbourne Mountford, Warwickshire to Newtonards, Northern Ireland. The pilot, who held an IMC rating, obtained a meteorological forecast which indicated that the cloudbase at Newtonards would be 600 feet above the airfield level. On arrival, the cloudbase was lower than 600 feet and the pilot carried out a missed approach, with the intention of diverting to Belfast City Airport. There is no missed approach procedure published for Newtonards but Pooley's Flight Guide contains warnings of high ground close to the airfield. During the missed approach, the aircraft struck high ground at 700 feet above the airfield level and was destroyed. The pilot evacuated the aircraft with minor injuries. He stated that he was relying on his knowledge of the local area and had failed to take into account the terrain into which he crashed.