

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198903786**

**Standard Libelle**

**25 June 1989**

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**NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at [www.atsb.gov.au](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198903786                      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Massie Aerodrome Warwick QLD  
**Date:** 25 June 1989                      **Time:** 1530  
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Standard Libelle  
**Registration:** VH-GCS  
**Serial Number:** Unknown  
**Operation Type:** Private (Gliding)  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:**  
**Departure Time:**  
**Destination:** Massie Aerodrome QLD

**Approved for Release:** 11th September 1989

**Circumstances:**

While the aircraft was on base leg the pilot saw a powered aircraft which had been conducting circuits throughout the day on final approach. He considered that he would land too close behind the other aircraft so elected to land on the grass strip beside the runway. During the landing the long grass impeded the left wing slightly. The pilot corrected but the right wing struck the ground and a ground loop ensued. Examination of the tyre marks indicated that the pilot had actually landed outside the strip markers in an area of long grass and rough ground. Witnesses observed that the powered aircraft had conducted a touch and go landing and was airborne again before the glider crossed the threshold boundary fence.

**Significant Factors:**

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot selected an unsuitable area for landing.
2. Long grass induced loss of directional control of the aircraft.