ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Hawker Hurricane 2B, G-HHII

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rolls-Royce Merlin 29 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1940

Date & Time (UTC): 11 March 2009 at 1139 hrs

Location: North Weald Airfield, Essex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller and undercarriage doors damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 6,000 hours (of which 45 were on type)

Last 90 days - 52 hours Last 28 days - 15 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft tipped forward onto its nose whilst landing on Runway 20 at North Weald. The pilot, who was uninjured, reported that the approach and touchdown in a three-point attitude, were normal. When the mainwheels contacted the runway, the aircraft's tail lifted uncontrollably, causing the propeller to strike the ground. The pilot was able to maintain the runway centreline.

Subsequent inspection of the pneumatically-operated wheel brake system identified a defect in a brake control valve. This had allowed air to leak into the brake activation bags, causing the brakes to be partially applied prior to the landing.

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