

Dancing on foam

Early in the flight trials it was noticed, indeed it was dramatic, that there was a pronounced lateral oscillation of the cockpit on landing, and tests were carried out to try and identify the cause and mitigate the effect.

Thus XR219 landed on a carpet of foam laid along Boscombe Down's main runway, to see if this would dampen the shaking - it was so severe that it was blurring the pilot's vision for a short time.

In the end it was the basic design of the main undercarriage that was thought to be the cause, and an interim solution was tested when the aircraft was at Warton. When the project was cancelled on 6 April 1965 XR219 was on lay-up for a series of modifications, including the hoped-for permanent solution, but this was never flown.

This series of photos, taken on a very long-focus lens, are dated 21 January 1965, which would make this Flight 6.



