

SERIOUS INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Percival P10 Vega Gull, G-AEZJ	
No & Type of Engines:	1 De Havilland Gipsy Six Series II piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1937 (Serial no: K.65)	
Date & Time (UTC):	12 May 2013 at 1036 hrs	
Location:	Biggin Hill Airport, Kent	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Minor damage to lower rear fuselage, tailwheel and yoke	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	64 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,850 hours (of which 346 were on type) Last 90 days - 6 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

After takeoff the pilot was informed that a tailwheel assembly had been found on the runway. A flypast of the control tower confirmed that the aircraft's tailwheel was missing. The pilot subsequently made an uneventful landing. Examination of the aircraft revealed that the bolt attaching the tailwheel assembly to the fuselage was

missing. The bolt is located behind a fairing in the rear fuselage and is therefore not visible during pre-flight checks. There is no requirement to carry out a scheduled inspection of the tailwheel mounting structure. As the bolt was not recovered, the reason for the failure could not be determined.