

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/95

Ref: EW/G95/06/16

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: DH82A Tiger Moth, G-ACMD

No & Type of Engines: 1 Gipsy Major 1C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1933

Date & Time (UTC): 24 June 1995 at 1152 hrs

Location: Shoreham Airport, West Sussex

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Left landing gear fork broken; left wing, strut and engine bearers damaged; propeller broken

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Assistant Flying Instructor's Rating

Commander's Age: Over 21 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 748 hours (No previous hours on type)
Last 90 days - 10 hours
Last 28 days - 8 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was making a 'wheeler' landing (ie not a three point one) on the grass Runway 07 at Shoreham Airport and, although the wind was 030°/18 kt, the width and condition of the runway made it possible to land directly into wind. The pilot states that, as she flared the aircraft, there was no drift or applied bank and that the touchdown was very gentle.

As the aircraft touched down the left landing gear collapsed and the pilot maintained right aileron control in order to hold up the left wing as long as possible before it sank to the ground. As it did so, the propeller also struck the ground and the aircraft tipped over the nose, coming to rest inverted.

There was no fire and both occupants were able to vacate the aircraft unaided.

Subsequent examination showed that the left landing gear fork had suffered a fatigue fracture.