

No: 6/83

Ref: EW/G83/05/06

Aircraft: Jodel D120A G-BKPX (Light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1963

Date and time (GMT): 14 May 1983 at 1345 hrs

Location: Cranwell North Aerodrome, Lincolnshire

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - 1 (minor) Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Propeller and cockpit canopy destroyed. Slight damage to upper fuselage and fin and rudder assembly

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 44 years

Commander's total flying experience: 210 hours (of which 150 hours were on type)

The aircraft was on a delivery flight from Sibsey to Cranwell North aerodrome in Lincolnshire. The pilot reports that, before departing Sibsey, he checked the aircraft's ground handling and operation of the tail-wheel steering; he then took off and flew for about an hour, in the Sibsey area, in order to check general aircraft serviceability and handling characteristics. These were normal and the flight to Cranwell North was completed without incident. The aircraft was landed normally on the south-westerly grass runway (25) at Cranwell North aerodrome, with a cross-wind averaging 50 degrees from the left at 17 knots. After the landing run was complete the aircraft cleared the runway to the left, it was then turned through 90 degrees, and, when the pilot had checked that it was clear to continue, turned further left in order to back-track the runway. After taxiing for about 20 metres, with the wind from behind, the aircraft's tail suddenly lifted and the aircraft nosed over onto its back. The pilot managed to vacate the aircraft unaided, and had suffered minor injuries.

The weather at the time of the accident was generally fine with 5 oktas of cumulus cloud at 3000 feet. The surface wind was 200°/17 knots with gusts to 25 knots. Examination of the anemograph recording at Cranwell aerodrome has shown that peak gusts of 25 knots were recorded at 1335 hrs and 1350 hrs. The accident occurred at 1345 hrs.