

No: 1/83

Ref: EW/GS2/12/05

Aircraft: Piper PA-18-150 Super Cub G-AREO

Year of Manufacture: 1960

Date and time (GMT): 18 December 1982 at 1403 hrs

Location: Lasham airfield

Type of flight: Private (glider towing)

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Starboard mainwheel and propeller damaged;  
engine shock loaded

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's total flying experience: 156 hours (of which 57 were on type)

The aircraft was engaged on glider towing and was returning to the tow point after landing from the previous tow on the grass to the west of runway 33. Near the tow point, the pilot found his path blocked by parked gliders. He taxied across a grass area between the taxi-way and the threshold of runway 33. Whilst moving slowly but with sufficient power to move through the long grass, the aircraft ran into a depression, and the starboard wheel was stopped by the concrete surround of a manhole cover. Impact with the obstruction caused the aircraft to tip on to its nose. The accident occurred in a little-used part of the airfield, which was unfamiliar to the pilot. The manhole was marked by two motor tyres but it and the surrounding area had sunk to such an extent that the tyres were difficult to see in the long grass.