

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Maule MT-7-235 Super Rocket, G-HIND	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Lycoming IO-540-W1A5 piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1997 (Serial no: 18037C)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	15 August 2013 at 1900 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Private strip, County Durham	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - None
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Leading edge of both wings dented	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	74 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	2,007 hours (of which 1,100 were on type) Last 90 days - 24 hours Last 28 days - 18 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot intended to land at Perth Airport, but as his progress was slower than estimated and insufficient daylight remained to reach his destination, he decided to divert to a friend's airstrip. As he overflew the airstrip he saw sheep on the runway threshold but assessed that sufficient landing distance remained. During the final approach the sheep moved further along the runway, causing the pilot to abort the landing. He commenced a go-around and turned the aircraft into wind, which was towards rising ground. The aircraft failed to clear some trees and passed through their upper foliage, sustaining dents to the wing leading edges. The pilot then proceeded to Durham Tees Valley Airport where he landed without further incident. He reported that there were no noticeable handling difficulties.

CAA Safety Sense leaflet 12, Strip Sense, contains useful information about operating at unlicensed aerodromes and private airstrips. It cautions:

*'It is vital to remove all livestock from the runway prior to take-off and prior to landing. Thus, if animals have access to the strip, assistance by a friend or farmhand is essential. Animals are unpredictable.'*

The full leaflet can be found at: <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20130121SSL12.pdf>