

Aircraft type and registration: Piper Cub J3/65C G-BMKC

No & Type of engines: 1 Continental Aircraft Motors A65-8F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1943

Date and time (UTC): 8 December 1987 at 1434 hrs

Location: Exeter Airport, Devon

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Substantial damage to engine, propeller, left wing tip, landing gear and fuselage frame

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC Rating

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 375 hours (of which 18 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft commenced its take-off run on the right-hand side of the tarmac covered runway 08. The wind was from 060°/070° at 6 kt with gusts to 12 kt.

When the aircraft was rolling straight take-off power was applied, and as the tail came up, a swing to the left developed which was arrested by use of full right rudder. The aircraft was now maintaining a constant heading, but was tracking diagonally across the runway from right to left. Rather than bump over the left edge of the runway onto the grass the pilot attempted to lift the aircraft off. At an estimated 10 feet off the ground, the left wing dropped then struck the ground causing the aircraft to swing to the left. The nose made contact with the ground and the left turn continued until the aircraft settled back onto its landing gear and came to rest heading south, having swung through an estimated 270°. The pilot who was wearing full upper torso restraint was uninjured, and there was no fire.