

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/93

Ref: EW/G93/07/34

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Druine D.31 Turbulent, G-APOL
No & Type of Engines: 1 Ardem 4C02 Mk.1B piston engine
Year of Manufacture: 1963
Date & Time (UTC): 24 July 1993 at 0915 hrs
Location: Charterhall airfield, Border Region
Type of Flight: Private
Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage: Mainspar, fuselage and propeller disrupted. Landing gear and wing buckled
Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age: 32 years
Commander's Flying Experience: 300 hours (of which 15 were on type)
Last 90 days - 45 hours
Last 28 days - 16 hours
Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The wind at Charterhall airfield was 280°/8 to 10 kt and the pilot chose runway 26 for take off. When he had lined up on the runway, he observed the windsock for some time and then, judging that the conditions were suitable, began the take-off run. At 55 to 60 mph, the aircraft lifted cleanly off the runway but, at about 20 feet agl, the pilot experienced a sudden loss of aileron and rudder control and the aircraft suddenly slewed to the left and rolled right. The aircraft travelled a significant distance sideways and the right wing contacted a fence post on the airfield boundary before the aircraft struck the ground in a stalled condition.

A post accident examination of the automatic weather station readout showed that the wind was gusting to 24 kt and the direction veering to 310°. On runway 26, this would provide a 19 kt crosswind, which is 12 kt above the aircraft's crosswind limit.