

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/95

Ref: EW/G95/07/26

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Druine D.31 Turbulent, G-AWDO

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1600 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1969

Date & Time (UTC): 29 July 1995 at 1700 hrs

Location: Little Dene Airstrip, Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller destroyed and engine shock-loaded; minor damage to fuselage and upper surface of mainplane

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 527 hours (of which 232 were on type)
Last 90 days - 18 hours
Last 28 days - 14 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was making an approach to the grass Runway 20 at his private airstrip; the weather was good with a light surface wind. On finals, the pilot was not happy with his approach and applied full power to initiate a go-around. The aircraft failed to gain sufficient height and collided with some small trees in the boundary fence south west of the airstrip; G-AWDO flipped over and came to rest inverted. Following the accident, the pilot considered why the aircraft had apparently failed to climb properly. In his view, it was a combination of some or all of the following factors: It was a very hot day; the runway had a slight up-slope; there may have been a slight tailwind component; the engine may not have been developing full power; he may have handled the elevator too coarsely; finally, he may have left the decision to go-around too late.