

Piper PA-25-235, G-BLDG, 25 May 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/96 Ref: EW/G96/05/30 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-25-235, G-BLDG

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-540-B2C5 pistonengine

Year of Manufacture: 1968

Date & Time (UTC): 25 May 1996 at 1700 hrs

Location: Rufforth Airfield, Rufforth, York

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Scuffed propeller and cracked stern post

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 57 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,280 hours (of which 121 were on type)

Last 90 days - 13 hours

Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot, who is an experienced tug pilot and full rated gliding instructor, had agreed to take over the aircraft for one tow. Having started the engine and checked the area for being safe to move in, the pilot applied power whereupon the aircraft's tail rose up and the propeller struck the grass. The pilot 'hit the toe brakes', hoping to release them, and closed the throttle before shutting down the engine. The aircraft tail lowered sharply causing a crack in the stern post. It is normal practice at the gliding club for tug pilots to park the aircraft into wind with the brakes OFF. On this occasion the previous pilot had left the aircraft with the brakes applied and the accident pilot had not checked that they were OFF before applying power to taxi.