

ACCIDENT

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| Aircraft Type and Registration: | Piper PA-25-235 Pawnee, G-BFSC | |
| No & Type of Engines: | 1 Lycoming O-540-B2C5 piston engine | |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1976 | |
| Date & Time (UTC): | 10 August 2008 at 1243 hrs | |
| Location: | Ridgewell Airfield, Ashen, Sudbury, Suffolk | |
| Type of Flight: | Private | |
| Persons on Board: | Crew - 1 | Passengers - None |
| Injuries: | Crew - None | Passengers - N/A |
| Nature of Damage: | Damage to engine cowling, propeller and left wing tip | |
| Commander's Licence: | Private Pilot's Licence | |
| Commander's Age: | 64 years | |
| Commander's Flying Experience: | 570 hours (of which 125 were on type) Last 90 days - 26 hours Last 28 days - 10 hours | |
| Information Source: | Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot | |

Synopsis

The aircraft pitched onto its nose and the left wing struck the ground when the aircraft turned crosswind in a strong wind whilst taxiing.

History of the flight

Having completed a glider tow the pilot returned to the departure airfield and landed on grass Runway 23. He brought the aircraft to a halt into wind on the runway whilst he retracted the flaps and then commenced a left turn, by use of the rudder and differential braking, to backtrack up the runway. The aircraft had turned

through about 70 degrees when the left wing dropped and the aircraft slowly pitched forward. The aircraft continued to pitch forward and to the left until the propeller and wing tip struck the ground. The pilot was uninjured and vacated the aircraft unaided after making the switches safe.

The wind at the time of the accident was 230°/22 kt. The pilot assessed the cause of the accident was the wind lifting the tail and right wing as he turned crosswind.