

No: 11/85

MICROLIGHT

Ref: EW/G85/07/07

**Aircraft type
and registration:**

Puma Sprint G-MMPH (single engined microlight)

Year of Manufacture:

1984

Date and time (GMT):

7 July 1985 at 1830 hrs

Location:

Shiltern Fields Farm, Nr Coventry

Type of flight:

Private

Persons on board:

Crew — 1

Passengers — None

Injuries:

Crew — 1 (serious)

Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage:

Extensive damage to the airframe

Commander's Licence:

None

Commander's Age:

42 years

**Commander's Total
Flying Experience:**

12 hours (of which all were on type)

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot, eye witness statements, and telephone inquiries with an engineering organisation.

The pilot took the aircraft to a field to carry out engine runs following some rectification work that he had undertaken to cure a running fault he had experienced earlier in the week. After a prolonged satisfactory engine run the pilot decided to take the aircraft for a flight. He took-off and climbed rapidly to approximately 100 ft when the engine power reduced. The pilot checked the engine controls and tried re-applying full throttle, but was not able to regain full power. As the aircraft was maintaining altitude at reduced power the pilot initiated a slow turn to the left to attempt a downwind landing in a field adjacent to the one from which he had taken off. After turning through 90 degrees the engine failed completely. The turn to the left was continued to line-up the aircraft with the intended landing field which had irregularly spaced tall trees at its approach boundary. The pilot thought he could clear a particular tree that was in his direct path without tightening his turn which he thought would have led to a stall. The landing gear hit the top of the trees which tripped the aircraft nose down into the ground.