

Piper PA-25-235 Pawnee, G-ASKV

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/10/08	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-25-235 Pawnee, G-ASKV	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-540-B2C5 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1963	
Date & Time (UTC):	9 October 2002 at 1100 hrs	
Location:	Parham Airfield, West Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Structural damage to the wing tip, the outboard end of the wing trailing edge spar and the outboard end of the aileron.	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	70 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	3,339 hours (of which 375 were on type) Last 90 days - 29 hours Last 28 days - 7 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Parham Airfield is a gliding site near Pulborough where the aircraft was used for aero-tows. The entire manoeuvring area is grassed and gliders may land in various directions but towing aircraft normally use a dedicated strip aligned 04/22 along the western boundary of the area.

The pilot carried out a left hand circuit to land on grass strip 04 with a surface wind of 15 kt from 120° (effectively a 15 kt crosswind from the right). Following a normal touchdown at 70 mph, the aircraft slowed to about 15 mph (13 kt) whereupon it started to slide to the left. Despite the application of right wheel brake and right rudder, the aircraft continued sliding to the left. The left wing tip struck a windsock post close to the left edge of the strip causing structural damage to the wing tip, the outboard end of the wing trailing edge spar and the outboard end of the aileron.

The pilot assessed that the accident was caused by a combination of factors which included short grass, loose grass clippings, a very wet surface and a wind gusting from the right. The gliding club are considering whether the windsock might be re-located away from the aero-tow strip.