

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA 18 Super Cub G-ATRG (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1966

Date and time (GMT): 23 June 1985 at 1530 hrs

Location: The Gallops, Kingsclere, Berkshire

Type of flight: Glider Towing

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Substantial

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 53 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 920 hours (of which 190 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The aircraft was retrieving a glider, which had landed away in a field.

The field provided a take-off run of about 1000 yards of cut grass 4 to 6 inches high and sloped downwards towards the east. The wind was estimated as 200°/5 kt on the surface and 250°/5—10 kt in the local area but the tug pilot elected to accept a slight tailwind component from the right and take off down the slope.

As the aircraft became airborne, the pilot was unable to correct a drift to the left towards an earth bank which bounded the field. At this point the field also sloped away to the left, which the pilot believes added to the problem. The main wheels hit the bank and the aircraft came to rest lying on its underside. The glider sustained only minor damage.