

No: 7/92

Ref: EW/G92/05/20

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Fournier RF4D motorglider, G-AVKD

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Volkswagen Rectimo 4AR-1200 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1967

**Date & Time (UTC):** 24 May 1992 at 1030 hrs

**Location:** White Waltham Airfield, Maidenhead, Berkshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Damage to propeller tips and landing gear door  
Shock load damage to engine.

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 74 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 1,531 hours (of which 408 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 8 hours  
Last 28 days - 5 hours

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

On this aircraft the landing gear consists of a single retractable wheel on the fuselage centre-line, a fixed tailwheel and outrigger wheels on fixed legs under the wings. The accident occurred when the aircraft was landing at White Waltham after a short cross-country flight from Lasham, where it is normally based. During the pre-landing checks the pilot lowered the retractable main wheel and believed that it was fully down and locked. The pilot states that on final approach he noted the threshold area of runway 03 as appearing rather bumpy and thus landed farther along the runway. Just after touch-down on the undulating grass surface, the landing gear lever suddenly jerked back and the landing gear collapsed, allowing the propeller tips to strike the ground.

When the aircraft was subsequently recovered it was noted that the landing gear mechanism appeared to be intact and undamaged. It is planned, however, that a full dismantling and examination of the landing gear will take place.