

No: 5/89

Ref: EW/G89/02/08

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: DH82A Tiger Moth, G-ANDP

No & Type of Engines: 1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 1 Piston Engine

Year of Manufacture: Unknown

Date and Time (UTC): 24 February 1989 at 1642 hrs

Location: Newtownards, Northern Ireland

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to both lower mainplanes, propeller and left landing gear

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence with Instrument, IMC and Night Ratings

Commander's Age: 56 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 13,956 hours (of which 75 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft had undergone extensive work on its engine and was preparing to take-off for a Certificate of Airworthiness renewal test flight. Following considerable ground running and power checks it took off and climbed normally towards rising ground. At about 150 feet agl there was a sudden and complete power loss. The pilot turned the aircraft through 90° to the right to land in a field of winter corn but had insufficient height and airspeed to clear a substantial boundary hedge which was contacted apparently by the left landing gear. Although the aircraft landed in a 3-point attitude, the left landing gear collapsed, tipping the aircraft onto its left wingtip, nose and right wingtip in turn before settling back into an upright attitude.

The reason for the power loss is being investigated but it is known that there appears to be no major mechanical failure of the engine. The possibility that water contamination or some blockage manifested itself as the aircraft adopted a flying attitude is also being pursued.