

No: 3/89

Ref: EW/G89/01/09

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: DHC 1 Chipmunk 22 (Lycoming), G-BCCX

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A10 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1952

Date and Time (UTC): 14 January 1989 at 1300 hrs

Location: RAF Dishforth

Type of Flight: Glider Towing

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Slight - to propeller, possible shock loading of engine

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 522 hours (of which 299 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was engaged in glider towing from the grass. The forecast wind was 260° at 15-20 kt gusting 40-50 kt.

After landing from his second launch the pilot turned 45° left across the proposed take off path of the next glider, and having gone through the centre line of the prepared run, turned back to the right 90°. Having achieved the centreline the pilot eased off the right rudder applied in order to head into wind on the proposed take off path.

The aircraft pitched slowly nose down despite the throttle being closed, and an unsuccessful attempt to release the brake, and the propeller contacted the grass. The tailwheel dropped back onto the grass, and the pilot who was wearing full upper torso restraint was uninjured.