

Pitts S-1D, G-BETI

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/99 Ref: EW/G99/05/23 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Pitts S-1D, G-BETI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-B2A (Modified) piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date & Time (UTC): 16 May 1999 at 1530 hrs

Location: Fishburn Airfield, Co Durham

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to propeller of G-BETI. Damage to trailing edge of right wing of other aircraft

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 66 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 2,540 hours (of which 690 were on type)

Last 90 days - 10 hours

Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was prepared for flight from outside its hangar which was situated to the north side of the grass Runway 08/26. As the aircraft taxied forward towards the runway between two rows of parked aircraft, the propeller of G-BETI came into contact with the trailing edge of the right wing of a Rallye 235 aircraft which was parked directly ahead of it, but which had not been seen by the pilot.

The pilot commented that the forward visibility from G-BETI was not good and that he was just about to commence clearing taxi turns to confirm that the path ahead was clear when the collision occurred.