

No: 9/91

Ref: EW/G91/06/28

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Grumman AA-5, G-BBGH

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-320-E2G piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1973

**Date & Time (UTC):** 29 June 1991 at 1457 hrs

**Location:** Usk Airfield, Gwent

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 2 Passengers - 2

**Injuries:** Crew - 1 (minor) Passengers - 1 (minor)

**Nature of Damage:** Substantial damage to right wing, engine shock loaded and bulkhead broken - spinner destroyed

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

**Commander's Age:** 44 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 104 hours (of which 12 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone inquiries by AAIB

The aircraft had been flown from Elstree to Usk with three adults and one child on board and was commencing the return flight. The Usk grass runway is aligned in an east/west direction with trees on the north side. The weather was fine and the aircraft was taking off towards the west with a surface wind reported as 250°/05 to 07 knots.

The pilot reports that he commenced the take off run with full power and one third flap deployed. Acceleration appeared to be slower than usual and, as the speed reached 70 knots, the aircraft crossed a rise in the surface and became airborne at a high angle of attack. The pilot attempted to level the aircraft to increase speed, but it landed back on the left main landing gear. Subsequently the right wingtip contacted the ground and the aircraft veered to the right towards trees. The take off was abandoned and the pilot attempted to ground loop the aircraft in order to avoid the trees. The aircraft skidded and decelerated but he was unable to slow it sufficiently to avoid a small stream bounded by trees at the western boundary. The engine was shut down and electrics switched off before a gentle impact as the aircraft slid right wing down into the stream. All occupants, who had been wearing lap and diagonal harnesses which held throughout the accident sequence, were able to vacate the aircraft without outside assistance. Two suffered minor injuries.