

Piper PA-34-200T, G-RVRB

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/2001	Ref: EW/G2001/08/13	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-34-200T, G-RVRB	
No & Type of Engines:	2 Continental Motors Corp TSIO-360-EB piston engines	
Year of Manufacture:	1979	
Date & Time (UTC):	19 August 2001 at 0355 hrs	
Location:	Manchester Airport	
Type of Flight:	Public Transport (Cargo)	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Bent propeller blades	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	29 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	267 hours (of which 24 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 32 hours	
	Last 28 days - 32 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The commander and his second pilot were tasked with flying some urgent aircraft spares from Manchester to Copenhagen. The weather at Manchester comprised a surface wind of 090°/08 kt, visibility 5,000 metres in rain, temperature +16°C, dewpoint +15°C and a QNH 1002 mb.

The crew reported for duty at 0215 hrs and after completing the necessary paperwork proceeded to their aircraft, which was parked on the 'light aircraft parking' area, to carry out the appropriate pre-flight checks. Having obtained their ATC clearance the commander commenced taxiing towards the holding point for Runway 06L. The commander commenced a left turn as the aircraft approached taxiway 'A' but the turn was initiated too early allowing the left main landing gear to leave the paved surface and cross an area of grass. As this occurred the commander heard an unusual noise and so he decided to return to the ramp to carry out an inspection. Examination of the left side of the aircraft revealed damage to the tips of the left propeller.

The commander reported that the weather conditions of poor visibility and moderate rain combined with low ambient lighting contributed to cause of this occurrence.