

Piper PA-15, G-VAGA, 15 May 1998 at 1000 hrs

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/98 Ref: EW/G98/05/14 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-15, G-VAGA
No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-145-B2 piston engine
Year of Manufacture: 1948
Date & Time (UTC): 15 May 1998 at 1000 hrs
Location: Bowship Roundabout Airstrip, Horsebridge, Kent
Type of Flight: Private
Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries: Crew - Minor - Passengers - Minor
Nature of Damage: Substantial general damage
Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age: 73 years
Commander's Flying Experience: 1,395 hours (of which 10 were on type)
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours
Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was taking off from the north east orientated grass strip; the surface wind was estimated as 5 to 6 kt from the north east. It became airborne at about 45 mph and had accelerated to about 50 mph when it began to drift rapidly to the right. The pilot was unable to correct this and, shortly after he had closed the throttle, the right wing struck a tree. Both occupants were wearing lap only restraint but escaped with minor injury.