

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	DH82A Tiger Moth, G-AHVV	
No & Type of Engines:	1 De Havilland Gipsy Major I piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1943	
Date & Time (UTC):	14 September 2008 at 1320 hrs	
Location:	Runway 23, Dunkeswell Airfield, Devon	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	45 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	13,000 hours (of which 8,200 were on type) Last 90 days - 120 hours Last 28 days - 40 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Shortly after takeoff, when at approximately 200 ft above ground level, the engine speed dropped to idle. The pilot lowered the nose of the aircraft to maintain flying speed and turned right to land in a suitable field. The aircraft cleared a sturdy barbed wire fence but, as the aircraft touched down, a cow ran under and struck the left wing, causing substantial damage to the aircraft. The cow was apparently uninjured. The aircraft rolled to a halt and the two occupants, who were uninjured, vacated the aircraft normally.

Investigation of the aircraft by a local engineer found corrosion debris in the carburettor float bowl, and this appeared to have originated from within the float bowl itself. The fuel tank, fuel lines and fuel filter were found to be clean.

It is likely that this debris had blocked the carburettor jets, causing the reduction in power, as the engine ran normally once the debris had been removed.