

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-38-112 Tomahawk, G-BOHS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date & Time (UTC): 16 August 1993 at 1445 hrs

Location: Lashenden (Headcorn) Airfield, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Wing leading edge dented near the tip and smashed strobe light

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Night Rating

Commander's Age: 70 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 278 hours (of which 5 were on type)
Last 90 days - 5 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Headcorn Airfield has grass runways and taxiways. At the end of Runway 29, the taxiway is parallel to the runway and to the boundary fence. Between the fence and the taxiway is a track used extensively by vehicles transporting parachutists.

After a normal landing on Runway 29 the pilot turned left at the end of the runway through 180° to join what he thought was the taxiway. Unfortunately he mistook the vehicle track for the taxiway and, although he realised his mistake, he was too late to prevent the right wing striking a fence post.

The pilot and the CFI of his Biggin Hill based flying club considered that the taxiway markings were poor and that the taxiway was far less conspicuous than the vehicle track.