

No: 9/86

Ref: 1b

Aircraft type and registration: Amateur Construction Volmer VJ-22 Sportsman Series 2 G-BAME

No & Type of engines: 1 Rolls-Royce Continental O-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date and time (UTC): 25 May 1986 at 1350 hrs

Location: Sandyard Farm, Oswestry, Shropshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Damage to right-hand wing tip, float, landing gear, and cockpit frame

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 2500 hours (of which 1½ were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The Volmer VJ22 is a 2-seat amphibious monoplane with the engine mounted in pusher configuration above the fuselage on a pylon structure. The aircraft was purchased in November 1985 from its constructor who, in addition to performing some work on the aircraft, re-issued it with a permit-to-fly. Further work was carried out, including a complete re-cover, following which a test flight was flown above the airfield for some 30 minutes. After this the aircraft proceeded to Badminton airfield where it landed, re-fuelled and took off with a passenger on board.

The aircraft flew on-track to Wallasay until, some 30 nm south-west of Wallasay and at a height of about 1500 ft agl, the pilot experienced what he thought to be an explosion followed by severe vibration. He shut down the engine and performed a forced landing. Inspection revealed that an approximately 6 inches × 1 inch length of brass propeller tip leading edge sheathing had detached, entering the cockpit and exiting through the left-hand side.

Subsequent examination of the propeller has failed to provide a reason for detachment of the sheathing.