ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Pegasus Quasar, G-MWJH
No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 503 piston engine
Year of Manufacture: 1990 (Serial no: SW-WQQ-0340)
Date & Time (UTC): 6 September 2012 at 1700 hrs
Location: Redlands Airfield, Wiltshire
Type of Flight: Training
Persons on Board: Crew - 1  Passengers - None
Injuries: Crew - None  Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage: Significant damage
Commander’s Licence: Airline Transport Pilot’s Licence
Commander’s Age: 60 years
Commander’s Flying Experience: 18,280 hours (of which 28 were on type)
Last 90 days - 188 hours
Last 28 days - 40 hours
Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was flying the aircraft solo as part of formal training for the issue of a NPPL for flex-wing microlights. Runway 24 North at Redlands is a grass runway, 700 m long and 11 m wide. The weather was fine, with a surface wind from 240° at 10 kt. Following a local flight, the pilot made two successful approaches and landings on Runway 24 North before making an approach to Runway 24 South. This approach was discontinued as the aircraft was not correctly lined up on the centreline on short finals. The pilot made his last approach to Runway 24 North again but, at a height of about 100 ft, the aircraft drifted to the left. The pilot decided to go around again, but before he did so, the aircraft struck a tree to the left of the runway.

The aircraft suffered significant damage but the pilot, who was wearing a lap strap and protective helmet, was uninjured. In his report, the pilot considered that his extensive flying experience on fixed wing aircraft, with their different control techniques, may have been a factor in the accident.