

DHC-1 Chipmunk 22, G-BDCC

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/99 Ref: EW/G99/06/04 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: DHC-1 Chipmunk 22, G-BDCC

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1955

Date & Time (UTC): 3 June 1999 at 1400 hrs

Location: Husbands Bosworth Airfield, Leicestershire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to wings, aileron, propeller and fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 22 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 219 hours (of which 86 were on type)
Last 90 days - 86 hours
Last 28 days - 55 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was engaged in aerotow glider launching. Four aerotows had been carried out previously that morning. It had been decided, because of the wet grass conditions with little headwind component, to move the start point for the take-off in order to allow an extra 200 yards of take-off distance. During the subsequent take-off roll, the tug and two seat glider combination did not accelerate beyond 40 kt. The glider pilot released the tow rope and stopped the glider on the airfield. The tug pilot checked that the glider was clear, then closed the throttle and applied the brakes. These were effective initially but the aircraft then began to skid on the wet grass surface. It hit the boundary fence at a fast walking pace.

In retrospect, the tug pilot considered that had full power been maintained after the glider had released, then the aircraft would have been able to become airborne within the remaining distance.