

Spitfire Mk.PR.XI, G-MKXI

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/98 **Ref:** EW/G98/08/02 **Category:** 1.2

Aircraft Type and Registration: Spitfire Mk.PR.XI, G-MKXI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Packard Merlin 266 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1944

Date & Time (UTC): 2 August 1998 at 1630 hrs

Location: Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent

Type of Flight: Display

Persons on Board: Crew -1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to propeller, spinner and nose panels

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,143 hours (of which 54 were on type)
Last 90 days - 20 hours
Last 28 days - 18 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

On the morning of the accident, the pilot landed on Runway 03 with a northerly wind of 12 kt. The landing was uneventful and the pilot had no problem in stopping the aircraft. AT 1600 hrs, the pilot took-off for a display flight with a surface wind of 030°/12 kt. On completion of his display, the pilot again landed on Runway 03 but, despite this landing being slower than his previous one, he was unable to stop the aircraft in the distance available and overran the runway.

After the accident, the pilot observed that the surface wind had fallen calm, and he attributed the cause of the accident to his failure to notice this and the fact that the windssock was not visible from the threshold of Runway 03. However, a video recording of the landing showed that the aircraft bounced several times before settling onto the runway thereby delaying the possibility of braking until a late stage in the landing roll.