

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/94 **Ref:** EW/G94/07/02 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: DH82A Tiger Moth, G-APLU

No & Type of Engines: 1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 1 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1950

Date & Time (UTC): 2 July 1994 at 0940 hrs

Location: Rush Green Airfield, Hertfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to both lower wings, landing gear, engine cowling and propeller

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 50 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 12,472 hours (of which 200 were on type)
Last 90 days - 78 hours
Last 28 days - 16 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was departing from the grass strip 34 in calm conditions with a surface temperature of 19°C. Engine RPM and oil pressure remained within limits throughout the start and run-up procedure. During the take-off run the aircraft was lifted off halfway along the strip at a speed of 42 to 45 kt. The nose was lowered to accelerate to climb speed but the airspeed decayed and so the throttle was closed and the aircraft landed. With insufficient runway remaining the aircraft struck the airfield boundary fence at a speed of 30 kt and came to rest on its wheels 20 yards into the adjacent field. The pilot and passenger evacuated the aircraft without injury.

The pilot reported that subsequent examination of the engine revealed a lack of compression on one cylinder which was the probable cause of the aircraft's degraded take-off performance.