

Fournier RF4D, G-AVWY

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/08/41	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Fournier RF4D, G-AVWY	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Volkswagen 1600 Acro Conversion piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1967	
Date & Time (UTC):	24 August 2003 at 1450 hrs	
Location:	Halesland Airfield, Somerset	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Aircraft damaged beyond economic repair	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	36 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	131 hours (of which 66 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 7 hours	
	Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

After a normal takeoff, the pilot accelerated the aircraft to 50 kt whilst remaining approximately 5 feet above the ground. He then selected the landing gear up but, distracted by his map interfering with the landing gear control lever, he allowed the aircraft to descend and the propeller struck the ground, breaking off 4 inches from each tip. He climbed the aircraft to about 10 feet but due to engine vibration, closed the throttle. With insufficient runway remaining to land straight ahead, he opened the throttle to an acceptable level of vibration in order to clear a stone wall and decided to land in a field in the overshoot. He believed he had enough momentum at that power setting to clear a fence in the field but shortly before reaching it, the aircraft stalled, hitting the fence and ground simultaneously. One of the fence posts failed the right hand wing close to its root and the aircraft came to rest on its right hand side.

The pilot commented that he retracted the landing gear too early and had not appreciated the higher stalling speed resulting from flying at a higher all up weight than usual.