

Luton LA4A Minor, G-BBEA

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/98 Ref: EW/G98/05/25 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Luton LA4A Minor, G-BBEA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1600 (Peacock) piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1975

Date & Time (UTC): 19 May 1998 at 1345 hrs

Location: White Waltham Airfield, Berks

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Left wheel failed. Propeller damaged beyond repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence (FAA)

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 64 hours (of which 3 were on type)
Last 90 days - 39 hours
Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had planned to practice circuits at White Waltham. The runway in use was Runway 11 which has a grass surface 930 metres in length, and the runway surface was dry. The surface wind was 090_/06 kt and there was no significant weather or cloud. The pilot thought that the approach was normal until the roundout when he decided that he was too high to commence the flare. With the throttle at the idle setting he continued down the runway until he judged that he was at the correct height and then brought the stick fully back in an attempt to land. The pilot reported that the subsequent touchdown was slightly harder than previous landings. On touchdown the left wheel broke off and the aircraft slewed violently to the left before coming to rest on the propeller. The pilot selected the fuel and electrics off and vacated the aircraft uninjured.