

Cessna 152, G-BOFM

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/2004	Ref: EW/G2004/04/04	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 152, G-BOFM	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1981	
Date & Time (UTC):	4 April 2004 at 1250 hrs	
Location:	Coventry Airport, West Midlands	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Right wing tip and propeller; engine shock loaded	
Commander's Licence:	Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence with Instructor Rating	
Commander's Age:	78 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	7,940 hours (of which 7,800 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 63 hours	
	Last 28 days - 24 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and enquiries by the AAIB	

After engine start, the commander taxied G-BOFM from the Aero Club towards the active runway. However, to keep well clear of a helicopter parked close to the taxiway, he taxied over the grass in front of the club; club aircraft commonly used this grass area. Unfortunately, the nose and port wheels of G-BOFM dropped into a furrow in the grass resulting in the propeller striking the ground. There were no marker boards indicating the furrow.

The furrow in the grass had resulted from movements of a heavy truck, which had been involved in work on the airfield earlier in the year. Subsequently, grass had grown over the furrow and the commander did not see the depression. Enquiries with the airport authority revealed that, although they carry out regular inspections of aircraft movement areas, they consider that the grass area in front of the club is the responsibility of the club. Following the occurrence, the club plan to meet with the airport authority to arrange a repair to the ground and to agree responsibility for inspections.