

Aircraft type and registration: Schleicher ASK 14 G-AYRN (motor glider)

Year of manufacture: 1970

Date and time (GMT): 13 August 1983 at 1630 hrs

Location: London Gliding Club, Dunstable

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew – 1 Passengers – Nil

Injuries: Crew – Nil Passengers – N/A

Nature of damage: Damage to undercarriage and supporting structure

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's total flying experience: 149 hours (of which 2 hours were on type)

The aircraft was taking off towards the north east. The pilot, who was flying this type of aircraft for only the second time had been briefed to apply back-pressure on the stick during the take-off run to prevent the propeller striking the ground.

The first part of the take-off run had an uphill slope after which the ground dropped away. The aircraft struck a small bump and became airborne in an excessively nose-high attitude as it passed the crest of the uphill slope. The pilot states he pushed forward on the control column to regain flying speed but this was insufficient to prevent the aircraft from drifting to starboard and landing heavily on the mainwheel which caused the landing gear support structure to collapse. The pilot has also commented that he was not prepared for the relatively low take-off performance of this type of aeroplane.