

Piper PA-18-150 (Modified), G-BFFP

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/98 **Ref:** EW/G98/04/21 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-18-150 (Modified), G-BFFP

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4M piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date & Time (UTC): 30 April 1998 at 0835 hrs

Location: Wycombe Air Park, Buckinghamshire

Type of Flight: Glider Towing

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller damaged beyond repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 24 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 227 hours (of which 18 were on type)
Last 90 days - 57 hours
Last 28 days - 29 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was taxiing the aircraft to the glider launch point prior to conducting aerial towing. In order to reach the launch point he was obliged to taxi across an area of long grass with the wind directly behind him. The windspeed was 12 kt gusting to 20 kt and in these conditions the pilot held the stick forward. Whilst taxiing the tail of the aircraft slowly began to rise and the pilot closed the throttle but the aircraft continued to pitch down and the propeller struck the ground. The aircraft eventually came to rest on the left wing tip, left undercarriage leg and the propeller. The pilot selected the fuel, electrics and magnetos off and vacated the aircraft with the assistance of the airfield fire crew.