

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-15 Vagabond, G-BTOT	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors Corp O-200-A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1955	
Date & Time (UTC):	17 July 2008 at 0745 hrs	
Location:	Near Sedgefield, Co. Durham	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Minor damage to landing gear and airframe	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	54 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,410 hours (of which 205 were on type) Last 90 days - 7 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

After take off, on passing through about 1,000 feet, the engine stopped due to suspected carburettor icing. The aircraft sustained minor damage in the ensuing forced landing.

History of the flight

The pilot had taken off from Fishburn Airfield, where the aircraft was based, on a general handling flight in the local area and landed off the first circuit without incident. He backtracked the aircraft and took off again but on climbing through about 1,000 feet the engine

started to run roughly. The pilot applied carburettor heat and attempted to land at a nearby farm strip but on the approach the engine cut out, forcing him to land short of the strip, in a grass field. The aircraft touched down heavily, sustaining minor damage to the undercarriage and airframe.

The pilot commented that the weather conditions at the time were conducive to carburettor icing and he considered that this was the cause of the engine stoppage.