Jodel D117A, G-BIOU

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/2004	Ref: EW/G2004/02/06	Category: 1 3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Jodel D117A, G-BIOU	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental C90-14F piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1958	
Date & Time (UTC):	11 February 2004 at 1430 hrs	
Location:	Shrove Furlong Farm, near Princess Risborough, Bucks	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - 1 (Minor)
Nature of Damage:	Both wings damaged. Undercarriage partially collapsed. Propeller broken	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	73 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	17,800 hours (of which 550 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 5 hours	
	Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

History of the Flight

The aircraft had flown from Compton Abbas to a landing strip at Shrove Furlong Farm. The wind was light and from the north. The pilot reported that, after landing on the strip in the westerly direction, with all wheels in contact with the ground, the aircraft started to drift to the left. The pilot applied right rudder which corrected the drift. The aircraft then drifted to the left again and, despite the application of full right rudder, struck a boundary fence at a speed estimated by the pilot to be about 15 to 20 kt. The aircraft came to a stop pointing in a north-westerly direction. The pilot and passenger exited the aircraft via the normal doors. The aircraft suffered damage to the wings, undercarriage and propeller. The aircraft was fitted with lap and diagonal seat harnesses. The pilot was uninjured.

The pilot initially considered that the drift might have been caused by a dragging left wheel, but the wheel was found to be free after recovery of the aircraft. He had been flying the aircraft for more than 15 years and using the landing strip for over 10 years but could not explain the drift to the left.