

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	DH82A Tiger Moth, G-APAP	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 De Havilland Gipsy Major I piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1940	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	24 June 2009 at 1420 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Henlow Airfield, Bedfordshire	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Training	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Right lower wing damaged	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	62 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	6,300 hours (of which 1,010 were on type) Last 90 days - 48 hours Last 28 days - 28 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The examiner, who was sat in the front seat of the Tiger Moth, was undertaking a renewal flight for the student's lapsed SSEA<sup>1</sup> NPPL rating. The surface wind was from approximately 090° at less than 10 kt and Runway 09 was in use. Aircraft taxiing from the parking area to Runway 09 normally use a taxiway that runs along the left side of Runway 31 but as a large model aircraft and a car were parked on the taxiway, the student had to taxi along Runway 31. The taxi was uneventful until they approached the parked car, when the aircraft veered to the right and departed the runway. The examiner saw a hay bale, which he thought would

be hit by the left wing, and took control of the aircraft, steering it to the right. He then observed a second hay bale, which was not an immediate threat to the aircraft, and after clearing the first bale he steered to the left to position the aircraft back onto the runway. During this manoeuvre the aircraft struck a third bale that had been obscured from his view by the right wing.

The examiner and student believe that the accident occurred because they had been distracted by the car and model aircraft parked on the taxiway.

**Footnote**

<sup>1</sup> Simple Single-engine Aircraft.