

Jodel DR1050 Ambassadeur, G-BHOL

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/04/13	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Jodel DR1050 Ambassadeur, G-BHOL	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental O-200-A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1960	
Date & Time (UTC):	17 April 2003 at 1845 hrs	
Location:	Stornoway Airport, Isle of Lewis	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Superficial	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	50 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	653 hours (of which 22 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 23 hours	
	Last 28 days - 9 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft departed Stornoway Airport and went to the south of the airfield on a sightseeing trip. Having returned to join the circuit for Runway 36, the pilot then performed three touch-and-go landings. He then made a full stop landing after which he intended to backtrack for a full length takeoff from Runway 36.

The final landing was executed normally and post-landing checks were completed at the end of the roll out. The backtrack was commenced by turning the aircraft through 180°. During the course of the backtrack a swing to the left developed which initially went unnoticed. Rudder was applied to correct the deviation but it was too late to avoid a ground loop. The side load resulting from the ground loop caused both landing gears to bend to the left. The right-hand gear failed at its attachment point to the wing, bending to an angle of approximately 45° and the right wing came to rest on the runway. Damage was sustained by a number of wing ribs and the attachment bracket for the aileron cable in the right wing.

The pilot commented that his failure to notice and correct the left-hand swing was due to distractions in the cockpit, and that perhaps the taxi speed was higher than ideal for an aircraft with a tail wheel.