

No: 6/85

Ref: EW/G85/05/15

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA38-112 Tomahawk G-BGGK (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and time (GMT): 17 May 1985 at 1020 hrs

Location: Oxford Airport

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — Minor Passengers — None

Nature of damage: The aircraft was damaged beyond repair

Commander's Licence: Student pilot

Commander's Age: 24 years

Commander's total flying experience: 28 hours (of which all were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the Company Flight Safety Officer

During his third solo flight, the student had completed three touch and go landings on runway 02 and was making an approach to the final landing. The aircraft approached steeply at a high angle of attack and, as it reached about 10 feet from the ground, the angle of attack appeared to increase still further. After striking the ground the aircraft climbed very steeply to about 50 feet, then yawed to the left and descended almost vertically. It appeared to yaw through approximately 180° before striking the ground left wing first, followed by the nose. The aircraft came to rest on its belly and there was no fire.

There was no significant weather, and the wind was 050°/8 kt.