

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Tecnam P92-EM Echo, G-WHEN	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Jabiru 2200A piston aero engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2004 (Serial no: PFA 318-13679)	
Date & Time (UTC):	23 June 2020 at 13:00 hrs	
Location:	Lleweni Parc Denbigh Airfield, Denbigh	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller broken, left wing dented and displaced	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	73 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	780 hours (of which 700 were on type) Last 90 days - 2 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and enquiries made by the AAIB	

Synopsis

After an eventful flight in marginal weather conditions, the aircraft was being taxied back to the hangar when its left wing collided with a telehandler which was parked next to the taxiway. The aircraft sustained damage to its wing and propeller.

History of the flight

The pilot reported that he intended to fly to a nearby airfield and that when he departed the cloud base was obscuring the high ground. He also stated that as a result of the low cloud he became disorientated and lost; moreover, his engine started to run roughly, and he "anticipated" that he might need to carry out a forced landing. However, the engine continued running and he returned to the airfield and landed.

Whilst taxiing back to the hangar, the left wing struck a stationary telehandler parked alongside the taxiway. The aircraft pivoted to the left and came to a stop wedged against the telehandler (Figure 1). The impact dented the left wing leading edge near the wing tip, displaced the wing and distorted the flap. The propeller was severely damaged, and the lower engine cowl was dented. The pilot and a construction worker, who was standing close to the telehandler at the time, were uninjured.



Figure 1

Aircraft and telehandler following the collision

Telehandler position and taxiway topography

The lime green coloured telehandler was parked perpendicular to the tarmac taxiway, at the edge of an area of hard ground, in front of a newly constructed low hangar. A taxiway widening strip, referred to as a 'ditch', ran alongside the taxiway on the opposite side to where the telehandler was parked. The ditch had a smooth unfinished surface which had been added to widen the taxiway to allow glider wings to pass the building site. It was about 100 mm lower than the taxiway surface and had chamfered edges.

Collision with the telehandler

Just prior to the collision, the aircraft was being taxied towards the left side of the telehandler putting the ditch on the right side of the aircraft.

The pilot described how he allowed the right main wheel to run into the ditch to make room to pass the telehandler. In his opinion, it was the wheel running in the ditch that caused the aircraft to swing around to the left and into the telehandler.

Individuals who responded to the collision commented that there was a dent on the left leading edge consistent with the outer section of the left wing contacting the telehandler, causing the aircraft to swing to the left and hit the main body of the vehicle.

AAIB comment

The series of events during the flight would have been very stressful for the pilot. It is possible that his relief, at landing safely, resulted in a lapse in concentration as he taxied to the hangar, such that there was insufficient wingtip clearance between the aircraft and telehandler.