

Luton LA4A Minor, G-BBEA

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2000 **Ref: EW/G2000/06/21** **Category: 1.3**

Aircraft Type and Registration: Luton LA4A Minor, G-BBEA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1600 (Peacock) piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1975

Date & Time (UTC): 26 June 2000 at 1750 hrs

Location: Warfield, near White Waltham, Berkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 60 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 134 hours (of which 10 were on type)
Last 90 days - 6 hours
Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot normally conducted his flying from White Waltham Airfield and was returning there after a visit to Popham Airfield. He flew past White Waltham, with the airfield in sight, but decided to fly on towards High Wycombe in order to extend his flight. After approximately 15 minutes he attempted to return to White Waltham but became lost. He made a successful precautionary landing in a field in order to establish his location. He took off again and found that he was close to High Wycombe airfield. From overhead the airfield he maintained a magnetic heading of 180° but could not locate White Waltham. The pilot decided to make a further precautionary landing in a field. Approximately 30 metres after touchdown the aircraft tipped onto its nose having landed in long grass. The pilot shutdown the aircraft and sought assistance at a nearby house.

The reported meteorological conditions indicated a surface wind of 240°/05 kt, visibility greater than 10 kilometres and no cloud below 4,000 feet.

The pilot reported that he had neither a radio or a GPS receiver on board, and that he considered the compass to be inaccurate at times.