

Maverick, G-MZJS

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/99 Ref: EW/G99/05/20 Category: 1.4

Aircraft Type and Registration: Maverick, G-MZJS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Jabiru 2200A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1998

Date & Time (UTC): 17 May 1999 at 1335 hrs

Location: Sleap Aerodrome, Shropshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to landing gear, propeller and left wing tip

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 63 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 180 hours (of which 22 were on type)

 Last 90 days - 6 hours

 Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was backtracking (heading 230°) for take off close to the edge of Runway 05 (tarmac) in accordance with taxiing procedures. As it proceeded a gust of wind, which was from 040° to 050° and gusting to 20 kt, caused the aircraft to turn. The left wheel ran off the paved surface, by approximately 3 feet and entered the surrounding grass. The pilot took immediate corrective action but the left main landing gear collided with a runway light. The left gear collapsed causing the propeller and left wing tip to strike the surface. The pilot initially thought that the aircraft wheel had dropped into an unseen hole. It was only after he vacated the aircraft and carried out a visual inspection that he realised the aircraft had struck a light.

The pilot reported that the light structure stood proud of the surface by some 9 to 12 inches but was not visible due to the height of the surrounding grass, estimated to be 18 inches high. He felt that if the grass had been shorter the light would have been easily visible and avoiding action could have been taken.