Ref: 7374

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aircraft Registration	**ZS-BDB**	**Date of Accident**	01 July 2001	**Time of Accident**	1400Z
Type of Aircraft	GLOBE SWIFT		**Type of Operation**	Private	
Pilot-in-command License Type	Private	**Age**	43	**License Valid**	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	958.20		Hours on Type	10.50
Last point of departure	Howick				
Next point of intended landing	Oribi Aerodrome, Pietermaritzburg				

Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points **(GPS readings if possible)**

Oribi Aerodrome at Pietermaritzburg

Meteorological Information	CAVOK				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	**No. of people injured**	Nil	**No. of people killed**	Nil

Synopsis

According to the pilot, he took off normally from Howick Aerodrome but heard and felt a knock just as the aircraft rotated. He then retracted the undercarriage but the left-hand undercarriage indicated slightly lower on the visual indicator.

During the flight to Oribi aerodrome, he heard a knocking sound but the sound stopped as the IAS was reduced to 80 mph. The ATC then confirmed that the left-hand main undercarriage was hanging loose from underneath the aircraft.

The pilot then landed the aircraft with the nose and right-hand undercarriage retracted

The undersurface of the fuselage, flaps and left-hand wing were damaged. The propeller blades made contact with the ground.

The pilot and passenger did not sustain any injuries.

Probable Cause

It appeared that the left-hand main undercarriage bellcrank fractured as a result of a crack that had developed and eventually resulted in an overload failure of the remaining material.