

Rans S6-ES, G-BYRG

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/07/32	Category: 1.4
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Rans S6-ES, G-BYRG	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582-48 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1999	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 July 2002 at 1815 hrs	
Location:	Whitland, Pembrokeshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to left wing, tail fin; propeller and engine cowling	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	73 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	210 hours (of which 116 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 8 hours	
	Last 28 days - 8 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

During his return flight to Haverfordwest from Shobdon the pilot encountered a lowering cloud base and initial contact with Haverfordwest radio confirmed that the cloud base over the airfield was 600 feet. Subsequent reports indicated that the cloud base had lowered further to 400 feet. The pilot, however, decided to continue towards his destination. When he was approximately 12 nm to the east of the airfield he encountered sea mist and decided to turn 180° and divert to Pembrey with Swansea as his second alternate. Conditions deteriorated further and realising that there were electricity pylons en-route he decided to land in the nearest suitable field. The approach was flown at approximately 45 to 50 mph and after touchdown, due to the rough surface, the nose wheel fork fractured, the remaining stub dug into the rough ground, the aircraft pitched forward and came to rest inverted. The pilot selected the fuel and ignition to 'OFF' and vacated the aircraft uninjured. He then informed Haverfordwest airfield using his mobile telephone and suitable assistance arrived

quickly. The pilot assessed the cause of the accident as poor visibility necessitating a landing that was made in a rough field.

Standard meteorological information is displayed in the club house at Shobdon. This includes Form 215 (UK low level weather chart). At the time of this flight the south of the United Kingdom was under the influence of a moist south-westerly airflow. The relevant forecast for most of England and Wales was generally 20 km visibility with a cumulo-stratus cloud base of 2,500 feet. However, occasional visibility of 3,000 metres in mist and drizzle over the sea and windward coasts was also forecast, in conjunction with a stratus cloud base of 400 feet. Furthermore, over the sea and windward coasts in the south west the visibility was expected to reduce occasionally to 300 metres in fog with stratus cloud from the surface to 1,000 feet.