

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	BRM Citius, I-9631	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912 ULS piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2008	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 April 2013 at 1200 hrs	
Location:	7 nm east of Swansea Airport	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to landing gear, right wingtip, propeller and fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	46 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	14,200 hours (of which 600 were on type) Last 90 days - 223 hours Last 28 days - 82 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft was one of two which encountered rapidly deteriorating weather conditions during a ferry flight. The pilot carried out a forced landing, during which the nose landing gear struck a surface obstacle, causing it to buckle and swing the aircraft into a bank. The pilot and his passenger were uninjured.

History of the flight

The aircraft was one of two which had been purchased in Italy and were being flown to Carlow in Ireland, where they were to be based and transferred to the Irish aircraft register. The aircraft were flying a leg between Exeter and Haverfordwest when they encountered deteriorating weather conditions. The forecast weather

had included visibility of more than 10 km with a cloud base of 1,200 to 1,500 ft, occasionally lowering to 8 km and 800 ft.

As the aircraft approached Swansea, the weather ahead was worsening, and the pilot received a report from Swansea Airport of visibility between 3,000 m and 4,000 m, with a cloud base between 400 ft and 600 ft. The pilots of both aircraft decided to land at Swansea to await a weather improvement, but then encountered rapidly reducing visibility, leaving only the coastline below them visible. They descended to below 200 ft and followed the coast, before deciding that a forced landing on the beach was the only available option.

The pilot of I-9631 then identified a large area of open ground which was being worked on. It had a track running through it which was being used by trucks (it was later learnt that the site was being prepared for the construction of a university campus). He overflew the site, to check its suitability, and guided the second pilot

to a safe landing. The pilot then landed his own aircraft. Although the landing itself was successful, the aircraft encountered a rock or ridge that caused the nose landing gear to buckle, swinging the aircraft into a bank. The pilot and his passenger were uninjured.