

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Europa, G-SYCO	
No & Type of Engines:	1 EA-81/118 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1996	
Date & Time (UTC):	9 December 2005 at 1430 hrs	
Location:	Draycott Farm, near Swindon, Wiltshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Fracture in rear fuselage and damage to right landing gear leg	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	69 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	846 hours (of which 33 were on type) Last 90 days - 5 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft bounced on landing and the right landing gear leg failed, causing the aircraft to 'ground loop'.

History of the flight

The pilot was landing on Runway 18 at Draycott Farm, which is a grass runway 700 m in length. The weather was fine, with good visibility and light winds, though the runway surface was damp. A curved approach to the runway was required due to the presence of farm buildings in the approach area. The pilot reported that

full flap had been selected and that the approach was normal. However, the aircraft bounced on landing and, as it touched down again, the right landing gear leg failed just above the wheel axle. The damaged leg then dug into the runway surface and the aircraft ground looped, coming to a stop. The first part of the landing roll was uphill and the pilot opined that this, together with the handling characteristics of the type and the rough grass surface, could have contributed to the accident.