

No: 7/88

Ref: EW/G88/04/14

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Rand KR2, G-BMMD

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1834 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: Completed in 1987

Date and Time (UTC): 24 April 1988 at 1150 hrs

Location: Enstone Airfield, Oxfordshire

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - 2 (Minor) Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Splayed landing gear, broken canopy, damage to upper surfaces of fuselage, empennage and wing leading edges

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 53 hours (of which 7 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further enquiries by AAIB

The co-owners and builders of the aircraft were taking-off on a flight to conclude the handling pilot's familiarisation with the aircraft. The ground roll into a light easterly wind was unexceptional and the aircraft became airborne at the planned speed of 70 kts when the pilot allowed it to accelerate further to about 85 kts before initiating a climb. When at a height of about 60 feet the nose pitched up violently and the aircraft was seen to oscillate in pitch and roll before the nose dropped. The pilot reported an instant stall whilst under full power. The left wing dropped and, before control could be regained, the aircraft struck the grass adjacent to the runway in a tail down attitude. The main landing gear struck the ground hard, splaying in the process and the aircraft somersaulted onto its back. There was no fire and the two pilots were released from their full harness, which had restrained them in an inverted position, by some airfield personnel. Subsequent examination of the aircraft revealed a disconnection of the elevator trim tab control cable. The spring loaded attachment shackle was still safety wired and there was no visible damage to the trim tab horn. It could not be explained how such a disconnection might have occurred.