

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Pegasus XL-Q, G-MWMZ	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 462 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1990	
Date & Time (UTC):	26 August 2007 at 1830 hrs	
Location:	Clench Common Airfield, Wiltshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Severe damage to wing, minor damage to pod	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	58 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	63 hours (of which 50 were on type) Last 90 days - 5 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft landed heavily and tipped over causing severe damage to the wing structure.

History of the flight

The aircraft had recently had a new sail cloth fitted. On 8 August 2007 the aircraft was checked and a flight test for a Permit to Fly was carried out by an inspector. During the flight test the handling was found to be erratic. Adjustments to the wing were made by the inspector and a subsequent flight test was satisfactory.

On 26 August the pilot flew the aircraft for the first time since the Permit renewal. When he was airborne he found that the aircraft was unstable in roll and difficult

to handle. He was also unable to find a hands-off trim speed. He made two approaches to land on Runway 25, but on both occasions he was not able to stabilise the aircraft and went around. On his third attempt the approach was more controlled but on rounding out the aircraft rolled and landed heavily. The nosewheel dug into the grass runway surface and the aircraft tipped over causing severe damage to the wing. The pilot was not injured in the accident.

The pilot attributed the cause of the accident to the altered handling characteristics of the aircraft with the new sail cloth fitted, combined with his own low level of experience.