

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Streak Shadow, G-CZBE	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 618 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1996	
Date & Time (UTC):	6 May 2008 at 1027 hrs	
Location:	Hayton, near Retford, Nottinghamshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to landing gear and wings	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	60 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	746 hours (of which 149 were on type) Last 90 days - 9 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The pilot carried out a forced landing, following an engine failure due to fuel starvation. As he approached his chosen field, he realised that it sloped downhill, there were buildings at the far end and that he would be landing downwind. During an attempt to turn through 180° at low level, the aircraft landed heavily in an adjacent field.

History of the flight

The flight was planned from Charterhall, in Berwickshire to Old Sarum, in Wiltshire, with a stop at either Sherburn or Retford; the distance for the first sector was 160 nm. The pilot reported that both fuel tanks were full on departure. As the aircraft was crossing the

M62 motorway, approximately 20 nm from Retford, the pilot noticed that there was 1/3 of the fuel remaining in the lower fuel tank; the main tank was already exhausted. He decided to continue to Retford but, when approximately 10 nm from the airfield, he noticed that the tank was now almost empty. With approximately 7 nm to run, the engine stopped; the aircraft was at a height of around 1,000 ft. The pilot selected a grass field in which to carry out a forced landing, but realised late on final approach that there was a tailwind and that his chosen field sloped downhill, with buildings at the far end. He carried out a low-level 180° turn, before landing heavily in the adjacent field, which contained a standing rape crop. The pilot sustained minor injuries.

The pilot stated that the range for the Streak Shadow is around 260 nm. The pilot had carried out a number of long distance flights in another Streak Shadow, but this was his first in G-CZBE. He considered that the error in fuel planning was caused by the difference in fuel consumption between the model he was familiar with and the particular propeller/engine combination fitted to this aircraft. Also, there was a strong headwind on the day of the accident.