

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Europa XS tri-gear, G-FELL	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912-UL	
Year of Manufacture:	1998	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 April 2006 at 1300 hrs	
Location:	Upfield Farm, near Newport, Gwent	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Nosewheel detached, port wingtip scratches, prop damaged	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	59 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	742 hours (of which 145 were on type) Last 90 days - 17 hours Last 28 days - 8 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft touched down to the left of the runway in gusty wind conditions and the nose landing gear leg detached.

640 m long and 10 m wide. At some points along the edges of the concrete strip there was a drop down of a few centimetres to the surrounding grass.

History of the flight

The pilot flew the aircraft from North Weald, Essex, to a farm strip at Upfield, Gwent. Before departure, he obtained a weather forecast for Cardiff Airport, which was the nearest airport with such information available; he was not able to obtain a report directly from the farm.

The pilot made an approach to Runway 05 but during the flare experienced gusty conditions. The left mainwheel touched down to the left of the runway surface and some 15 cm below the concrete. The propeller struck the edge of the concrete but the pilot was not aware of this at the time. He applied full power to go around but the aircraft landed heavily on rough ground to the left of the runway and the nose landing gear leg detached. The pilot and his passenger were wearing full shoulder harnesses and were not injured in the accident.