

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/95

Ref: EW/G95/04/05

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: MW7, G-BOKI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 532 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date & Time (UTC): 9 April 1995 at 1435 hrs

Location: Cross Hands Farm, Old Sodbury, Avon

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Serious Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to the fuselage, wings, lift struts and tail surfaces

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Flying Experience: Approx 300 hours (of which approx 80 were on type)
Last 90 days - N/K
Last 28 days - N/K

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the owner

The pilot was reported to have been flying at a height of approximately 1,000 feet agl when all power was lost and the propeller suddenly stopped. Initially he elected to land straight ahead into what appeared to be a suitable field but, by the time he had descended to approximately 500 feet, he saw a line of power pylons (estimated at 300 feet high) across his path. He turned to the right but then had insufficient height to clear a line of trees running parallel to his original intended landing direction. It was reported that as the turn was tightened, the aircraft appeared to stall, subsequently striking the ground in a steep nose and right wing down attitude. It is not known if the pilot, who received serious injuries, was able to extricate himself from the wreckage or was thrown, or pulled, clear. There was no fire and the ambulance was reported to have arrived within 10 minutes.

Examination of the engine by the aircraft's owner, who was not the pilot, and a PFA inspector did not reveal any reason for the engine failure. There was evidence of 'detonation' and very high temperatures in the rear of the two cylinders of this water cooled engine and it was noted that the electrode was absent from the spark plug in this cylinder. The ignition timing was checked and reportedly found to be set correctly. This engine is fitted with a single carburettor which, in the absence of any similar damage in the front cylinder, did not suggest that the engine had been running with a weak mixture as a result of a problem with the carburettor.