

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Staaken Z-21 Flitzer, G-ERIW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Volkswagen 2180 piston engine	
Category:	1.3	
Year of Manufacture:	2004	
Date & Time (UTC):	16 July 2005 at 1230 hrs	
Location:	Popham Airfield, Hampshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Top wing and engine bearing damage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	32 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	147 hours (of which 33 were on type) Last 90 days - 52 hours Last 28 days - 11 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot made a normal approach to grass Runway 03 at Popham. During the flare prior to landing, the hand grip of the control column slid off the column allowing the nose to pitch down. Before the pilot could regain control, the nose hit the ground and the aircraft pitched over onto its back. The pilot, who was wearing a 4 point harness, was able to vacate the aircraft's open cockpit without injury.

The hand grip was made from turned wood and held onto the control column using a friction fit. During recent hot weather, the wooden grip had cracked, allowing it to move freely on the steel shaft of the control column. A new grip is currently being manufactured from aluminium which will be secured onto the control column by a retaining bolt.