

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Skyranger 582(1), G-CGMK	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Rotax 582/48-2V piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2009 (Serial no: BMAA/HB/491)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	6 April 2013 at 1450 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Sackville Farm Airfield, Bedfordshire	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Damage to nose landing gear and propeller	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	National Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	66 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	746 hours (of which 35 were on type) Last 90 days - 5 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The grass runway at Sackville Farm had been unusable for most of the previous three months due to snow and heavy rain. On the day before the accident, the pilot inspected the runway and was satisfied that, although the ground was still soft, it was suitable for microlight operations. The following day, several other aircraft were flying from the airfield. The wind was from 020° at about 7 kt and variable, giving a slight tailwind on occasions on Runway 31.

The flight was uneventful until final approach, when the pilot encountered a rising thermal. This necessitated a slipped approach, with the pilot recovering from the slip

shortly before landing. Mindful of the soft ground, the pilot 'held off' to reduce airspeed to as low as possible, before making a normal touchdown. As he relaxed pressure on the controls, the aircraft decelerated rapidly as the nose leg dug into the surface and folded underneath the aircraft. At very slow speed, the aircraft continued to pitch nose down and inverted. The pilot was uninjured and vacated the aircraft without difficulty.