

Rans S6-ES, G-BZLE

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2004	Ref: EW/G2004/07/06	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Rans S6-ES, G-BZLE	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582-48 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2000	
Date & Time (UTC):	13 July 2004 at 1440 hrs	
Location:	Haddenham, Buckinghamshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Some fibreglass broken on the front of fuselage and nose landing gear, cracked exhaust pipe	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	68 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	63 hours (of which 13 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 6 hours	
	Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

After an uneventful flight to Shottleswell, Oxfordshire, the pilot returned to Haddenham and made an approach to land on Runway 34, which has a grass surface. The weather conditions were good and there was a light wind from the west.

As the initial approach to the airfield was high, the pilot decided to fly a number of circuits and landings. The first three touch and goes proceeded without incident; however on the fourth and final landing, which the pilot considered to be normal, the nose-wheel collapsed and the aircraft slid to a gentle halt.

An examination of the nose landing gear by the repair organisation, who are also the sole agents for this make of kit plane and who have experience of repairing similar damage, indicated that the collapse of the nose gear was consistent with it having experienced excessive loading, rather than as a result of a pre-existing defect.