

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/93

Ref: EW/G93/01/01

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Rans S6 Coyote II, G-BSTT

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 582 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 3 January 1993 at 1510 hrs

Location: Stoke St.Milborough, Shropshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to nosewheel, right wing tip and pitot head

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (Private Pilot's Licence Privileges only)

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 8,280 hours (of which 28 were on type)
Last 90 days - 3 hours
Last 28 days - 1 hour

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries by the AAIB

On the return leg of a flight at 3,000 feet amsl from Welshpool to Milson the aircraft started losing power and then stopped due to fuel starvation. At the time G-BSTT was over rough terrain and the pilot was limited in his choice of landing area. Initially he estimated that he was too high and selected one stage of flap. However a high rate of descent, partly caused by a downdraught in the lee of a ridge, resulted in the aircraft undershooting and passing through the top of a hedge bordering the planned landing field.

There is no fuel gauge fitted to the aircraft; the design is such that fuel quantity is observed directly through the clear sided fuel tank. However the sides of the fuel tank of 'TT' have now discoloured and the fuel can no longer be seen. Neither the pilot nor the passenger, who was also the owner of 'TT', considered themselves short of fuel before the flight as the aircraft had been refuelled to full the previous day; the owner also expressed surprise that the aircraft lost power after only 1 hour 30 minutes of flight when he has flown it for well over 2 hours.