

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Europa (monowheel) homebuilt, G-SHSH	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2002	
Date & Time (UTC):	16 April 2007 at 1541 hrs	
Location:	Rochester Airport, Kent	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Minor	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	53 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	10,000 hours (of which 13 were on type) Last 90 days - 102 hours Last 28 days - 33 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft hit a rut during the landing roll, causing the landing gear to become unlocked and collapse, resulting in damage to the propeller and underside of the fuselage.

History of the flight

The pilot was completing the last of three circuits on Runway 02R at Rochester after having returned from the Isle of Wight. The approach was flown at 55 kt to 65 kt and an early touchdown was achieved prior to the intersection of Runways 02 and 34. During the rollout he felt a bump, after which the monowheel

landing gear retracted, bringing the aircraft to a sudden stop. Observing smoke, the pilot quickly secured and evacuated the aircraft; the airport emergency services attended and later assisted with its recovery. There was no fire and the smoke was believed to have been caused by the mainwheel tyre rubbing against its housing.

The pilot stated that the bump was due to a rut at the intersection of the two runways and he believed that this had caused the undercarriage to become unlocked and retract.