

Stolp Starduster Too SA300, G-BUPB, 13 February 2000

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/2000 **Ref:** EW/G2000/02/08 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Stolp Starduster Too SA300, G-BUPB

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-360-A1B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date & Time (UTC): 13 February 2000 at 1500 hrs

Location: Popham Airfield, Hampshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to nose cowling and oil cooler and undercarriage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 61 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,300 hours (of which 300 were on type)
Last 90 days - 2 hours
Last 28 days - 1 hour

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had returned to Popham Airfield after a local flight. Runway 03 was in use. This runway is 900 metres in length with a grass surface and the approach is over trees that are notified as being up to 50 feet high. The surface wind was 360°/05 kt and the meteorological conditions were CAVOK. The circuit was busy and the pilot was operating without a radio. Microlight aircraft were flying a tight visual circuit with heavier traffic flying a normal pattern with a long straight-in approach. The pilot made two attempts to land without success, on the third approach he was established on finals behind other aircraft. Whilst sideslipping to the left, in order to touchdown at the runway threshold, the aircraft struck the top of a tree. The pilot completed a normal landing and was uninjured.

The pilot reported that when sideslipping this aircraft to the left the forward field of view was obscured.