

Streak Shadow, G-BUVX

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2004	Ref: EW/G2004/07/20	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Streak Shadow, G-BUVX	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1993	
Date & Time (UTC):	24 July 2004 at 1400 hrs	
Location:	Brook Farm, Rawcliffe, Lancashire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Serious structural damage to the tail boom	
Commander's Licence:	UK National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	49 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	167 hours (of which 41 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 12 hours	
	Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and follow-up telephone enquiries by AAIB.	

Before joining the circuit, to land at his home airstrip after a cross-country flight, the pilot overheard on his radio the surface wind at nearby Blackpool as being 250°/14 kt.

An approach was flown to Runway 27 at 55 kt, with 15° of flap. The pilot assessed that the approach was normal, however, as he was about to flare, the aircraft descended rapidly and hit the ground hard. The ground run was shorter than usual, and the pilot felt some unusual vibration through the airframe. Post-flight inspection revealed a crease to the boom tube above the trailing edge of the wing, and other minor damage.

Some 15 minutes after the accident, the pilot made an assessment of the wind conditions in a sheltered area of the airstrip and concluded that the wind was approximately 240°/5 kt, gusting to 20 kt. In his frank report, the pilot attributed the accident to wind shear and 'pilot error', and believed that it would have been appropriate to use a higher approach speed, given the conditions at the time. He also commented that the coloured windsock adjacent to the runway had faded considerably, making assessment of the actual wind conditions difficult from the air.