

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	X' Air R100(1), G-BZER	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 BMW R100RS piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2000	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	11 July 2011 at 1950 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Outskirts of Mold, Flintshire	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Nose landing gear, propellor, engine and pod damaged	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	70 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	380 hours (of which 215 were on type) Last 90 days - 18 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Whilst in level flight at cruise power, the engine suddenly coughed, began to run roughly and suffered a significant power drop. The pilot reduced the throttle setting to minimise the roughness, placed the aircraft in a glide at about 55 mph and searched for a suitable location for a forced landing. With limited options available, he chose a long field of barley crop ahead of him. He was aware of power lines near each end of the field. Once he could see the nearest and was confident of clearing it, he closed the throttle and switched off the master switch. He held off at a height of approximately 10 ft and gently flared

the aircraft. As it contacted the dense crop it slowed suddenly and pitched forward, causing the nose gear to hit the soft ground and collapse. After sliding about 40 ft the aircraft gently pitched over inverted, coming to rest on top of the crop. The pilot was uninjured.

Subsequent examination revealed that the head of the exhaust valve on the left cylinder had become detached from its stem, causing extensive internal damage to the engine.