

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Pitts S-1S Special, G-BOXH	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1974 (Serial no: MP4)	
Date & Time (UTC):	24 October 2013 at 0905 hrs	
Location:	Peterborough/Conington Airport, Cambridgeshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to propeller, both wings and cowling, engine shock-loaded	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	55 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,044 hours (of which 57 were on type) Last 90 days - 11 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

On touching down on asphalt Runway 28, the aircraft experienced violent tailwheel shimmy and, after about 100 m of ground roll, it veered to the left. The pilot applied full right rudder but this had no effect and the aircraft left the runway, heading towards a fence some 25-30 m from the edge of the paved surface. He applied full power and right rudder and the aircraft seemed to respond but the left lower wing struck a fence post, yawing it in towards the fence. The propeller and cowling struck the fence followed by the right lower wing as the aircraft reversed direction and came to a halt. After checking with the control tower that he had been seen, the pilot switched off fuel and electrical power and exited the aircraft.

Upon inspection, it was found that the right-hand tailwheel steering link had broken, leaving the spring on the left side to pull the wheel in that direction. The pilot believes that a combination of wear and shimmy had caused the link to fracture.