

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Steen Skybolt, G-BWPJ	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors Corp IO-346-A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1996	
Date & Time (UTC):	12 July 2008 at 1500 hrs	
Location:	Croft Farm Airfield, Defford, Worcestershire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to left landing gear structure, left leading edge and tip of lower mainplane	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	51 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,492 hours (of which 163 were on type) Last 90 days -137 hours Last 28 days - 39 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Taxiing after landing, the main landing gear collapsed due to failure of the landing gear bungee truss.

History of the flight

The aircraft had just landed on Runway 27 at Croft Farm, a grass strip from which it had been operated for 12 years. The pilot estimates that the aircraft was taxiing at about 8 mph when the main landing gear collapsed and the aircraft came to rest, with the engine

stopping abruptly as the propeller struck the ground. The pilot, who is a professional licensed engineer, reports that the bungee, which supports the landing gear and attenuates the landing gear transient loads, had become slack because of the structural failure of the bungee truss. This appeared to have been due to the development of a hairline crack in the truss over a long period of operating the aircraft from the grass strip.