

# Rutan Long-Ez, G-LUKE

**AAIB Bulletin No:**  
9/2001

**Ref:** EW/G2001/07/16

**Category:** 1.1

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Rutan Long-Ez, G-LUKE

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C

**Year of Manufacture:** 1986

**Date & Time (UTC):** 15 July 2001 at 1015 hrs

**Location:** Wycombe Air Park, Buckinghamshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Nose wheel sheared off.

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilots Licence

**Commander's Age:** 75 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 997 hours (of which 216 were on type)

Last 90 days - 5 hours

Last 28 days - 3 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The weather conditions were clear with a surface wind from 300° at 8 to 10 kt. The aircraft touched down on its main landing gear on tarmac Runway 25. The pilot described the touchdown as fast and firm. The nose landing gear lowered to the runway and bounced up again causing considerable vibration. As the nose wheel came down for a second time the nose gear leg collapsed backwards and the nosewheel sheared off.

When the pilot later examined the nose leg he discovered that teeth on the retraction cog had been stripped. He considered this was as a result of the overcentre mechanism, designed to hold the gear in the down position, having been released by the vibration. The aircraft had already been fitted with a modification to retain the gear crank handle, to prevent this happening, after a previous incident but it was not in use at the time.