

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Mainair Blade 912, G-MZKM	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1997	
Date & Time (UTC):	18 May 2010 at 1640 hrs	
Location:	Field near Lambley, Nottingham	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Aircraft destroyed	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	69 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	190 hours (of which 190 were on type) Last 90 days - 20 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Whilst cruising at 2,000 ft the engine lost power. A forced landing was made in a furrowed field and as the aircraft came to a halt a fire broke out. The pilot, who was uninjured, exited the aircraft unaided. The aircraft was subsequently destroyed by the fire.

History of the flight

The pilot was flying at 2,000 ft on a local flight from Oxtou airfield when the engine lost power, causing the aircraft to descend. There was a limited choice of fields suitable for a forced landing. The pilot selected a field and landed perpendicularly to the furrows. As the aircraft came to a halt, it caught fire. The pilot was able to exit the aircraft quickly but could do nothing to prevent the fire from spreading. He considered that the

landing across the furrows might have caused a fuel pipe to detach, providing a source of fuel for the fire.

Discussion

The aircraft suffered an engine failure, something which pilots of single-engined aircraft are trained to anticipate. Typical advice for pilots for choosing a suitable field for a forced landing includes selecting a field that is well within gliding range, free from obstructions (particularly in the undershoot and overshoot areas) and with a suitable surface. The surface of the chosen landing field was less than ideal, but there was a limited choice of fields available to the pilot. There was insufficient evidence available to determine the cause of the loss of engine power.