

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Topsy Nipper T.66 Series 2, G-ARBP	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Volkswagen 1834 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1960	
Date & Time (UTC):	1 August 2007 at 0910 hrs	
Location:	Seighford Airfield, Staffordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial damage to right wing, landing gear and propeller	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	80 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	7,322 hours (of which 366 were on type) Last 90 days - 0 hours Last 28 days - 0 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft encountered sudden turbulence whilst on final approach and subsequently struck an earth bank. A large HGV positioned under the flight path and close to the approach end of the runway was believed to be a major factor in creating the turbulence.

History of the flight

The pilot was flight testing a new propeller and elected to make an approach at 55 mph using 1,900 rpm. The wind was reported as being from 250° at 4 to 12 kt, with CAVOK conditions. A large Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) was positioned close to the approach end of the runway and on the extended centreline, and as the aircraft passed over the vehicle, the nose and the left

wing of the aircraft rose. The aircraft subsequently hit a bank of earth and sustained substantial damage; the pilot was uninjured. The pilot attributed the accident to the aircraft stalling as a result of encountering sudden and severe turbulence. The pilot had extensive flying experience, including experience of encountering wake vortices from passenger transport aircraft, and he drew on his experience in assessing the cause. The Topsy Nipper is small single seat monoplane of only 6 m span and 329 kg maximum takeoff weight, and hence has limited tolerance to turbulence.

Airfield information

Runway 31 at Seighford Airfield is 450 yards long, and

is a section of the runway of a disused RAF station. Immediately before Runway 31 on the approach is a paved area used for HGV training.