

Europa, G-FLOX

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/2000 Ref: EW/G2000/10/05 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Europa, G-FLOX

No & Type of Engines: 1 Jabiru 2200A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1998

Date & Time (UTC): 8 October 2000 at 1340 hrs

Location: Brimpton Airfield, Berkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Landing gear, propeller, forward bulkhead and wheel well

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 62 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 589 hours (of which 4 were on type)
Last 90 days - 52 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was making an approach to the grass Runway 25 at Brimpton after a flight from Lasham. The pilot reported that the surface wind was from the north west at 5 to 8 kt. He stated that at about 20 feet above the ground, the airspeed, attitude and rate of descent were normal, with the engine at idle power. At three or four feet above the ground, the final flare was initiated. As the aircraft's attitude changed, the aircraft stalled and landed heavily. The aircraft came to a stop further along the landing strip. There was no fire and the two occupants vacated the aircraft by the normal means.

According to a locally based pilot, with the wind conditions prevailing at the time of the accident, the presence of trees just to the north of the landing strip may have induced some curlover effect and caused the aircraft to sink during the final stage of the approach.

The pilot commented that he had been concentrating on achieving a good touchdown and must have inadvertently allowed the airspeed to decay with the engine power at idle.